

# **THE MINUTES**

*and Accompanying Documents*

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

**2023**  
June  
21-25



Sessions held in-person in the ILYM Meetinghouse  
near McNabb, Illinois  
and virtually via video conference

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# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2024 Annual Sessions will be held from June 19 to 23  
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse

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

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

Meetinghouse: 14365 N. 350th Ave., McNabb, IL 61335 (*no mail service*)  
815-882-2214

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## YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2023-2024

**Presiding Clerk:** Kevin Brubaker

**Assistant Clerk:** Kent Busse

**Recording Clerk:** Peter Lasersohn

**Assistant Recording Clerk:** David Shiner

**Reading Clerk:** Pam Kuhn

**Co-Treasurers:** Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn

**Stewards:** Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner, Chip Rorem, Chris Goode

**Records Librarian:** Brent Eckert

**Among Friends Editors:** Ted Kuhn

**Field Secretaries:** Marcia Nelson & Mark McGinnis

**Administrative Coordinator:** Wil Brant

**Youth Coordinator:** Rose Johnson

**Children's Religious Education Coordinator:**

**Adult Young Friends Clerk:**

**High School Friends Clerk:** Lorelei Taylor-West

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

**High School Friends Recording Clerk:** Hannah Laird

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

# ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 7/2022-6/2023

## BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR†	U-C	
							<u>Members &amp; Attenders Statistics</u>
							Average Attendance
6	5	18	30	5	4	16	Adults
1	0	5	6	0	0	3	Under 18 years old
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>
11	22	8	36	2	3	50	Resident Adult Members
5	3**	0	5	0	0	1	Resident Young Friends
3	39**	16	76	1	3	65	Non-Resident Adult Members
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	Non-Resident Young Friends
19	64	24	117	3	6	118	TOTAL
							Total Adult Members
14	61	24	112	3	6	115	Total Young Friends
5	3	0	5	0	0	3	
							NEW MEMBERS
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	By Request
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	By Certificate of Transfer
0	1	1	1	0	1	2	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	0	1	1	1	0	3	Deceased
0	0	0	3	0	0	0	Released or Withdrawn
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Transferred
0	0	1	4	1	0	3	TOTAL

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	351
Metro Chicago	476
Wisconsin	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	838

## NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area											WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Elk*	Ev	57*	FV†	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh*†	
17	6	5	36	15	8	21	20	11	4	21	6	254
<1	0	2	12	0	0	6	2	0	0	6	0	43
33	9		59	19	7	55	20	17	9	22	6	388
0	1		2	1	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	28
8	1		44	30	16	64	18	5**	2	15	0	406
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>
41	10		110	57	23	127	38	22	11	41	6	383
41	10		103	49	23	119	38	22	11	37	6	794
0	1		7	8	0	8	0	0	0	4	0	44
0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
<u>1</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		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
1	0		2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12
0	0		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
1	0		4	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	19

\*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. Elkhart is a preparative meeting under the care of the ILYM Ministry and Advancement Committee; attenders may be members of other ILYM monthly meeting.

\*\*Change in number from last year not reflected in this year's additions and losses. CC: +11 Adult, +2 Young Friends; OaP +5 Adult

†Statistics were not received for 7/2022-6/2023: FV statistics from 7/2020-2021; SR statistics from 7/2019-6/2020; RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018. Oshkosh statistics are from 2021-2022, however reported having had attendances between 3 and 23. No additions/losses are recorded for these meetings.

## ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

### ADDITIONS

#### By Birth/Adoption

To Clear Creek: Magnolia Irene Johnson  
(9/4/22)

#### By Request

To Columbia: Patrick Margavio (5/7/23)  
To Duneland: John Poertner (5/24/23)  
To Evanston: Cate Fox (6/18/23)  
To St. Louis: Robin Harvey (12/11/22)  
To South Bend: Philip Doctor (10/2022)  
To Urbana-Champaign: Edwin Everly  
(4/16/23)

#### By Transfer

To Downers Grove: Cathy Smith from  
York (PA) (4/9/23)  
To Urbana-Champaign: Nanacy Forsythe  
from Clear Creek (Richmond, IN)  
(3/19/23)

### LOSSES

#### By Release or Withdrawal:

From Evanston: Aiden Hurley (7/12/22)  
From Evanston: Jamie McNear (9/18/22)  
From St. Louis: Jackie Davisson (4/30/23)  
From St. Louis: Mark P. Dodson (6/11/23)

#### By Death

From Columbia: Nancy Laun Ingram  
(3/17/23)  
From Downers Grove: Jack Ostergaard  
(6/23/23)  
From Evanston: Clyde Baker (8/26/22)  
From Evanston: Judd Thompson (4/9/22)  
From 57th Street: Ned Rorem (11/11/22)  
From 57th Street: Straughton Lynd  
(11/17/22)  
From St. Louis: Sheila Ruth (6/7/23)  
From Southern Illinois: Gary Marx  
(12/2022)  
From Urbana-Champaign: David Golden  
(1/2023)  
From Urbana-Champaign: Terri  
Mittenthal (2/16/23)  
From Urbana-Champaign: Chris Jocius  
(6/27/23)

#### By Transfer:

From 57th Street: Wil Brant to Crossroads  
(Flint, MI) (4/16/23)  
From Northside: Greg Gundlach to  
Hanover (NH) (4/25/23)  
From St. Louis: Brandon Drazich to  
Duluth-Superior (MN) (2/12/23)

## ILYM 2023 PROGRAM

Theme: *Creating Faithful Actions in Our Changing World*

### WEDNESDAY:

12:30-1:45 pm Registration table open  
 2:00-3:30 Opening Session:  
 Worship & Business Meeting  
 3:30-6:00 Free time/committee meetings  
 3:45-6:00 Registration table open  
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch  
 6:00-7:00 Dinner  
 6:30-7:30 Registration table open  
 7:15-9:00 Games for children  
 7:30-8:45 Presentation by Sharon Goens-Bradley  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 Snacks (dining room)

1:15-4:00 Recreation activities & programs for children  
 1:30-2:15 Worship sharing groups  
 2:23-3:45 Workshops

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-4:15 pm Help think about next year's Annual Sessions  
 4:30-5:30 Variety Show  
 4:30-5:45 Registration table open  
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch  
 6:00-7:00 Dinner  
 6:45-9:00 Campfire  
 7:30-8:45 Presentation by Robin Mohr  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-6:00 pm Free time/committee meetings  
 4:15-5:45 Registration table open  
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch  
 6:00-7:00 Dinner  
 7:15-9:00 Children's Program  
 7:30-8:45 Presentation by Noel & Sarah Pavlovic  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

### SUNDAY

7:30-8:30 Breakfast  
 8:15-8:45 Registration table open  
 8:45-9:45 Reading of Epistles  
 10:00-12:15 Babysitting & childcare in play area  
 10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by Virginia Schelbert  
 11:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship  
 12:30-1:30 Lunch  
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

### THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:45-7:45 am Breakfast  
 7:45-8:45 Babysitting & childcare in play area  
 8:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship  
 (Memorials are read at Sat. MW)  
 8:45-noon Children's morning program  
 9:00-noon Meeting for Business  
 Lunch  
 12:00-1:00 pm Registration table open  
 12:30-1:30

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-6:00 pm Free time/committee meetings  
 4:15-5:45 Registration table open  
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch  
 6:00-7:00 Dinner  
 7:30-10:00 Registration table open  
 Dancing on front lawn  
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open  
 9:00-9:45 Snack served outside during dancing



# MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

149th Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 21-25, 2023, ILYM 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 attendees 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 Committee and the Exercises Committee. 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 clerks 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 signup 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 Traveling 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 and will be held 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 the Publications and Distribution Committee. 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

## **REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2023**

Total Registration: 159

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	51 Adults	
	19 Young Friends	Total: 70
Chicago North	35 Adults	
	1 Young Friends	Total: 36
Chicago South	32 Adults	
	7 Young Friends	Total: 39
Other	14 Adults	
	0 Young Friends	Total: 14

Fully Virtual: 9

Mixed Virtual and In-person: 5

## EXERCISES

“Creating Faithful Actions in a Changing World” was the theme that brought Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends together on Sixth Month 21-25, 2023. Friends reunited, some after years of separation. Some came for the first time.

Back once more in our blessed rural setting, we were often aware of the birdsong that accompanied many of our activities. A particularly vocal wren apparently escaped the clerk’s recognition during morning Meetings for Business; or, just like the presiding clerk, he may have been commenting on how well prepared and efficient our committees were this year. We actually finished business early on two mornings. Among other avian attenders, an indigo bunting was heard scouting the campground.

Besides birds, children were blessedly heard and seen: on the lawn, in religious education tents, and hiding in various corners of the historic meetinghouse. They were making new friends, learning new things, and having fun.

In the afternoons, it was hot—every day. There was the usual worship sharing and workshops. John Woolman came back to lead one workshop. Many of the workshops elaborated on the theme of faithful action, asking Friends to go out and enact their testimonies, remaining faithful to Quaker values.

Worship sharing gathered Friends in small groups to reflect deeply and to listen to one another’s responses to queries. This worship sharing, with its remix of Quakers from a variety of meetings, produced new spiritual connections.

With real, embodied, people come real problems. The campground showerhouse was briefly closed while squirrel nuts were evicted from a clogged drain. Everyone was grateful for a quick fix.

On our first evening together, Sharon Goens-Bradley, Midwest Director of the American Friends Service Committee, urged us to name our own strengths and gifts. She framed her talk by telling stories of her ancestors and invited us to consider doing the same with our own. She left us with a query: How will we move forward in faithful action?

On our second evening, Noel and Sarah Pavlovic talked about faithful action in our environment, using their personal histories as touchstones for their lives of environmental activism.

On our third night, we had folk dancing on the lawn, dancing delightedly until dusk, after which the fireflies took their turn.

On our final night we heard from Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of the Friends World Committee on Consultation, Section of the Americas, who posed challenging questions, asking whether yearly meetings, as we now plan and experience them, are the best way to cultivate faithful action. And at exercises writing deadline, we looked forward to Virginia Schelbert’s Plummer lecture on First Day. We also look forward to a more peaceful world, brought about by faithful action.

## EPISTLES

### 2023 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We greet you from McNabb, Illinois where we held our 149th Annual Sessions at our historic meetinghouse. We recognize the past, present, and future elders of the indigenous peoples who have been the traditional caretakers of the land we meet on. We are grateful to be here now. Someday others may be here.

The underlying feeling throughout our sessions was joy. During our time at Illinois Yearly Meeting sessions, we take care of almost all the jobs ourselves, coming together to prepare our meetinghouse and grounds, washing dishes, cleaning bathrooms and cabins. As in a family gathering, children and adults alike taking a role. It brings to mind Jesus' foot washing (John 13:1-5); we seek to serve one another.

The theme for this year was "Creating Faithful Action in Our Changing World." There is so much occasion to be grateful when we gather. At the same time, we are aware of pain in our own lives and those of our neighbors, in our environment and broader world. Yet what kept arising was joy.

Speaker, Sharon Goens-Bradley, Midwest Director of AFSC, invited us to consider our ancestors. She asked "What have you learned from your family's history? How does it impact you? What will your faithful action be?" She gave the image that we were each a puzzle piece and we just needed to find where our piece fits.

Our committee on Racial Equity and Education led many of us in viewing the film *Dakota 38* and ensuing discussion throughout the sessions. Inspired by the actions of these Dakota leaders, we are exploring both current actions and where further truth-telling will lead as we seek to learn from the "family history" of our yearly meeting. How can we be present to this world around us and not feel heartbreak?

Sarah and Noel Pavlovic, beloved Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends, described their life work in caring for OUR environment. Drawing on Eileen Flanagan of Earth Quaker Action Teams and I Corinthians 12, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit," Sarah and Noel invited us to consider the many forms that faithful action can take: Helper, Organizer, Advocate, Rebel. Their story exemplified how they felt God's gentle leadings to do their work and encircled us with their love of nature.

Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of FWCC, Section of the Americas, uplifted our hearts. She reminded us that we need each other. She asked us to consider how we can use the experience of yearly meetings and the yearly meeting itself to better align ourselves with God. We must use our own resources. Reading queries from our *Faith and Practice* book, she asked, "Have you used them?" Whatever we do, we need to focus on doing it together.

The scale of the challenges in doing faithful actions is daunting, and our own shortcomings, individually and collectively, are often distressingly clear. However, we can move forward when we acknowledge our imperfections and nevertheless commit to faithful action, releasing to the Divine our longings for perfection or control. We reach that sense of peace and joy that we have felt here together when we act as faithfully as we know how.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sixth Month, 25, 2023

## Adult Young Friends Epistle

Those present at the time of reading: Bridget Coleman, Liam Gardner, Nathan Lasersohn, Raphael Roberts, Lily Robinwhite, Jad Tamari

We would first like to express our gratitude to the High School Friends for graciously donating the current bunkhouse, once their new one is constructed and suitable for guests. Thank you.

Setting the scene: AYF member is sitting dejectedly on a bench. Raphael approaches, wearing backwards baseball cap and sunglasses.

Raphael: Hey rizz master, what's shackalackin' drip king? Mind if I ask you a question real quick? How has the price of graphing calculators gone up with inflation?

AYF member: It's too high! I just want to be able to graph pictures of devices, but I can't afford a calculator to do it!

Raphael: Well...I might have a solution. [Pulls graphing calculator out of pocket] I'll sell you these things real cheap...

Person B walks on stage: Has this ever happened to you? Inflation causing a loss of your beloved graphing calculators, with the only possible solution being getting them through illegal means? Well you can only imagine how it must feel for an entire population of people right here at ILYM!

Now, it's really not fair that this should happen to us. After all, we used to roll around in pudding, style our hair with pudding, throw around pudding, etc. all the time in high school before before it was deemed that we were "too old" to be enjoying that, and that we had caused "permanent damage" to Britney's car.

So why not cheer up by visiting Starved Rock? Well, aside from a couple puddles and a few naturally-forming Gatorade bottles, it was completely dry. And to top it all off, Daniel didn't even get to steal any pizza from the high schoolers last night! And it reeealllly bothered me!

So after hearing all that, you might find yourself asking, what went right this year?

Well, we went on our annual graveyard walk, though, we drove this time. (The high schoolers had to walk on foot and tire themselves out). And no one even got arrested!

And Starved Rock wasn't bad at all. Sure, there wasn't any water, but it's not like it didn't still look great. And it gave us something to do while we were sitting around bored.

And Daniel did get pizza from the fridge downstairs, it's just that he didn't get to gloat about stealing it from the high schoolers, which is unfortunate, but not much to make a huge deal over.

Oh yeah, we also went to a high ropes course. We had so much fun that we forgot to write the rest of the epistle.

## High School Epistle

On Thursday we learned what a business meeting was and how the Quaker decision making process works. We also played a lot of bananagrams. We were also visited by two old white men in cars.

On Friday morning we were visited by two people who taught us about the war draft and how to avoid it. Then we picked different flowers and plants that represent how our faithful presence manifests in our community. And then we sprayed them all with bleach on black clothing, to make art.

We had our first official business meeting since COVID. The biggest decision we had to make was who was going to be our new Recording Clerk; which is Hannah. In the

business meeting we also decided on where and when our Quakes will be this upcoming year. The Fall Quake will be in September with BRQ. The Quake that Rocked the Midwest in January will be in Evanston. And our Spring Quake in May will hopefully be at Urbana-Champaign.

In the business meeting it was also brought to our attention that there was a possibility that we could get a new teen dorm house or repair the old one. We decided that we did not want to tear down the Plummer Mansion (High School Friends Bunkhouse) but we also wanted to get a new one. We decided that since the Adult Young Friends do not have a place to gather, we would like to help repair the old bunkhouse for them. And we would take the new one.

Saturday we went to a high ropes course. Then we went on our graveyard walk. Everybody was fine, and we were scared.

### **Middle School Epistle**

Middle School Friends met in the Foxhole. Time was spent scrubbing and cleaning one wall and door, and priming and painting a different wall. We attached a whiteboard to the wall and fashioned a hammock shelf for the erasable markers and eraser.

On the first day we only had Milo, and Dale Gardner shared about finding Friends in other countries and experiences in Eastern Europe.

On the second day Elias arrived and got reacquainted with Milo. David Shiner spoke about hosting students from several countries and showed a map of Quaker populations around the world. David also shared about lots of affordable ways to do international cultural exchanges.

On Saturday, Daniel Lakemacher talked about building relationships with native peoples and helping to stop a company from building a factory that would cut down trees that had been providing maple syrup for generations. This factory would have also caused damage to the waters where wild rice is grown and harvested.

### **Intermediate School Epistle**

We were Vivian, Trixie, Fiona, C.J., Allen, Tony, and Jamiya. Our teachers were Monica, Joseph, Sara, and Fariba.

We met 3 time travelers: Priscilla Wakefield (1751-1832), John Woolman (1720-1772), and Laura Haviland (1808-1898).

Priscilla Wakefield started the 1st Savings Bank in England. A 14-year-old girl, who was an orphan, was the first to make a deposit of a week's wages. Friend Priscilla wrote 17 books, including *An Introduction to Botany for Children*, but she couldn't remember her children's names.

Friend John Woolman came and shared his life, speaking of simplicity, peace, and how slavery is wrong.

Friend Laura Haviland tried her best to keep violence away from her friends who had been enslaved. She and her friends Elsie and Willis Hamilton outwitted slave catchers.

## **Primary School Epistle**

This year, Poppy, Lexi, Green, and Elah gather together with Margi and Charlotta. We started each morning with a moment of worship, lighting a (imaginal) candle and stilling our minds. Thereafter we each pulled a card from the Children’s Wellness Card Deck, each with a statement and affirmation, that somehow was perfect each time for each of us. We read the cards out loud and kept them as inspiration throughout our class time. We learned and talked about SPICES and read the story “Let’s explore the Quaker way,” and a story about John Woolman, who we also met for two days, learning from him and asking questions about him and his life. We made art, had yoga—rest yoga—ate snacks, and had time to just be together. Quaker Priscilla Wakefield (1751–1832) and Laura Haviland (1808–1898) visited us, and we learned about the work they did in England and America.

## **Preschool Epistle**

Isaac, Jamal, and Xyla with teachers Nancy Duncan and Raphael Roberts had a full schedule with doing tie dye on T-shirts, creating music, reading stories and other age-appropriate activities with snacks being welcomed.

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## **TRAVEL POLICY**

Friends are not to be hindered from traveling on ILYM business as official representatives or committee members due to lack of funds. However, in view of the limited amount of funds available in the budget for this purpose, the Travel Fund should be used according to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS rate per automobile mile driven in service of charitable organizations (14 cents per mile in 2023) 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.

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - BALANCE SHEET**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

	6/30/2023	6/30/2022	
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	107,198.19	68,878.18	
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restrct Property Imp	35,414.69	33,549.82	
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	<u>240,068.84</u>	<u>227,389.94</u>	
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>382,681.72</b>	<b>329,817.94</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable	0.00	180.00	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>180.00</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>382,681.72</u></b>	<b><u>329,997.94</u></b>	
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	9,665.62	6,935.62	
Payroll Taxes	<u>0.00</u>	<u>698.00</u>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>9,665.62</b>	<b>7,633.62</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>			
		Net Income	
<b>Unrestricted Undesignated</b>			
1 General Operating	<u>60,000.00</u>	-625.19	<u>60,625.19</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Undesignated</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>		<b>60,625.19</b>
<b>Unrestricted Designated</b>			
2 Unrestricted Reserves	115,358.82	36,733.53	*78,625.29
3 Campus Accessible	1,300.00		1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	36,625.00	2,875.00	33,750.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs	8,000.00	1,000.00	7,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	<u>111,068.22</u>	7,278.19	<u>103,790.03</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Designated</b>	<b>272,352.04</b>		<b>*224,465.32</b>
<b>Temporary Restrictcd</b>			
8 Property Impr.	<u>40,664.06</u>	3,390.25	<u>37,273.81</u>
<b>Total Temporary Restricted</b>	<b>40,664.06</b>		<b>37,273.81</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>373,016.10</u></b>	<b><u>50,651.78</u></b>	<b><u>322,364.32</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>382,681.72</u></b>		<b><u>329,997.94</u></b>

\*Incorrect values of 78,652.29 and 224,456.32 appeared in 2022 Minute Book

**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 Income Statement 1 July 2022 to 30 Jun 2023**

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
<b>Income</b>							
Support from Meetings	96,292.50					100.00	96,392.50
Support from Individuals	41,070.05						41,070.05
Interest & Investment Income	10,020.48					1,425.38	11,445.86
Misc Income	823.06						823.06
<b>Gatherings-Retreats</b>							
Annual Sessions Registrations	18,502.00						18,502.00
Gifts-Annual Sessions	<u>2,922.00</u>						<u>2,922.00</u>
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats</b>	21,424.00						21,424.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>169,630.09</u>					<u>1,525.38</u>	<u>171,155.47</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
<b>Personnel &amp; Office</b>							
Employee Direct-Indirect	56,112.99	1,987.50					58,100.49
Staff Travel	1,147.88						1,147.88
Office Expenses	<u>859.58</u>						<u>859.58</u>
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<u>58,120.45</u>	<u>1,987.50</u>					<u>60,107.95</u>
<b>YM Travel Support (Reps Travel)</b>	<b>75.00</b>						<b>75.00</b>
<b>Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>							
Ann. Services-Propy Taxes	2,585.61						2,585.61
Mowing, Tree Trimming	4,015.00						4,015.00
Repairs & Maintenance	1,992.83				8,571.81		10,564.64
Site Insurance Expense	14,805.00						14,805.00
Urgent Maintenance	2,149.50						2,149.50
Utilities	2,417.78						2,417.78
Work Weekend	<u>361.18</u>						<u>361.18</u>
<b>Total Site &amp; Property</b>	<u>28,326.90</u>				<u>8,571.81</u>		<u>36,898.71</u>



**ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2022 to 30 Jun 2023 (continued)**

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
<b>Gatherings-Retreats Expenses</b>							
<b>Annual Sessions (AS) Expenses</b>							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,355.73						1,355.73
AS Admin Coord	6,723.39	163.27					6,886.66
AS Program Expenses	2,519.34						2,519.34
AS Cooking & Food	8,571.91						8,571.91
Children's Sessions Expenses	1,926.21						1,926.21
Transaction Fees on Registration	<u>386.70</u>						<u>386.70</u>
<b>Total Annual Sessions</b>	<b>21,483.28</b>	<b>163.27</b>					<b>21,646.55</b>
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats</b>	<b>21,483.28</b>	<b>163.27</b>					<b>21,646.55</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>							
Development	261.88						261.88
Publications & Distribution	2,027.62						2,027.62
Youth Oversight	<u>1,379.75</u>						<u>1,379.75</u>
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>3,669.25</b>						<b>3,669.25</b>
<b>Support to Others</b>	<b>12,650.00</b>						<b>12,650.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>124,324.88</b>	<b>2,150.77</b>			<b>8,571.81</b>		<b>135,047.46</b>
<b>Operating Income/Loss</b>	<b>45,305.21</b>	<b>-2,150.77</b>			<b>-8,571.81</b>	<b>1,525.38</b>	<b>36,108.01</b>
<b>Other Income and Expense</b>							
Unrealized Gain/Loss		<b>12,678.90</b>				<b>1,864.87</b>	<b>14,543.77</b>

**ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2022 to 30 Jun 2023 (continued)**

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
<b>Transfers</b>							
<b>Transfers - Budgeted</b>							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	-1,000.00			1,000.00			0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	-15,850.00				15,850.00		0.00
<b>Total Transfers - Budgeted</b>	<b>-16,850.00</b>			<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
Transfers - Payroll Reserve		-2,875.00	2,875.00				0.00
Transfers - Other	-625.19	625.19					0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	-28,455.21	28,455.21					0.00
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>-45,930.40</b>	<b>26,205.40</b>	<b>2,875.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-625.19</b>	<b>36,733.53</b>	<b>2,875.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>7,278.19</b>	<b>3,390.25</b>	<b>50,651.78</b>

**Fund Name**      Oversight Committee | Description

**1 General Operating**      Finance | Annual budgeted income and expenses

**2 Unrestricted Reserves**      Finance | Bequests, large unrestricted gifts, special projects

**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

**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, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

	Contribution
Bloomington-Normal MM	2,520.00
Clear Creek MM	5,500.00
Columbia FM	1,925.00
Downers Grove FM	8,000.00
Duneland FM	1,925.00
Evanston MMoF	16,742.50
57th Street MoF	4,125.00
Fox Valley QM	0.00
Lake Forest FM	18,400.00
Northside FM	4,675.00
Oak Park FM	5,500.00
Oshkosh MM	0.00
Rock Valley FM	0.00
St. Louis MM	9,600.00
South Bend FM	6,050.00
Southern Illinois QM	550.00
Spoon River QM	780.00
Urbana-Champaign FM	10,000.00
Total	<hr/> 96,292.50

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

<p><b>MONTHLY MEETING RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER IS <u>\$290.</u></b></p>
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## ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2023-2024

	2023-2024 <b>Budget</b>	2022-2023 Budget	2022-2023 Actual
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions-Meetings	100,950	95,500	96,293
Gifts-Individuals	39,750	42,000	41,070
Bank & Investment Income	8,000	5,500	10,020
Misc. Income	0	0	823
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>23,500</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>21,424</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	<b>172,200</b>	161,000	169,630
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
1 Personnel & Office	73,250	67,500	58,120
2 Yearly Meeting Travel Support	2,000	4,000	75
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	2,200	1,500	2,586
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,500	6,500	4,015
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	4,500	5,500	1,993
Insurance	15,500	13,000	14,805
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	2,150
Caretaker Expenses	1,250		
Utilities	3,500	5,000	2,418
Work Weekend	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>361</u>
<i>Total Site &amp; Property</i>	<b>35,450</b>	33,500	28,327
4 Gatherings-Retreats (AS=Annual Sessions)			
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,750	1,250	1,356
AS Event Expenses (oversight: Admin Coor)	9,500	6,500	6,723
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	3,000	2,500	2,519
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	10,000	8,500	8,572
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	1,250	1,250	1,926
Transaction Fees on Registration	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>387</u>
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	<b>25,500</b>	20,000	21,483
5 Committees			
Adult Young Friends	150	150	0
Children's Religious Education	200	200	0
Development	400	400	262
Environmental Concerns	50	50	0
Finance	25	25	0
Handbook	25	25	0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	50	50	0
Ministry & Advancement	50	50	0
Nominating	50	50	0
Peace Resources	50	50	0
Peace Tax Fund	25	25	0
Personnel	25	25	0
Publications & Distribution	3,000	3,000	2,028
Youth Oversight	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>1,380</u>
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	<b>6,500</b>	6,500	3,669

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2023-2024**  
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2023-2024	2022-2023	2022-2023
	<b>Budget</b>	Budget	Actual
<b>6 Support to Others</b>			
Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	<b>4,400</b>	4,400	4,400
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	<b>3,850</b>	3,850	3,850
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	<b>500</b>	500	500
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation (FCNL)	<b>500</b>	500	500
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	<b>350</b>	350	350
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	<b>300</b>	300	300
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	<b>100</b>	100	100
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	<b>350</b>	350	350
Scattergood School and Farm	<b>250</b>	250	250
Earlham College	<b>250</b>	250	250
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	<b>125</b>	125	125
Olney Friends School	<b>125</b>	125	125
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	<b>350</b>	350	350
Project Lakota/Ville	<b>250</b>	250	250
Friends Journal	<b>250</b>	250	250
National Relgs Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	<b>100</b>	100	100
A Black led anti-racism organization	<b>500</b>	500	500
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	<b>100</b>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<i>Total Support to Others</i>	<b>12,650</b>	12,650	12,650
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>155,350</b>	144,150	124,325
<b>Transfers</b>			
To Maintenance Reserve	<b>15,850</b>	15,850	15,850
To FWCC World Meetings	<b>1,000</b>	1,000	1,000
Other Transfers			625
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Unrestricted Reserves	<b>0</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>28,455</u>
<i>Total Transfers</i>	<b>16,850</b>	16,850	45,930
<b>Total Expenses + Total Transfers</b>	<b>172,200</b>	161,000	170,255
<b>Net Income/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	0	-625

**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.

## ILYM REPORTS

### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** (See Minute 14)

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** (See Minute 75)

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, cylindric 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. 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 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon in the dining tent near the prairie pollinator garden.

Report prepared by Noel Pavlovic

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE** (See Minutes 13, 65-67)

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 of our Treasurers, Dawn Crimson and 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

### **HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minutes 36-38)**

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**

(See Minutes 51, 71-73)

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 meetinghouse (MH) ramp and HS Bunkhouse floors, painting at the repaired 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 have not 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** (See Minute 28)

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 (M&A) 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 M&A. 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 M&A 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.

### **FIELD SECRETARY** (See Minute 9)

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

### **NAMING COMMITTEE** (See Minute 16)

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 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** (See Minutes 17, 63)

New appointments:

Childrens Religious Education 2026: Bobbi Trist  
 Development 2026: Alex Lippitt  
 Environmental Concerns 2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday, Adrian Fisher, Phyllis Reynolds  
 Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning 2026: Dianne Clark-Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic  
 Ministry & Advancement 2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor  
 Peace Resources Clerk: Mark McGinnis; 2024: Mark McGinnis, Dan Stevens; 2025: Jan Mullen, Dave Moorman; 2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman  
 Personnel 2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon  
 Publications 2024: Sean West

Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:

AFSC 2026: Fariba Murray  
 FCNL 2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner  
 FGC Central Committee 2026: Trevor Brandt  
 FLGBTQC 2026: Jad Tamari  
 Friends Peace Teams 2026: Andrea Kintree  
 FWCC 2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist  
 QEW 2026: Sarah Pavlovic

## **Peace Resources Committee** (See Minutes 32, 69)

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** (See Minute 53)

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** (See Minutes 33-35)

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 (See Minute 30)**

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: [smoothfeather.com/dakota38](http://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. "The Museum Built on Native American Burial Mound" on [proiplica.org](http://proiplica.org) provides more complete information.

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

**STEWARDS** (See Minutes 51, 71-73)

Combined with the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee report (p. 29).

## **REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**AFSC REPRESENTATIVES** (See Minute 58)

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** (See Minute 57)

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 (See Minute 29)**

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

## **FWCC REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute 56)**

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](http://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.

## **SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute 54)**

### **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](http://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 4.

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

## MEMORIALS

### FREDERICK G. HERCZEG (1950 – 2021)

We celebrate the life of Frederick G. Herczeg, a beloved member of the South Bend Friends community, who passed away on February 5, 2021. Born in Mishawaka, Indiana, Fred spent many years in Southern California before returning to the South Bend area; he started attending South Bend Friends Meeting around 2010. Two years later he married Mary Beth DiGann-Herczeg, a member of South Bend Friends and Fred's high school sweetheart. Although Fred did not become a member of South Bend Friends, he was much affected by attending a Quakerism 101 group and thereafter was a regular attendee. He and Mary Beth often hosted dinners for Friends at their beautiful home. Fred was also known to host Friends for the occasional day of fishing; Fred was an avid fisherman and liked to have company in the boat. Fred's welcome smile and warmth were a blessing at any occasion. Fred was adopted as a child, and one of his great joys later in life was discovering and getting to know his birth brothers. Fred sometimes found the Quaker process of consensus challenging, but he shared Quaker concerns for the moral health of society, and the focus of much Quaker ministry blended well with his own skills, including an ability to speak truth to power and a personality that could effectively deal with conflict. We are grateful for the time we had to share with Fred, and the friendships and good conversation he gave to all in our meeting.

### THOMAS JACOBS (1961 – 2023)

Thomas Jacobs was born into a farming family in Valparaiso, Indiana on December 25, 1961. In 1985, he and Roxy Thalmann were married in Valparaiso under the care of Duneland Friends Meeting. Tom died with Roxy by his side in Cape Coral, Florida on March 12, 2023 after a long struggle with early onset Alzheimer's.

Tom was first and foremost a farmer, with a love for the land, for the seasonal cycles of the natural world, and for animals. He completed a degree in engineering and worked for years as a project engineer, but he never gave up farming, first with his father, and then with his stepson Carey, until the family farm was sold. Tom's nature was to help others in whatever way he could. He was a quiet gentle soul who became a source of strength for step children, Heidi, Ron, Carey, and Darian, and later for their children.

While Tom never became a member of Duneland Friends Meeting, he was a faithful presence at many Quaker gatherings. He met a quite a number of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends when he and Roxy hosted them at their home in Hebron. For many years Roxy and Tom hosted a Christmas meeting for worship for Duneland Friends at their home, as well as special gatherings such as retreats and service project work days. He was generous with his time and his skills and could be counted upon to help young Friends with woodworking projects and to be a quiet friendly presence.

When Tom and Roxy moved to Florida in 2017, Tom found welcome in the Fort Myers Friends Meeting and became a member there, where he was known for his kindness and helpfulness.

## **DOUGLAS KINSEY (1934 – 2022)**

Douglas Kinsey, artist, professor of art, and one of the founders of South Bend Friends Meeting, died at home in South Bend on May 21, 2022, after a year and a half of hospice care. Douglas was born in Oberlin, Ohio, on March 4, 1934, the middle child of Dan Chapin Kinsey and Dorothy (Gross) Kinsey. The extraordinary wealth of classical music and fine art in the tiny college town of Oberlin was the perfect incubator for his involvement in the arts. The tradition of social concern of the college and the town, along with his parents' involvement with social justice and the Religious Society of Friends, built the value system that he would express through his art. Because Dan and Dorothy acted as faculty sponsors for the Oberlin Friends Meeting, it began and took hold on the Oberlin campus. The service impetus was an early part of Doug's life as he went with his parents to the AFSC international seminars and workcamps that they led. He spent the summer of his junior year in high school building the foundation of a youth hostel in Germany with an AFSC program.

After graduating from Westtown Friends School, he returned for a BA at Oberlin College (1957) and continued for an MFA at the University of Minnesota (1960). Trained as an abstract painter under the process ideas of Abstract Expressionism, he found figures emerging and becoming essential to his statement. His concern for those in crisis, dispossessed by war or natural disaster, made him turn to news photographs as an inspiration, not to copy a photograph but to find a posture that might pique a composition and help him challenge and move his viewer. He had more than 70 one-man shows in America and internationally. He provided illustration for more than two dozen books, often books of poetry in which he worked closely with poet friends. Before his appointment to the art department at the University of Notre Dame brought him to South Bend, Indiana, he taught at Oberlin College, the University of North Dakota, and Berea College. His teaching achieved exemplary recognition, but he was most interested in seeing his students develop as individuals. His studio at Notre Dame and his home were famously open to students for counsel on art or on life.

The reflection of Quaker values in his life made some students interested in its source, asking him to introduce them to the Quaker meeting. He and his wife, Marjorie, hosted several series of meetings in their home. In 1978, a group of Quaker sympathizers in the South Bend community discovered each other and subsequently founded the South Bend Friends Meeting around the Kinsey dining room table. As the meeting grew, the Kinsey home continued to be an important gathering place for Friends. The meeting was an ongoing expression of Doug's values to which he contributed much work and wisdom. He was active in almost every aspect of the life and development of the meeting over the years, but his personal joy was in meeting for worship. His ministry, always succinct and ever provocative, is missed, as is he.

## **LINDA LEE LORENZ (1943 – 2023)**

Linda Lee Lorenz, of Urbana, Illinois, passed away on April 17 at the age of 79. She loved her initials—L.L.L. She loved that they also stood for Live, Laugh, Love.

Born in 1943 to Ralph W. Lorenz and Betty Roe Lorenz, Linda graduated from Urbana High School and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois. After graduating, Linda served as a VISTA volunteer in Philadelphia; her social consciousness deepened there as she worked with underserved inner-city children. Later she went on to get her graduate degree in Library Science and worked as a librarian in

Boston. There she became an avid Celtics fan. Linda returned to Urbana to care for her beloved father and mother in their final years while working for the University of Illinois Physics Department as a Student Advisor. Many of her advisees have continued to keep in touch over the years.

Linda was active in the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting and in Illinois Yearly Meeting. In the 1970's and 1980's she was part of a group in ILYM that put out the Quaker feminist magazine *Friendly Woman*. She attended ILYM Women's weekend many times, frequently bringing items she had found at garage sales or in dumpsters to donate to the meeting. Even in her years of dementia, Linda wanted to contribute, and would help with weeding or event set-ups. She wanted to be useful and took pride in doing so.

Linda was an untiring advocate of feminism, environmentalism and pacifism. She was a strong, ethical voice in business meetings. In the early 80's, two students who rented a room upstairs at the meetinghouse requested an extermination of a building-wide cockroach infestation. The Clerk of the Meeting assured them it would be taken care of. He only had to get approval of the business meeting. After the business meeting he had to explain Quaker consensus to the students. Two people had objected and refused to "stand aside." One because cockroaches were God's creation, and the other (Linda) because she was worried we might be putting poisons in the meetinghouse. She was particularly concerned about the dead air space in the basement where the children had First Day School. Linda was concerned that we had not collected enough evidence that we could get rid of the cockroaches without endangering our children. After a month or so Linda and another member were able to find an exterminator who gave assurances that his procedures would eradicate the cockroaches safely.

In the meantime, however, the students were impatient. They were aware that each Sunday some members of the meeting arrived early to do preparation for coffee following meeting for worship. Before anyone arrived on Sunday morning, the week of the next business meeting, the students gathered a huge quantity of dead cockroaches (at least a quart or two) and put some of them in the sink half filled with water, and scattered the rest of them on surfaces in the kitchen. At the meeting for business that Sunday, Linda and the other member "stepped aside." Linda taught us about to be careful with poisons and that taking the time to achieve a sense of the meeting, while not always efficient, made us stronger.

Linda loved ice skating and bicycling. She loved donkeys, flamingos, white pines, wood ducks, and loons. Most of all she loved the little children's smiling faces, the warm attention of friends and family, and the cuddles of her furry friends. Linda is survived by her brother and his family, as well as many caring cousins, and lots of people who just loved her.

Her thoughtful and assertive voice will be greatly missed.

### **STAUGHTON LYND (1930 – 2022)**

Staughton Lynd, aged 92, died on November 17, 2022, near Youngstown, Ohio, where he and his family moved from Chicago in 1976 to pursue work in labor law and community organizing. They had come to Chicago after Staughton had been told his chances of getting tenure as a history professor at Yale were miniscule. He later found evidence that Yale had yielded to political pressure and denied him tenure because of his part in a peacemaking trip to Hanoi during the 1965-66 holidays.

He was a distinguished scholar in the area of the theory and practice of nonviolence from a grass-roots perspective. His students at Spelman College in Atlanta included Alice Walker, who credits him with much of her inspiration to be a writer and activist. Together

with Bob Moses, Staughton directed training for the Mississippi Summer Project in 1964—the time that three civil rights workers were murdered for promoting voting rights.

The Lynds moved to Chicago in 1967 where Staughton took a number of college-level teaching jobs. They transferred their membership from Atlanta Friends Meeting to the New Haven Friends Meeting and then to 57th Street Meeting. Many Friends got to know them in activities around the local AFSC office and anti-war activity. As resistance to the Vietnam War was building, the Lynd home became a place for weekly discussions for young people who were thinking through how they would personally respond to the increasing horrors of the war and the draft, and various consequences of their actions. Building communities of support, action, and mutual vision were central in their lives for many decades starting in the early 1950s.

In Chicago, Staughton worked with AFSC personnel and other pacifists to create a clear nonviolent witness against the war and suppression of civil liberties around the 1968 Democratic National Convention. When over 30 protesters were arrested after an all-night vigil outside the convention hall, the case became known as “City of Chicago vs. Lynd et al.” The case included a number of defendants from 57th Street Meeting. They were all convicted at trial, sentenced to fines, and lost on appeal.

The 57th Street Meeting meetinghouse was a “Movement Center” for draft resisters during the 1968 Convention Week. When an AWOL soldier had taken sanctuary there and was arrested, a number of Friends joined those who surrounded the car where military police were about to take away their captive. Seeing that the driver was ready to accelerate into the silent protesters, Staughton quietly but clearly and effectively dissuaded the officers from the likely carnage, and subsequent arrests were made without incident.

After leaving Chicago the Lynds, both of whom had become lawyers, worked in Ohio among those opposing the removal of a Youngstown steel mill and then advancing rights among the workers. After they retired from employment, they became advocates for prisoners in solitary confinement, in supermax incarceration, and on death row. In 2019, a gathering of about 100 friends and relatives brought together those who had worked with the Lynds over three-quarters of a century in so many fields of social justice endeavor. They wanted a celebration of their lives—always as a team—“before our memorial services.”

In 2015, Staughton and Alice were featured speakers and workshop leaders at Illinois Yearly Meeting’s annual sessions, where attenders learned about their most recent work, including addressing “moral injury” among military personnel and others. A subsequent publication by Alice Lynd further explored this concept. Among their joint publications was the Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Liberation Theology for Quakers* (1996).

Staughton was a prolific writer in many fields, and a number of his publications were written jointly with Alice Lynd, who survives him. Their 2009 book *Stepping Stones: Memoir of a Life Together* is not only a rich documentary of social history, but also a tender insight into what an egalitarian and joyous marriage can be.

Staughton’s demeanor was always soft-spoken, but articulate and determined—whatever the context. His principled and consistent embodiment of Friends’ testimonies, his clear demonstration of what nonviolent witness and action can be, touched the lives of scores of thousands. 57th Street Meeting is glad to be a part of that work, and be enriched by his life.



## GARY MARX (1952 – 2022)

Gary Marx, a member of Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting (SIQM), passed away at his home on December 4, 2022, at the age of 70.

Gary was a warm presence in our meeting, with a quick smile, a quiet centeredness, and, whenever appropriate, a hearty laugh. He attended SIQM in the late 1980's and continued to attend until he moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where he lived for fifteen years. While in Kansas, he was a member of Penn Valley Friends in Kansas City, Missouri. When he returned to southern Illinois, he again attended SIQM and transferred his membership back to SIQM in 2021. In their letter of transfer, Penn Valley Friends wrote, "Gary was an active and much beloved member of our community for many years."

Gary is survived by his wife Pam Kelley, his son Thomas Marx, daughter Rachel Herron, stepdaughter Willa Billingsley, and stepson Matthew Gamble. He is also survived by his brother Allen Marx and his sister Donna Eastman, as well as grandchildren Natalia and Adrian Marx, Elliott and Noah Herron, and Leilani and Jemma Gamble, and a large extended family.

Gary was a journalist and author. As a journalist, he worked for *The Wabash* (Indiana) *Plain Dealer*, *The Southern Illinoisan*, and the *Kansas City Star*, serving as a reporter, news editor, columnist and copy desk chief. He co-authored two books about Illinois: *A River Through Illinois* and *Illinois Trails and Traces*. In both books he teamed with photographer Daniel Overturf to tell the stories of ordinary places and ordinary people that become extraordinary when one takes the time to listen and to see them, as he did. Gary was a master of listening and seeing, and his writing bore that witness so that we his readers would not overlook the simple gifts around us.

In his obituary in *The Southern Illinoisan*, he is quoted as saying that he wanted to return to southern Illinois from Kansas City to be a better steward of the land, saying, "My body knows this place. My soul is at rest here...these woods in Southern Illinois bring me a peace I've felt nowhere else. They smell like home." Returning to Illinois, he and his wife Pam purchased property south of Carbondale in Alto Pass. He would often comment on what was blooming on his land there with its sandstone bluffs and rich woods. He loved nature and this southern Illinois land was a place where he rejoiced in it. He was described as observing the solstice and the night sky, writing, "We'll never know it all. This is not a failing...to the contrary, there is no higher achievement of humankind than to sit and stare into the face of the universe and feel a sense of wonder. And awe."

## ALEX METRO (1940 – 2022)

Alexander Joseph Metro, known in his later years as "Alex," was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1940. He died during a cardiac procedure on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at University of Missouri Hospital.

Alex graduated from the University of Bridgeport in 1963 with a degree in English Literature; he was a proud member of Students for a Democratic Society. He worked as a scholarly editor at the American Institute of Physics and at Yale University Press, and later as a health care aide. He was known for his gentle spirit and deep curiosity. He was an avid distance runner, completing the New York City Marathon in just over three hours. He loved baking, writing poetry, listening to jazz, and watching films. He may hold the record for most items checked out from the library in one lifetime.

Alex moved to Columbia, Missouri in 2017 to be near his daughter Rose and her family. He began attending Columbia Friends Meeting with them and came to be a

special part of our community. He was eager to make connections and loved deep conversations. He also published a chapbook of his poetry, with proceeds going to the meeting. Although a stroke in 2020 had limited Alex physically, he used his wisdom and deliberation to help meeting, participating actively in our decision to buy our new meetinghouse in 2021.

One of Alex's favorite quotes, from Dag Hammarskjöld, expresses his attitude toward spirituality: "God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason."

### **TERRI MITTENTHAL (1947 – 2023)**

Born in Decatur, Georgia on October 15, 1947 and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, Terri Mittenenthal got her BS in theatre from Middle Tennessee State University in 1968. She spent a short time as an elementary school teacher, married, and had three children (Porter, Sara, Ellie). She graduated from nursing school at the University of Tennessee in 1981 and became a labor-and-delivery nurse for eight years.

She had a very full life, but then it was all diverted. In her own words, "Eleven years ago chronic fatigue syndrome came barreling out of the blue into my orderly world and mugged me. It knocked me down and robbed me. It took from me my ability to make a living. I thought it had robbed me of myself. Who was I? What was left?" ("A Child of God," *What Canst Thou Say?* August 2000).

A great and exemplary life was left to Terri Mittenenthal. She moved to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois in 1994 where she attended her first Quaker meeting and met Jay Mittenenthal whom she married on May 20, 1995 in the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. For her last 28 years, Terri was the consummate Quaker, taking part in every possible way, except for coming to meeting on Sundays, not possible due to her condition, now diagnosed as Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS).

From her medical chair in the sitting room of their home, Terri participated in numerous committee meetings: Library, 1998-2000; Adult Religious Education, 1999-2003, 2009-2012; New Meetinghouse 2000-2004; Building and Grounds 2004-2007; Advancement, 2005-2007; Nominating 2003-2004, 2006-2007, FGC contact 2004-2011; Ministry and Oversight/Care, 1997-1999, 2000-2002, 2003-2005, 2010-2014, 2015-2019, Peace and Service 2014-2021, and AFSC contact, 2020-2022. Terri and Jay also held study groups, such as Quakerism 101, at their home. They gave hospitality to traveling Friends from near, like Illinois, and far, like Kenya, and held meetups for them in their living room.

Terri was an artist in the media of painting and drawing. In June, 2013, she persuaded fellow Quaker and dear friend, Ellen Baranowski, to accompany her to Providence, Rhode Island for Zentangle training. After that, they taught Zentangle Art, a meditative practice, at Heartland Community College, at the Logan Women's state prison, and at the Champaign County Jail, and from Terri's home. Every Sunday afternoon, for years, Terri and Ellen would "do art" together at the Mittenenthal's house. It was their devotion. In their physical form, their artworks have been given away but some of Terri's digital art can be viewed on Facebook.

Many clearness committees came and went over all those years and Terri was chosen by the subjects to be in most of them, for very good reasons. "She was a kind, thoughtful person who asked careful questions and cared deeply about the needs of others," said one

Friend. In another testimonial, “Her edges were soft and warm and expansive. It seemed that she was able to sit in the midst of a discussion, listening with openness; when she finally spoke in her gentle way, the way forward became clear for the group.”

In all the major conflicts that have given Friends at the Urbana-Champaign Meeting opportunities to practice consensus and reconciliation, Terri was there: from where to build the present meetinghouse to whether to cut down the dying hackberry tree in front of it. “She exhibited equanimity and calm in dealing with all; we honored her voice when she spoke.”

Finally it must be written how very dear she was as a friend, as a wife, a mother and a grandmother right up until her death on February 16, 2023. Even when she was in pain, she always had time to listen and to share her compassion. When she asked at the time of her health crisis, “Who was I?” “Who was left?” she got an answer that she was able to live by: “I am something that can never be taken, no matter what hardship might befall me, no matter how strong the mugger. I am a child of God. I rest in this in the hardest times and I rejoice in it in the best. It does not change. We are all children of the Divine.”

### **NED ROREM (1923 – 2022)**

Ned Miller Rorem was born October 23, 1923 to Quaker parents, Clarence Rufus and Gladys Miller Rorem, in Richmond, Indiana. His family, which included his sister Rosemary, moved to Chicago soon after Ned’s birth. In 1931, they transferred their membership from West Richmond Monthly Meeting to 57th Street Meeting of Friends, becoming some of the earliest members of the meeting. In a letter to 57th Street following the death of Ned’s father in 1988, a Friend noted, “I can remember Ned occasionally at the morning religious school of our young people. He never looked particularly pleased to be present.” Ned, however, had written earlier that “Your 57th Street Meeting is still the one to which I feel most attached. After all, it was there I was formed.”

Ned’s early education was at University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. He had a strong interest in music and literature, and began piano lessons when young. At twelve, he began lessons from Margaret Bond, a noted composer and pianist, who fostered his interest in composition. He studied music theory at the American Conservatory of Music with Leo Sowerby. Ned attended the School of Music at Northwestern University from 1940-1942, then studied with Gian Carlo Menotti and Rosario Scalero at Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He completed his formal education at The Juilliard School in New York, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1946 and a Master of Music in 1948. That year, his orchestral “Overture in C” won a Gershwin prize; with money from it, he left for France in 1949, though he spent much of the next two years in quieter Morocco, where he produced a variety of compositions. Further honors, including a Fulbright Scholarship in 1951, allowed Ned to settle in Paris to study with Arthur Honegger.

Ned Rorem became a prolific composer of contemporary classical music. He is best known for his more than 500 art songs; his compositions also include operas, concertante, piano music, and choral, chamber, and orchestral works. Following his return to the United States in 1957, most of his compositions were commissions, as he had become well-recognized in the music world. One of many commissions in 1976, “Air Music: Ten Etudes for Orchestra” won the Pulitzer Prize for Music that year. About this, Ned said “To this day, I cannot believe those stuffy Pulitzer people would settle on me.”

Ned’s career as a teacher included the University of Buffalo, the University of Utah, and later, the Curtis Institute. He was also the composer-in-residence at the Santa Fe Festival for several years, and a guest lecturer at many institutions.

Ned Rorem was also known as a writer, though he said he was a composer who also wrote, not a writer who composes. In good Quaker tradition, he had kept journals since childhood. In 1966, he published *The Paris Diary of Ned Rorem*, which covered the early years of the 1950s; it was followed in 1967 by *The New York Diary*. Both diaries caused more than a stir; they were shocking to many. Ned was open and unashamed of his homosexuality. He wrote, with a decided lack of discretion, of his affairs with many men, finding homosexuality no more remarkable than heterosexuality. Ned also wrote books and essays on music, culture, his friendship and correspondence with the famous and not-so-famous, and his thoughts and critiques of various musicians and artists, among other things.

In 1967, Ned met organist and composer James Holmes, who became his life partner until James' death in 1999. Ned said that some of his happiest times were after he and James bought a house in Nantucket, where he composed music and baked pies while James fixed the house and gardened.

Ned Rorem died November 18, 2022, in Manhattan. Years earlier, he had written an eleven-movement composition, taking both title and inspiration from Jessamyn West's *The Quaker Reader*. In a preface to it, he wrote: "To be a birthright member of the Society of Friends and to be a composer is to embody the paradox of reconciling implicit quiet with explicit sound.... With the present suite my intention has been to mold, finally and practically, my nominal religion with my craft.... The music represents a blaze of silence."

### **EVELYN ZERFOSS (1925 – 2022)**

Evelyn Zerfoss was born January 16, 1925 at her family's farm near Warsaw, Illinois. She was the youngest of nine children of Henry and Mary Limkeman Schmitt. After graduating as valedictorian from Warsaw High in 1942, she headed to Chicago to experience life in the big city. Her employer awarded her a work/study scholarship which she used to earn a BA from the University of Chicago in 1947.

In 1950, Evelyn met Karl Zerfoss and they married after a three-month courtship. They moved to Elmhurst, Illinois where Evelyn continued to lead an active life. She earned an MA in Psychology from the University of Chicago in 1971 and went on to teach Human Development at Elmhurst College for the next 20 years.

Evelyn was knowledgeable about and interested in all human experience. Described by her family as a seeker of the mysteries of life, Evelyn (and Karl) joined Downers Grove Friends Meeting in 2002. Her kindness and understanding were welcome elements to the meeting. Evelyn was generous and thoughtful with the granddaughter of a long-time member, helping her find her way forward in life. Evelyn also served on the Worship and Ministry Committee and the Peace, Environmental and Social Concerns Committee. Quaker Eight dinners at Evelyn and Karl's home were full of rich fellowship and tasty food. The Aging and Saging group, which Evelyn preferred to call "The Psychology and Spirituality of Aging," could count on stimulating discussions during the many years Evelyn was able to participate, elevating any conversation to a higher level.

Even in her last few months when she was confined to bed, Evelyn retained her interest in Downers Grove Friends Meeting, asking about the welfare of specific Friends and listening intently to responses. Evelyn died on March 1, 2022. She was preceded in death by Karl in 2016. She is survived by her daughters and grandchildren.

## STATES OF SOCIETY

### **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING**

We as a meeting are still recovering from what we lost to the COVID pandemic during 2020 and 2021. Our sense of connectedness and fellowship suffered while we were not able to do First Day School activities, in-person worship, or potlucks. We made do with videoconferencing for worship and adult education, meeting outdoors when possible, and holding each other in the Light while people were under tremendous stress. Friends had frustrating times trying to keep families safe from illness and adjusting to changing requirements and policies while the virus evolved, spread, waned, returned, and generally had us all considering its impact or threat level in any spaces where we encountered other people. We have felt a relief at once again spending the colder months and bad-weather days in-person indoors at our usual meeting space in 2022 and 2023 and at having the year 2022-2023 back with our Friends at monthly Women's Meeting for Eating potluck dinners.

We continue to offer love and support to each other when life brings unexpected difficulties, tough choices to make within family relationships, deaths, and other emotional moments. During our weekly Joys and Concerns time, and at monthly Women's Meeting for Eating, Friends stay connected and informed on where other Friends can use spiritual, emotional, or material support. We share stories of similar experiences if we have had any, and ask questions in the hopes that answering questions can help Friends find a clear path.

There was a change in clerkship in summer 2022. Previous clerks of the past decade have provided helpful advice, guidance in Quaker process, reminders of deadlines, and support in maintaining the vitality and work of the meeting to the new clerk, Heather Evert.

As a meeting, we have re-committed to regular First Day School, starting with programming for our elementary-school-aged Friends. Both parents of that group and other adults have worked together to make plans for activities and plans for when families will commit to attending worship. Young Friends from Bloomington-Normal Meeting have attended OWL (Our Whole Lives) programming at the local Unitarian Universalist Church. The meeting has worked around that schedule when offering First Day School activities.

The children's questions about Friends and their parents' sharing of which areas of faith formation are important to them are guiding our programming decisions. We also have dedicated time together for sharing children's resources, both physical books and curricula and digital resources. We have room to grow in planning and volunteering for age-appropriate First Day School activities for our youngest Friends and for pre-teens and teens.

### **CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

At Clear Creek, our State of Society report typically begins with our Easter celebration. This year was a particularly special occasion as we chose that day to celebrate the life of our dear Friend, Neil Mesner. We held Neil's memorial service that morning during the worship hour. It was well attended by family and Friends from throughout Illinois Yearly Meeting. Those present shared stories and memories of Neil and his impact on their lives, then enjoyed a lunch catered by Zach and Kelly Schobernd. We miss Neil's wisdom, kindness, and gentle humor and still feel his presence among us during worship.

We saw the return of events to the campus in 2022, and we rejoiced in welcoming Friends back to McNabb. Women's Weekend in April and Annual Sessions in June brought Friends to campus for the first time in three years. We have missed being able to share our home with others. The influx of additional energy these events brought raised our spirits considerably.

Shakespeare, the faithful service dog of caretaker Judy Reese, passed away suddenly in July. Judy and Shakespeare had become a vital part of our meeting, and we grieved his loss with Judy. Unfortunately, Judy's disability prevented her from living in a rural area without a service dog so she moved to Wisconsin to be near family. We miss both Judy and Shakespeare and their contributions to our spiritual and physical lives.

In September, we welcomed Magnolia Irene Johnson, daughter of Peyton and Rose Dennis Johnson, as a member of our meeting. Adding children to our numbers gives us hope for the future of Clear Creek Meeting.

In the fall, our numbers thin. One Friend moves to Arizona for the winter and another spends more time in her alternate home in Urbana, while the weather dictates attendance for some others who live away from McNabb. Most Sundays there are only three or four of us in attendance, but our worship is deep. We are thankful that we are able to be together and that we have Clear Creek House in which to worship. We are always grateful for visitors.

## **COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING**

This was a transformative year for our meeting. We began meeting in person again on March 20, 2022, the first day of spring. We also maintained our presence on Zoom, offering hybrid worship on Sundays so that we can continue to welcome friends from afar (Seattle, Washington and Jefferson City, Missouri) as well as Brad Laird, the Illinois Yearly Meeting Field Secretary. After purchasing a new meetinghouse centrally located on Broadway Street in Columbia in late 2021, we spent 2022 settling into our new home and our new place in the community. In August, we welcomed caretakers to live in the meetinghouse (Joe Decker, a graduate student; Zarchi, an activist from Myanmar; and baby Rosaria, all of whom had been living in Southeast Asia until summer 2022 and who breathe life into the space). We continue to have midweek meetings on Zoom on Wednesdays. Our regular attendance has expanded to about 20 people each week, and we welcomed several regular new attenders.

First Day School is full and lively, with 4 to 10 children from new born to age ten attending each week. We have involved some of the older children in our sustainability efforts, as well as in service projects such as feeding unhoused neighbors. We have also expanded our pool of adults who regularly teach First Day School from two to six. The kids join the worship five to ten minutes before the rise of meeting, and they love to introduce themselves and share the projects they worked on.

Our Peace and Social Justice Committee, our Meeting for Learning Committee, and our Hospitality Committee have all expanded their efforts. We have continued our monthly vigil, the focus of which shifts depending on current events. These are now in a much more visible location with dozens of cars passing every hour. We reconsidered the organizations we provide yearly donations to and began having presentations about organizations our attenders are involved in, such as Right Sharing of World Resources. We are also partnering with a local Buddhist organization, Show Me Dharma, to provide meals to unhoused people six times per year. We have also restarted Fun Night once a month, with a potluck supper and games or activities. We renewed our commitment to accessibility by having a ramp constructed to make our meetinghouse more accessible.

We continue to consider possible long-range projects such as renovations/expansions of our space, and a garden in our front yard, to be financed by the sale earlier this year of the lot on Rollins Road where we had planned to construct a new meetinghouse.

This year our meeting had several losses. Our attender Alex Metro, father of Rose Metro, died in March, and meeting hosted a hybrid memorial service for him. Bill Kountz, who had longtime connections with Quakers and had recently begun attending again, also passed away.

This has been a year of significant growth for our meeting. We are hopeful and excited for the future.

## **DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING**

For Downers Grove Friends Meeting, 2022 was a trying year. As the COVID pandemic moderated, we tried a few different ways to meet together for worship. We had begun small group discussions intended to bring together all our measures of light to the question of safely reopening our meetinghouse. We first tried staggered meetings for worship, one using technology to include remote worshipers, and one without technology to honor the wishes of those not at ease with technology in Meeting for Worship. In between these two staggered morning meetings, Friends met together to share blessings and concerns and make and hear announcements. After a limited time trial Friends agreed this arrangement was unsatisfactory.

So we then tried alternating ways of Meeting for Worship: the first and third Sundays of the month Meeting for Worship at the meetinghouse does not include technology; during the same Sunday morning hour, worshipers meet online for a virtual-only meeting. On the second, fourth and fifth Sundays, Meeting for Worship at the meetinghouse is a hybrid meeting that includes both remote and in-person worship. Our Meetings for Business remain virtual only; we had observed that attendance at Meeting for Business had increased when the pandemic forced us to move to meeting online. Some Friends remain not at ease with the current arrangement; some Friends are tired of wearing masks. Dealing with changing public health guidelines and varying individual health risk assessments among Friends has tried our mutual love and patience.

This past year has also been a year of mourning. We held two memorial services to mourn the passing of Friends Tom Jones and Evelyn Zerfoss. We received word of the passing of three Friends no longer in the area but dear in memory: Ed Smith, Jean Smith, and Ian Tasker.

The year 2022 has also brought us openings. We continue to welcome new attenders who bring new questions and new energy to our community. We have also been able to offer Quakerism 101 twice because of interest in learning the basics of Quakerism. Friends wanting to know more about the new Illinois Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* met in a reading group. Children occasionally attend our meetings, and a Friend has been generous with her gifts and talents in providing them with religious education as needed.

The election of 2022 prompted louder witnessing to the world. Concerned Friends participated in the Quaker Call to Action to amplify Friends' testimony of integrity with respect to the nation's elections. We hosted an online pre-election prayer vigil that drew 25 participants from five states. We also endorsed this call.

Our meeting has been reopening, slowly, tentatively. Small social groups have begun meeting in person again at the meetinghouse. During COVIDtime, we knew the Light remained with us; however, seeing the Light and sharing its warmth, and finding our sense of connection and community, were often difficult. The meeting has remained faithful, working and waiting, but it was a challenging time. As we have regained the ability to be

present at meeting (and to one another) and find comfort in our human connections, we are experiencing the Light in our midst in familiar and yet newly shining ways.

## **DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING**

In early 2022, the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Omicron variant peaked and then declined in the fall; still, new variants, flu and RSV were ravaging communities. Duneland Friends Meeting continued to meet virtually twice monthly on First Days and every Wednesday for midweek meetings. In the fall, we began to meet in person at the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), with 3 to 4 Friends attending and the rest participating by Zoom. Unfortunately, in-person meetings were halted by structural issues at the FYSB building that necessitated its closure in December.

First-day worship and midweek meetings are a lifeline to all Friends, including those who prefer intimate in-person gatherings. Meetings via Zoom allowed distant Friends Roxy and Tom Jacobs to attend from Florida. “Anything Goes” Wednesdays are an opportunity to have informal discussions of any topic where Friends want to lead. In the fall, at the request of a few Friends, Fernando Friere led us in a Meeting for Healing which included poetry, prayer, and quiet worship for those Friends who requested to be held in the Light for healing. The meeting for healing was cathartic and helpful to all Friends that attended. Grief was an appropriate topic, especially since long-time member Marlou Carlson passed away in January of 2022. Before the pandemic, Marlou had been the long-time host of our Bible study. We attempted to revive our Bible study via Zoom this year, but interest was thin due to the online format and the lack of deeper discussions afforded when studying in person.

Ministry has been an essential component of the meeting. An individual interested in Quakerism who lives in a distant retirement community was contacted occasionally for discussions about Quakerism and history. Our continuing support for those near and far through life challenges—births, deaths, health issues and more—has been welcome. Duneland Friends, while small, remains a vibrant and diverse community of Friends seeking spiritual guidance in waiting worship.

## **ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING**

This year with Elkhart River Preparative Meeting has been a time of deepening and exploration. Ministry during worship has come in many forms—most attenders have given vocal ministry, and the presence of young people often draws our attention to the Spirit’s movement. As we gather for worship outdoors in warm weather—another “member” is the natural world. Creatures and the elements around us seem to spark ministry among us as often as any other “text.” Our smaller size allows for an easy flow into reflection as we share food, joys, and concerns after the rise of meeting.

Our regular location for worship at Faith House serves as our home base. We often will “flow out” to hold worship elsewhere and then return back home. We are still fairly fresh as a worship group, as we began to meet as a worship group in this form only in summer 2021. By summer 2022, we sketched out a vision of a direction for the worship group and stretched as various attenders took up roles to support the life of the meeting such as communication and care for children. Some attend the worship group regularly, and some attenders come and go. We continue to explore what rhythms suit best for our lives and where personal guidance and the sense of the Meeting will align.

One attender recently compared Meeting for Worship to a washing machine: we come in dingy, get shaken up by the Spirit while we are together and by the end, have come out feeling revived and clean.



Our most consistent program is First Day School. This past year, there were nine young people who participated from time to time. The last two autumns, we held a Quaker Tea event, a special occasion to invite those curious about Friends to come for conversation.

Since 2013, the Elkhart River Worship Group had been under the care of South Bend Friends Meeting. Then in spring 2022, South Bend Friends expressed their limitations in being able to nurture the worship group in an ongoing way. Over the next several months, the worship group worked with the Ministry and Advancement committee (M&A) of Illinois Yearly Meeting to discern how we might best be nourished.

In September 2022, the Elkhart River Worship Group both noted with appreciation the many ways that South Bend Friends Meeting has supported our worship group over the years, and requested that South Bend Monthly Meeting release the worship group to the care of Ministry and Advancement of Illinois Yearly Meeting. South Bend accepted this request, and Elkhart River is now functioning as a preparative meeting under the care of M&A.

Throughout the year, we held worship at six different locations: our “home base” at Faith House, three times at the various homes of attenders, and twice in early 2023 in support of local work for racial justice and to address poverty:

- Working with our local chapter of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and aligning our Meeting for Worship with a celebration of a legal victory for Hahkeem Layman, a young black man who had been targeted by the Elkhart Police Department.
- “Praying with our Feet”: we held meeting together with a walk to benefit St. Margaret's House, a local day center for women and children.

## **EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS**

It was a year of expectations, loss, and challenges. Many felt that after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, things would return to the way they had been. However, with new viral variants and periodic spikes of illness, many concessions to COVID-19 remained in place. People still wore masks in meeting and there were few handshakes after the rise. Some people who had formerly attended meeting quite regularly continued to avoid group meetings as a precaution due to personal conditions or fear of exposing others in their homes. Therefore, meeting persisted as a hybrid gathering, with uneven experience. Periodic technical problems challenged volunteer assistants who were not always able to restore technical connections so that those worshipping remotely could hear vocal ministry from the meetingroom. Seeing faces on a screen kept us nominally in touch, but fell short of the sense of community fostered by conversation at the rise of meeting and former frequent gatherings for Friendly dinners, potlucks, and pancake breakfasts.

Aside from weekly Meeting for Worship and monthly Meeting for Business, we gathered most often for Memorial Services. We met to remember dear longtime members Judd Thompson and Clyde Baker. Another longtime attender, Kathy Judge, was also remembered in a memorial service.

Members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee were challenged to provide pastoral care to those nearing end of life, to the bereaved, and to individuals experiencing the physical onslaughts of illness and aging, as well as to those weary from isolation due to the pandemic or facing other concerns. Some sessions of Meeting for Learning focused on pastoral care, and the Ministry and Counsel Committee explored ways of better serving the meeting community. The Nominating Committee also found it challenging to fill appointments to committees as fewer people were available or willing to serve.

As the incidence of COVID-19 in Evanston fell, the meeting re-instated social gatherings for potlucks and pancake breakfasts in the fall. Birthday Sundays resumed

with children coming up to the meetingroom at the rise of meeting. Friendly dinners were held on a month-to-month basis. The practice of having a greeter at the doorway of Meeting for Worship was re-established. A gathering of committee clerks was held on October to reflect on the role of clerks, establish better communication among the committees, consider how committee work may be an extension of worship, and discern the gifts and leadings of members. A well-attended Meeting Retreat in January explored ways in which the meeting can better serve both its own needs and those of the surrounding community. Stewardship of Midweek Worship at The Admiral on the Lake was transferred to Northside Meeting. First Day School flourished, offering classes at three levels on Quakerism, world religions, and the Bible as viewed through a Quaker lens. Meeting ended the calendar year with a positive budget balance, turning around an expected deficit that had been anticipated due to increased costs, as well as the recent deaths of several members who had donated generously to the meeting for many years.

The meeting welcomed Evanston's decision to provide reparations to Black residents descended from those who had for decades been limited in their housing choices due to redlining and other discriminatory practices. Trustees proposed, and Meeting for Business approved, a contribution of \$25,000 from the principal of an endowed meeting fund to the Evanston Community Reparations Fund, to which individual contributions were added for a total contribution of \$35,000 from Evanston Friends. The meeting also continued to sponsor a college student through the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, and members significantly supported the Bayard Rustin Fund at Chicago Friends School for the purpose of recruiting more low-income students of color.

An active Working Group for Antiracism met regularly and promoted workshops offered by AFSC and ILYM on topics such as racial equity and being an “upstander” who speaks up when observing microaggressions. Building from Friends' Testimony of Equality, the group developed a set of queries, to be used by meeting committees throughout their work, “moving us towards a loving inclusive community.” The queries and the goal were welcomed with enthusiasm by Meeting for Business in October, and have been regularly considered by meeting committees since then.

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

57th Street Meeting has held a series of listening sessions to share and learn of the experiences of members and attenders, the meeting's spiritual condition, and our hopes and desires as the meeting grows and changes.

Friends are still balancing the fragility and risk arising from COVID. This has meant some Friends participating in Meeting for Worship and meeting life less frequently. Friends are comforted by the availability of hybrid worship even as it is often unsatisfactory. Friends have been touched and comforted by the meeting's work even when we have not been able to be physically present for it.

Friends have expressed a hope for “something more.” Beyond habits, beyond routine, beyond appearances, we long for something real, and sense it is at hand. We have a sense of this real, true life shining through in ordinary moments, most of all in the encounters with others. These moments include acts of kindness, offers of hospitality, and the intimate sharing of hopes and dreams.

There is a sense that these moments are pointing our way home. We have faith in a journey toward a place of wholeness, a beloved community where we trust and are trusted, love and are loved as family—a place that is familiar, welcoming, and safe.

Friends find nourishment through social interactions, planned and unplanned, and through the shared experience of the Divine Good. There is a desire to come together as

we are while remaining open to growth, to firmly root ourselves in our traditions while remaining spontaneous and adaptable.

We share a hope for a meeting community that can grow together and form Friends who are ready to listen, welcome, serve, and witness in a world that is often unwelcoming, selfish, and unjust. “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matt 5:13).

We look for the answer in relationship, in presence, and in depth—with each other, between different generations of Friends, and with people we are yet to meet, including more encounters with the City of Chicago and especially the South Side and its communities. Younger Friends sense a need for elders, and older friends feel hope and vitality in the younger.

We have a rich sense of the meeting community as a place of depth, with rich traditions and unique personalities who have found a home among us. We feel we can encounter each other, our practices, and our traditions anew and find them light and easy to take joy in. For many of us, the meeting has been our rescue from pain and loneliness we have met elsewhere. We want to share this with others.

Friends share an experience of seeking a spiritual path. Meeting is a place where Friends come to be changed, to meet others on that path, and to share in the work of helping each other in the search. Friends see the fruit of the Spirit’s work in our care and remembrance of elders and in our nurturing of children in community. Meeting is a place where love and joy transform life and build the world anew.

## **LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING**

First Day School students, families and teachers are leading the way forward at Lake Forest Friends Meeting with active groups from pre-school through high school. They were the first to return live to the meetinghouse, as COVID restrictions loosened. Many of their lessons focus on doing things for others, reaching out to Friends not in person at the meetinghouse, and fundraising for meaningful causes.

Lake Forest Friends have made an investment in inclusion through Zoom and hybrid meeting alternatives. This builds from last year’s decisions and work, resulting in an effective operating system fully running by the end of 2022. A big thank-you goes to all who made this possible with technical and dollar support. We are able to share meeting room activities, including meeting for worship (with an on-line greeter), business meeting, and special events—speakers, the multigenerational Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve candlelight worship, and memorial meetings. We have away Friends, seekers, and those with health or weather concerns who join via Zoom. In addition, the system provides closed captioning as well as a technical link for those with hearing aids in the meeting room. While virtual gatherings enable much, we miss the joys of in-person worship and informal conversations. Some Friends find it very difficult if they cannot worship together in person.

We have had steady attendance at meeting for worship, with more folks shifting to in-person, as they are able. Often worship is without vocal ministry, but is enriching. We have some new regular attenders and the start of a newcomers group. We have had no new members, births, or marriages this year. We held memorial meetings for Elizabeth Mertic (delayed) and Allen Flitcraft.

Lake Forest Friends Meeting experienced gun violence in the adjacent community of Highland Park. A shooter killed and seriously wounded many people during the local 2022 Fourth of July parade. After hours of uncertainty for the Chicago area, the alleged

shooter was taken into custody a mile up the highway from the meetinghouse. Meeting individuals were not hurt, but some have friends and neighbors who were shot.

Our meeting has had regular opportunities for worship, study and enjoying time together. A new women's group has been formed, and our long-standing men's group continues; both welcome all who identify with that group. Intergenerational pre-meeting "music and muffins" has continued our lively singing during COVID times. For virtual gatherings, several midweek worship times are being tried out, plus adult religious education, a handwork group, game night, and pre-meeting Bible and topical studies. We returned to our much-loved Thanksgiving potluck. George Lakey joined us as a special speaker on his life as a Friend and peace activist. At their request, we were able to provide seasoned input on reproductive health care issues to the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Friends continue to participate in a wide variety of ways within Illinois Yearly Meeting, including a meaningful meeting for worship once a month on Zoom. Many also participate in the work and opportunities of Friends General Conference and other Friends organizations. Our representatives attend the meetings of the group of ministers from Lake Forest and Lake Bluff churches to share local resources and concerns.

In general, we have the human and monetary stewardship to make things happen for the meeting. We have met the recent challenge of how to keep going in unusual times with COVID and now have to go forward in different times.

Challenges to Lake Forest Meeting include the spread-out geography of our meeting community. This makes it difficult to care for one another, especially in long-term situations. We are seeking additional ways to assist others in need in greater Lake County. The PADS organization we partner with is evolving, and needs less volunteer hands-on help for providing its services to homeless people. We have merged two meeting committees for want of Friends to serve at present. We need to nurture leadership for the meeting. And, in the words of Parker Palmer, "How can we be better at sharing the gift of Quakerism?" Overall, we have the joy of worship, community, children and contributing to the natural environment on the meetinghouse grounds.

## **NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING**

The theme of our 2022 Spring Retreat was "Renewal" which as a prophetic choice, as renewal and re-connection have been dominant themes for Northside Friends Meeting (NFM) this year. In 2020, we found it stressful to adapt suddenly to lockdown and to online worship. Gradual relentless change is also sometimes difficult but as the restrictions of lockdown lift Friends are finding joy in the freedom of in-person worship. As always, change is exhilarating, even (or perhaps especially) when it is challenging.

NFM has resumed many activities interrupted by the pandemic. The Committee for Ministry on Racism, after a three-year wait, was able to re-engage with Crossroads/CROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing Against Racism) to present an anti-racism workshop. The in-person workshop planned for May 2020 would have been delivered over 2½ days during a single weekend. The online workshop CROAR now offers requires five weekly 3-hour evening programs and five 3-hour 'homework' assignments. However, the full allotment of thirty Friends from Northside, Evanston, and other ILYM meetings completed the workshop in February 2023. The program has increased Friends' vigilance about systemic racism. Attending together has enhanced the connection between meetings.

Friends have longed to resume in-person worship. At May 2022 Meeting for Business we ambitiously chose June 12, 2022 to begin meeting hybrid (online and in-person linked). The preparation was formidable: collecting electronic equipment and Friends to operate it,

arranging setup of the meeting space, ensuring attenders' safety with air purifiers and masks, and developing safety policies. Improving sound for hearing-impaired Friends is an ongoing exploration. Meeting for Business is still conducted solely online but the format for each Second Hour program is determined individually. Our mid-week Meeting for Worship, originally established by Evanston Friends Meeting, is now under NFM's care and meets in-person and online on alternate weeks.

The move to hybrid worship inspired many changes in committees. The House Committee, having been laid down when worship was online, has been revived, as has Childcare Committee. The Justice and Service Committee has been replaced by a Justice & Service Coordinator to facilitate J&S-related events. Difficulties associated with lockdown, combined with a financial surplus, prompted NFM to create a Community Cash Fund to provide financial assistance to any Friend in need. And outreach has recently included a welcoming ceremony requested for an infant with a Quaker grandparent.

NFM noticed a striking increase this year in people contacting us: telephone and email inquiries, and new attenders both in-person and online. Many are seeking a spiritual home, others are worshipping with NFM while visiting Chicago, and some are simply curious. Last month two NFM Friends spoke at an Episcopalian church about Quakerism. We are grateful to Technology Committee, and to everyone who contributes to the website, for helping make NFM so visible and accessible. Wherever people look to find us, we are there, and we respond.

Committees have presented many Second Hour programs. Ministry of Worship Committee has offered "Quakerism 101: A Brief Guide for Enquirers" and hopes to offer more such events, both for new and veteran attenders. Other programs include discernment of FCNL's policy on reproductive rights, AFSC's Healing Justice in Illinois Program, and several anti-racism events. NFM is gratified to find our calendar crowded with instructional, contemplative, and devotional programs.

Just as NFM is emerging from hibernation—from both winter and the pandemic—another big transition faces us. The Japanese American Service Center (JASC) has provided NFM a home for 25 years and deep connections have developed. In 2024, however, JASC will move to a new location. NFM must discern our course, whether to move with JASC to their new building—an option JASC enthusiastically supports—or to seek a new brick-and-mortar meeting place.

With all these leadings and concerns Northside Friends Meeting moves toward the future, continuing, as always, with expectant waiting.

MILESTONES: March 2023, Erica Dix marries Dylan Cheng; November 2022, Ted and John Henley welcome a second son, Beckett Andrew; Fall 2022, Lillian Robinwhite enters Clark University in Massachusetts; Fall 2022, Lindsay Brubaker begins graduate school at Univ. Rhode Island; Fall 2021, Liam Brubaker enters Earlham College in Indiana.

## **OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING**

The strength of our community has been renewed each week with good spiritual flow in our meetings, and we are sharing our joys and sorrows more freely. This is partly due to our new space, which is much lighter, brighter, and more welcoming. It may also be somewhat due to many of us shedding our COVID masks. We still offer hybrid meetings, which result in attenders occasionally joining us via Zoom. Standing the test of time, our Sharing Circle continues to meet 2-3 times per month. They have added sharing a written reflection during each meeting. As concerns about COVID continue to abate, we found more opportunities to serve communities both near and far.

Work days at Columbus Park gave us a chance to act with others to help maintain and improve native plantings in a large community park in a nearby low-income community. Thanks partly to a grant several years ago from Quaker Earthcare Witness, we planted a garden of native plants in front of the Trailside Museum of Natural History in the Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve of Cook County. This year we replaced some plants that did not thrive or survive. We look forward to planting even more native plants there later this year. It is good to reconnect with this beautiful forest preserve near Oak Park.

We reconnected with our local homeless shelter, Housing Forward, which, due to COVID, radically changed how they operate. We adapted to the new situation and found a way to again prepare meals for the guests. Although we miss the in-person connection we used to enjoy with the guests, we are grateful that Housing Forward has been able to continue while keeping all involved as safe as possible.

Through a member of our meeting who has been led to help a new elementary Quaker school in Uganda, Care Children's Academy, we have been finding a way to help support this struggling community of Quaker children, parents, and staff. Learning about this community of Quakers, their challenges and successes, has enriched and deepened our understanding, and we feel unity with them in the Spirit.

Our attempts at local outreach have not been very successful. However, we are creating a new welcome brochure that we hope will resonate better with the wide variety of visitors who have attended our meetings. Our outreach efforts may also get a boost from a new banner we are getting to hang in one of the front windows.

The Spirit is nudging us to pay more attention to our library. We have an event scheduled to go to our offsite storage space, sift through the collection, and bring some essentials to the bookcase that a member just donated to our space at the String Academy. We need to vacate that storage space, so will have to disperse what is not moved to our new space.

The Peace, Justice, and Environment Committee continues to lead us in various discussions and activities, including meeting with Chicago AFSC staff to learn their concerns about incarceration of youth in Illinois and how we may help.

## **OSHKOSH**

We are a small meeting that has always promoted and tried to live in the spirit. We are too small to need much permanent (or inflexible) structure—one advantage of a small meeting. We have weekly meetings for worship on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and a monthly business meeting. We have a treasurer, a clerk, and elders, all of whom are flexible and will jump in to accomplish tasks if necessary.

We also let attenders experience meeting by allowing them to help when possible. We respected and welcome all attenders while including them in as much of our meeting as possible. Our size fluctuates according to the number of attenders we currently have, and has risen as high as 23 or as low as 3. Of the attenders, 3 are adult convinced friends who claim meeting as their own and attend most of the Sunday 4 p.m. meetings, when we touch base with each other and give reports on our progress in any area we are working on currently. We have never had a problem with racism of any sort.

We are active in spreading the theory and practices of the Society of Friends. We continually try to both teach and serve as examples of living in the spirit, both in formal meetings for that purpose or informally in our daily lives. We each take responsibility for various areas of interest in our meeting work, such as prison work and visitations, anti-war protests, working with local groups on projects such as setting up and keeping the warming center for the poor and/or homeless stocked with necessities, attending or

working on community events such as holiday dinners, making small local grants or loans to those who need necessities they cannot afford, contacting our legislators about issues or legislative actions of concern, testifying in favor of free school buses for students, contacting other meetings when possible or necessary, etc. Some of these areas overlap and we rely on those most interested in the specific issue to find the facts and bring them to the meeting. This enables us to counter with facts when emotionalism threatens as well as informing the meeting so we can determine whether or not and how to act if needed. Actions can be any of the types listed above, depending on the research.

We need to keep up with events in our world—a lot of our energies go into speaking truth to power. We interact with all levels of our government when there is an issue needing more light—a common event in this world of ours. We do this by meeting with them or mailing or emailing them

We have gone to both of our yearly meetings and to local gatherings when we have been able to do so. As we are getting older and have earned more family responsibilities, this has not been as easy to do as it used to be but we persevere. We try to assume new duties when needed and find ways to accomplish all of this efficiently. We very often have telephone or email communications that sometimes resolve any issues that arise. This helps conserve our time and sanity, and gives us more time to take issues to the light.

## **SAINT LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING**

Our meeting has a sense of being “gathered” and being “in communion” in our First Day meetings, and that we have recovered from the loss of personal contact sensed during the pandemic year. One member expressed it as feeling “uplifted and joyful to be part of the meeting’s spiritual community.” The vitality of the meeting is back. Many joys were expressed including the work done by the First Day School teachers and the older young Friends who help out. Adult Religious Education, Quaker Reading groups, and Spiritual Direction groups have provided an opportunity to get deeper into personal development. The work with various committees is also picking up as well as outreach, including community work with the Project Lakota-Ville, Friends’ (Winter) Shelter, and new Advancement Committee projects.

As far as challenges, we continue to work on helping and supporting people who may have stopped coming to meeting or who feel that their needs are not being met. Given the COVID disruptions, we are trying to return to traditional ways of the Ministry and Caring Committee, reaching out to Friends and encouraging all Friends to reach out to each other when someone suffers a loss or is in crisis. Appreciation was expressed for those Friends who do reach out. A few have expressed the sense that they are being pushed away or are no longer welcome. In some cases it has been a sense of not feeling safe in meeting and in others due to being elderled about their behavior in meeting. This is an ongoing issue and part of a discussion about the pastoral care duties of the meeting as a whole and Ministry and Caring as a committee. Friends discussed how we want to show individuals who feel in conflict that they are valued as members even though they may not get the resolution that they want.

We continue to meet in person and via Zoom, which allows those with transportation or health issues to attend. We commented on how Friends have changed in their attitude towards technology over the years and how we have managed to incorporate different modes to communicate with each other individually and as a community. Tasks that have been set for the future are how to educate new attenders about our faith and practice, as well as how to encourage long term attenders to become members. We also are looking

for better ways to inform everyone about the different meeting committees and the work they are doing. A Listening Campaign has been proposed to help find a focus for the Peace, Justice, and Community Concerns Committee. All of this speaks to community building and working on sensing what it means to be a Quaker.

## **SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING**

South Bend Friends Meeting (SBFM) continues to provide spiritual nurture in our meetings for worship and in our other activities. As a community we seek to hold open space for listening for that of the Spirit in ourselves and in each other. This year we joyfully welcomed multiple new attenders and a new member, Philip Doctor. We celebrate our sense of being a loving community of seekers of the Light as we continue to share meeting for worship in-person, on-line, and synchronously off-line.

Our committees have been active. Young Friends learned about other religious traditions and led an intergenerational book discussion. They appreciated that Peace and Social Concerns organized field trips and conversations with activists focusing on civil rights work in our community. Nominating will invite high school age young Friends to serve on working committees to include them more actively in the life of our meeting. Communications continue to support the technologies that connect us and make our meeting accessible. With Faith in St. Joseph County, we worked for social justice in our broader community. Our Quaker Conversations group has been a place for spiritual sharing. Fellowship Study and Outreach organized a series of enlightening and community-enhancing conversations on the Quaker testimonies. We participated in the National Quaker Call for Action. Ministry and Counsel reinstated a practice of reading queries at the rise of meeting for worship. Our library enriches and informs our spiritual lives. We have supported members of our meeting community facing illness and other challenges both spiritually and in material ways. All these interactions deepen our relationships and strengthen our community.

We continue to name a concern to sustainably maintain our meeting community without unduly burdening our members and attenders. We have asked our Nominating Committee and our working committees to consider where we might pare positions and simplify committee responsibilities to lighten the load of those who serve our meeting community. As part of this process, Elkhart River Worship Group, at SBFM's request, engaged in a period of discernment and then asked to be released from our care to the care of ILYM's Ministry and Advancement. SBFM approved this request. We appreciate the rich relationship we have enjoyed for ten years and look forward to continued intervisitation between them and SBFM.

Our meeting recognizes that conflict is a part of being in community, and our meeting, like all meetings, needs a procedure for promptly addressing conflict and harassment. To nurture our beloved community, we adopted procedures that will enable us to transform conflict or address harassment when it arises. As part of this process, SBFM affirmed that we will interact with integrity, tenderness, and respect for each other, for our community, and for Quaker processes. It is our hope and prayer that, by using the procedures we developed to address harassment and transform conflicts when they arise, we will continue to strengthen both Light and love in our community.

As SBFM discerned and eventually agreed to the request to increase our financial support for ILYM, we recognized a need for spiritual support for our monthly meeting that is not being met in our current yearly meeting relationship. We have almost no contact with other members of yearly meeting. The ILYM facilities are not perceived as accessible or welcoming to many of us for reasons of distance or layout. A significant



portion of the support we provide to ILYM maintains a campus that is a barrier to our meeting's broader participation in ILYM. We are in dialogue about these concerns with ILYM's Ministry and Advancement Committee. We are grateful for the Light and love that move among us whenever we gather in community.

### **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING**

Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting endured the challenges of the pandemic, then a move back to the Gaia House Interfaith Center, then the passing of three of our beloved Friends in the span of eight months; nevertheless, we persist. A dedicated core continues to hold weekly Meeting for Worship and welcomes occasional newcomers, ever hoping to increase the Peace and enjoy more breadth and depth of our awareness of the Divine. Our second hour has become informal except for small monthly potlucks and monthly worship with attention to business, while we continue to hold at least six Life of the Meeting gatherings in homes each year, welcoming Friends, family, and the Quaker-adjacent, in appreciation of togetherness. We enjoyed a visit from the ILYM Field Secretary Brad Laird along with Ministry & Advancement Committee clerk Janice Domanik, which strengthened our connection with the yearly meeting.

In a university town, most changes in meeting participation are due to the comings and goings of students, educators, and researchers, not to mention the relentless growing-up of our children. The meeting had not lost an active Friend to death in some 25 years, so it has been earth-shaking to lose Maurine Pyle in May, Gary Marx in December, and Stone (Joseph) Parr in January. In fact we continue to process their passing and remember their presence.

Despite a shoestring budget, we raised considerable funds to aid an Afghan family in hiding, but the project failed when all avenues for emigrating appeared closed. We await Guidance for alternative ways to provide our support amid the Afghan refugee crisis. Closer to home, a Friend's leading resulted in our arranging a speaker series by former member and Carbondale resident Michael Batinski, whose book *Forgetting and the Forgotten* speaks to the neglected story of indigenous and Black inhabitants of Jackson County Illinois over the centuries. The series was very successful, engaged full local participation, and resulted in two recordings about Michael's research that are linked on our website.

Having gone many years with no children attending, young Russell has brought a happy Light. Among her many gifts, Maurine inspired us to enjoy singing, and we arranged and performed "How Can I Keep From Singing" at her memorial meeting, later recorded at YouTube. You can find the link on our website, [www.siquaker.org](http://www.siquaker.org). Her spirit and good humor continue to echo.

### **URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING**

The last year has brought us closer together as many Friends have returned to the meetinghouse to worship in person indoors. Ministry during worship has gradually increased and we have grown together through worship-sharing and our traditional Quaker Q&As. Some are newly eager to socialize. We have united to provide spiritual and practical support to members who have suffered from serious illnesses. The invaluable contributions of two long-time meeting members have been joyously affirmed in their Celebrations of Life. We have also welcomed new energy from a vibrant youth education program and from regular visitors that include young families and graduate students.

We strive to improve our technology at hybrid Meetings for Worship and Business with a goal that everyone can hear both in the meetinghouse and on Zoom. We are learning to keep our introductions and announcements brief and audible as we sometimes

have 18-20 folks in the meetinghouse and several on zoom. The Ad Hoc committee on Reopening the Meetinghouse continues to make adjustments to our protocols to reflect current conditions and comfort levels.

We have embraced a rich menu of adult education offerings. We explored, on Zoom, how to encourage others to fight climate change, inspired by an online talk by Katharine Hayhoe at Faith in Place's Green Team Summit. Many participated in two post-Meeting for Worship Quaker Q&As and a worship-sharing session focused on the January Query: "What is your experience of the divine or the spirit in your life?" Fueled by a *Friends Journal* article, "Confronting the Legacy of Quaker Slavery," we strove to discern our own responsibilities for that legacy. We have discovered that providing separate in-person and on Zoom discussion sessions promotes lively conversation and deep sharing.

We newly relish socializing in person after a long hiatus: first at a July evening potluck and an October picnic after Meeting for Worship, both intergenerational—with croquet. In addition, we joyously resumed our annual holiday celebration; this began with a concert where young Friends performed a cello trio, a clarinet solo, a song solo, and an interpretive dance. Afterwards everyone delighted in holiday cookies and animated conversation with Friends we had been missing. In April, the Stone Soup Supper will have a new format: an afternoon picnic followed by an indoor talent show. Finally, we were happy to host the Continuing Committee for ILYM. It gave local Friends who attended or helped the opportunity to engage with Quakers from other meetings.

The fall theme for the First Day School, meeting twice a month, was social justice movements. The first (hybrid) meeting provided a lesson on the movement; during the second (in person) session, the children actively participated. Memorably, a film on the struggle for disability rights was followed by a session where each child experienced firsthand the inaccessibility of our meetinghouse by using a wheelchair to maneuver through the front door. Subsequently Building and Grounds met to determine how to make our meetinghouse more accessible. More recently, children had a lesson on protest songs and then jointly composed their own, which they performed together with zest after worship with everyone joining in for the chorus. One of our teen members serves as an adored babysitter for the younger kids and another teen has stepped up to become an assistant convener of the Peace and Service Committee.

After years of talking about such a visit, our clerk and the co-convener of the Ministry and Care Committee visited the Springfield Worship Group in August for their hybrid Worship and Business Meeting. Other Urbana-Champaign Friends attended on Zoom. There was easy rapport among the worship group members and the attenders from our meeting. They let us know that they are grateful for our care and are content to remain a worship group. Subsequently a member of their worship group joined us for a Meeting for Worship.

We continue to improve our beautiful grounds where, when weather permits, we appreciate worshipping together. Young Friends enjoy lessons, games, and running around outdoors. We have received a grant through Faith in Place which will pay for acquiring and planting native shrubs and trees. We consulted a professional landscaper who provided ecologically friendly designs.

## FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tenth Month 29, 2022

Urbana-Champaign Meeting Meetinghouse, Urbana, Illinois

In Attendance: Wil Brant, Kevin Brubaker (Assistant Clerk), Kent Busse (Presiding Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Dawn Crimson, Mike Dennis, Janice Domanik, Heather Evert, Dale Gardner, Chris Goode, Charlotte Green, Sharon Haworth, Margie Haworth-Davis, Chris Jocius, Andrea Kintree, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn (Assistant Recording Clerk), Val Lester, Mark McGinnis, Grayce Mesner, Nora Natof, Marcia Nelson, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Colleen Reardon, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), Bobbie Trist, Dottie Vura-Weis, Frank Young, Julie Young.

**Minute 1** Fall 2022 Continuing Committee meeting opened with expectant waiting worship.

**Minute 2** Presiding Clerk Kent Busse welcomed those present, expressing thanks that we are now able to gather in person. He asked if anyone had any announcements. Nora Natof, a longtime friend and current member of Oak Park Meeting who has not previously attended ILYM events, introduced herself.

**Minute 3** Brad Laird reported in his capacity as Field Secretary. He expressed continued gratitude for the blessings he has received in that role, which he will be laying down at the conclusion of his three-year term after 2023 Annual Sessions. He stands ready to be of service to the next Field Secretary if asked to do so, and requested that those present be aware of any fellow worshippers who might be led to apply for that position. He recounted his activities over the past several months and his plans for the near future, and made several observations regarding the future of ILYM meetings and worship groups and the Religious Society of Friends more generally. Report accepted.

**Minute 4** Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report, which included year-end figures for fiscal year 2022. On the whole, the ILYM balance sheet remains healthy. Report accepted.

**Minute 5** Val Lester gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee. ILYM has not needed to transfer funds from Friends Fiduciary, an option that had been approved by Annual Sessions in 2021 in case of necessity [2021, Minute 22], since cashflow in the checking account has been covering our needs. The committee is thankful that an insurance claim for about \$47,000 was made and paid out from Church Mutual, and expressed great appreciation for the work of the co-Treasurers, Dawn Crimson and Ted Kuhn. The insurance money will cover our needed roof repairs on the ILYM meetinghouse and Clear Creek House. Val reminded Friends that approval of expenses beyond what was approved at Annual Sessions is made through a Review Committee in advance of committing to the expense. This year's Review Committee consists of Valerie Lester, Ashlee Miller-Berry, and David Shiner. Report accepted.

**Minute 6** Janice Domanik reported for Ministry and Advancement. The committee is planning a number of virtual events, including a regular meeting for worship for everyone in the yearly meeting who is interested in participating. The committee is also looking into providing materials in Spanish for individuals interested in participating in a Friends meeting. M&A has taken on oversight of the Elkhart River Worship Group now that South Bend Monthly Meeting has released it from its care. Report accepted.

**Minute 7** Dale Gardner reported for Children's Religious Education. The committee was pleased at how the program worked out at the 2022 Annual Sessions. However, few

older children attended, and the committee hopes to attract more of them in the near future. They expect to engage Charlotta Koppanyi to coordinate the program again next year. Report accepted.

**Minute 8** Mike Dennis reported for Youth Oversight. Liam Gardner is planning the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, which is scheduled to be held at Evanston Meeting on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in mid-January 2023. He will be laying down his position as Youth Coordinator at the end of January 2023. Mike brought forth the name of Rose Johnson to succeed him in that position. Approved. Report accepted.

**Minute 9** Minutes 1-8 were approved.

**Minute 10** Chris Goode gave a joint report for Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee and the Stewards. Our caretaker, Judy Reese, resigned her position in July for health reasons. During the current year, MP&E and the Stewards will be discussing how to proceed with respect to the caretaker position. 22 Friends attended Fall Workday on October 1. About half of the money from the insurance claim (see Minute 5) was spent on the meetinghouse roof, which was replaced in early October. The committee is planning to contract for roofing for Clear Creek House, after which the building will need new insulation. Report accepted.

**Minute 11** Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee has focused its work on review of its role, as well as on discerning about various issues concerning part-time staff vacancies. The committee is addressing issues of clarification and consistency in the roles of the Personnel Committee and the committees who supervise paid personnel as they relate to part-time staff. Report accepted.

**Minute 12** Sharon Haworth reported for the Nominating Committee. At 2022 Annual Sessions (Minute 27), the Nominating Committee was charged with naming a clerk for the new Racial Equity and Education Committee. Nominating Committee requests approval of Janice Domanik to serve as clerk of that committee for a term to end after 2024 Annual Sessions. Approved.

Nominating Committee is still looking for Friends who are interested in serving on the Peace Resources Committee and one more individual, preferably a young person, to serve as ILYM representative to Friends General Conference (FGC). Friends who are interested in either of these positions, or in any other position or committee of the yearly meeting, are invited to contact a member of Nominating Committee. Report accepted.

**Minutes 13** Minutes 10-12 were approved.

**Minute 14** Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. Now that the yearly meeting has disbursed the funds from the Peace Tax Fund account to the organizations designated at the 2022 Annual Sessions (Minute 50), the committee sought direction from the yearly meeting as to how and whether to resurrect it. Discussion ensued. The general tenor of the discussion was that the fund should not be resurrected unless and until Friends ask to use it, and that if and when that happens the founding papers for the fund from 1989 should be consulted and the fund should no longer be under the stewardship of the Peace Resources Committee. Report accepted.

**Minute 15** Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The following items were addressed:

### Epistle Committee description:

The Epistle Committee is charged with writing an epistle to all yearly meetings around the world expressing the current joys, concerns, and sentiments of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The epistle is Illinois Yearly Meeting's message about what we feel God is calling us to do. It is our way of telling the rest of the Quaker world about our search. It is NOT a description of what happened at Illinois Yearly Meeting annual sessions; it is a reflection of our spiritual life.

The Epistle Committee shall consist of at least three persons brought forward by the Nominating Committee and approved by the yearly meeting at the beginning of annual sessions. The Reading Clerk is an ex officio member of the committee. One or two Friends may be asked to serve a second year for continuity. Every effort should be made to have a Young Friend or an Adult Young Friend on the committee. The epistle should be read aloud and approved by the Yearly Meeting before the end of the annual sessions. The epistle is included in the Minute Book. The Administrative Coordinator forwards it to the Friends World Committee for Consultation to be added to their epistle section and made available to Friends around the world. Approved.

Add to the Presiding Clerk description: Serves ex-officio as a member of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference. Approved.

Add to the Appendix: ILYM Archives are currently stored at the University of Illinois by agreement in 2022 [2022, Minute 56]. Approved.

The description of the new Racial Equity and Education Committee will be added to the Handbook if and when it is approved. (See Minute 21 below.) Report accepted.

**Minute 16** Assistant Clerk Kevin Brubaker reported on behalf of the Annual Session Planning Coordinators Group. The Program Group has chosen the theme “Creating Faithful Action in our Changing World.” They have confirmed two speakers so far, FWCC Section of the Americas Executive Secretary Robin Mohr for Saturday evening and AFSC Midwest Director Sharon Goens for Wednesday evening. Virginia Schelbert of Evanston Monthly Meeting will deliver the Plummer Lecture on Sunday morning. The Site Group has filled all position slots. They are looking to the broader ILYM community for help with site preparation and hopes to find a way to encourage Young Friends and Young Adult Friends to assist in that endeavor. The Food Group has confirmed our longtime cooks, Zack and Kelly Schobernd, and has assigned a coordinator for each meal. The Coordinators Group is planning for annual sessions to continue in a hybrid manner, as was done this past year. This plan is tentative and will be decided upon at Spring Continuing Committee. The group asks that Friends volunteer to help with the technology in order to make this plan a reality. Discussion ensued about how this will be achieved. Report accepted.

**Minute 17** Minutes 14-16 were approved.

**Minute 18** Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. The committee has prepared the annual appeal letter for 2022-23, which should be disseminated in November. A downloadable document containing all information about gifting to ILYM will soon be incorporated into the support page. If you would like a member of the Development Committee to speak to groups or individuals (virtually or in person) about contributing to ILYM, please contact the Development Committee using the “CONTACT US” page on the [ilym.org](http://ilym.org) site. Report accepted.

**Minute 19** Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee has continued its work on campus as usual. The ECC will continue to improve the pollinator garden and reassess the condition and future of the green roof above the kitchen. Report accepted.

**Minute 20** Clerk Kent Busse noted that the Publications and Distribution Committee report is in the Advance Documents. In that report, the committee states that the Open Social Media website, ILYM Social Network, has been implemented and is located at [ilym.org/ilsn](http://ilym.org/ilsn). An ongoing ILYM app, which has been developed with quick links to the ILYM Social Network, can be downloaded at [jotform.com/app/221887180126154](http://jotform.com/app/221887180126154). Once a list of available contemporary Spanish outreach and religious education resources has been developed, they will be listed on a Spanish resources page on the ILYM website. Report accepted.

**Minute 21** Janice Domanik reported for the new Racial Equity and Education Committee, which proposes the following committee description, developed in conjunction with the Nominating Committee: “Racial Equity and Education Committee is made up of at least six members who are committed to addressing the role of white supremacy in perpetuating Racial Injustice. Members will have demonstrated an understanding of these issues and a commitment to continued learning and action. Nominating Committee will appoint members for three-year terms and the terms of service will be staggered. One of these individuals will be nominated as clerk.” Approved.

The committee plans to work toward addressing and healing conflicts regarding racial relationships within monthly meetings and within Illinois Yearly Meeting. A working group within the committee is preparing for a virtual CROAR workshop, which is to be held in early 2023. Interested individuals should contact Beth Burbank at [beth.burbank@gmail.com](mailto:beth.burbank@gmail.com). Report accepted.

**Minute 22** Kent announced that 57th Street Meeting will host Spring Continuing Committee on March 4. The decision about whether it will include a hybrid option will be at the discretion of the Clerk in consultation with the Clerk’s Committee.

**Minute 23** Kent thanked Urbana Champaign for hosting Continuing Committee, noting that hosting such meetings nurtures both the monthly meeting and the yearly meeting.

**Minute 24** Minutes 18-23 were approved.

**Minute 25** Continuing Committee closed with grateful waiting worship.

Kent Busse, Clerk     David Shiner, Recording Clerk

## SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 4, 2023

57th Street Meeting, Chicago, Ill. and virtually via teleconference

Attending in-person: Trevor Brant, Wil Brant, Kevin Brubaker (Assistant Clerk), Beth Burbank, Kent Busse (Clerk), Janice Domanik, Dale Gardner, Cathy Garra, Chris Goode, Cynthia Harris, Sharon Haworth, Judy Jager, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Peter Lasersohn, Val Lester, Mark McGinnis, Marcia Nelson, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, Eli Rorem, Phyllis Reynolds, David Shiner (Recording Clerk), Bobbi Trist.

Attending online: Beth Carpenter, Heather Evert, Hilary Hunt, Alex Lippitt, Noel Pavlovic, Sara Pavlovic, Colleen Reardon, Virginia Schelbert, Gwen Weaver, Frank Young, Katherine Young.

**Minute 1** Spring 2023 Continuing Committee opened with expectant waiting worship.

**Minute 2** Presiding Clerk Kent Busse welcomed those present. He thanked both the host meeting and Friends who have submitted reports to Continuing Committee. He asked Friends joining virtually to introduce themselves, which they did.

**Minute 3** Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report, which included figures for the first seven months of fiscal 2023. On the whole, the ILYM balance sheet remains healthy. Expenses for Annual Sessions are likely to be higher than the budgeted figure, but not to the extent of being of concern. Report accepted.

**Minute 4** Val Lester reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. ILYM has still not needed to transfer funds from Friends Fiduciary, since the checking account has been covering our needs. That is not expected to change in the current fiscal year. The committee asks that anyone with a budget request for next year contact Ted Kuhn by April 23. Report accepted.

**Minute 5** Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. Committee members are willing to meet, virtually or in person, with interested individuals or groups to provide information about ways of supporting ILYM. The committee has some concern about the fact that only about 60% of the budgeted amount for individual contributions to ILYM for the current fiscal year had been realized by the end of January, as was noted in the advance report from the Treasurers [Minute 3]. Report accepted.

**Minute 6** Minutes 1-5 were approved.

**Minute 7** Chris Goode gave a joint report for Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee and the Stewards. A number of campus repair projects are in process and should be completed before Annual Sessions. The cost for the work on the roofs should be within the amount of the insurance settlement that was noted at Fall 2022 Continuing Committee [Minute 5]. MP&E is inclined to hire contractors rather than engaging an on-site caretaker. They will be consulting with the Personnel Committee, and they welcome comments from other ILYM Friends on this matter. Friends are cordially invited to participate in the next campus workday, which will take place on Saturday, May 13. Report accepted.

**Minute 8** Dale Gardner reported for Children's Religious Education. Charlotta Koppanyi will again coordinate the program at Annual Session this year. Friends are asked to inform the committee if they are led to serve as teachers and/or if they can recommend other Friends for that service. Report accepted.

**Minute 9** Colleen Reardon reported for Personnel Committee. The search for a new Field Secretary is underway. Any interested Friends should contact Janice Domanik, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement, as soon as possible. The Children’s Religious Education Coordinator will be considered an independent contractor for the current year. The committee does not regard this as an ideal arrangement, and hopes that a staff member can be engaged for that position in future years. Report accepted.

**Minute 10** Kent Busse highlighted several points from the report from the committee on Youth Oversight in the Advance Documents. Rose Johnson replaced Liam Gardner as Youth Coordinator in January as planned. The Quake that Rocked the Midwest was canceled this year due to the lack of registrants. The High School Friends group is planning on attending the ILYM workday in May. Report accepted. The meeting looks forward to the renewal of program activities under the direction of the new Youth Coordinator in the coming year.

**Minute 11** Minutes 7-10 were approved.

**Minute 12** Brad Laird reported in his capacity as Field Secretary. He will be laying down this role in June, and expressed both gratitude and a bit of grief on facing the end of his term. He cited the blessings of visiting various meetings other than one’s own, and encouraged ILYM Friends to consider doing this themselves. He noted the lack of working-class persons in our meetings, and asked that we include that concern along with those of race/ethnicity and gender inclusion. Report accepted.

**Minute 13** Each planning group reported on its Annual Sessions preparations, which are well underway. The theme will be “Creating Faithful Action in a Changing World.” More workshops are needed, and interested Friends are asked to contact Virginia Schelbert by the end of March. Friends are also asked to help with site prep. Reports accepted.

**Minute 14** Minutes 12-13 were approved.

**Minute 15** Kent Busse asked Friends attending Continuing Committee in person to introduce themselves, which they did.

**Minute 16** Janice Domanik reported for Ministry and Advancement. The committee has been hosting a number of virtual events, including a meeting for worship at 7:00 p.m. (Central) on the 10th of each month. Two Friends have indicated that they plan to apply for the position of Field Secretary. M&A members have been visiting monthly meetings and encourage other ILYM Friends to do likewise. Report accepted.

**Minute 17** Janice Dominik, an ILYM representative to Friends General Conference, invited Friends to consider attending the FGC Gathering at Western Oregon University this summer.

**Minute 18** Janice Dominik reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee continues to offer the Anti-Racism Café on the 15th of each month, and is working on providing another virtual opportunity which will be shared with the yearly meeting once everything has been arranged. Report accepted.

**Minute 19** Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee is meeting virtually once a month, and is active with peace, justice, and social concerns issues. They hope to meet with young Friends during Annual Sessions to educate them on conscientious objection issues. They continue to work on a revised committee description. Report accepted.



**Minute 20** Sharon Haworth reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee recommends the following update to the list of members of Peace Resources Committee: remove Kent Busse and change Don Moorman to Dave Moorman. Approved. The nomination for the Financial Review Committee mentioned in the committee's advance report was withdrawn, as that position is not under the purview of the Nominating Committee. The Committee will soon be contacting Friends about appointments for the coming year, and asks that anyone who would like to be considered for any particular office or committee contact one of its members. Report accepted.

**Minute 21** Clerk Kent Busse announced that Marcia Nelson and Fariba Murray have agreed to serve on Naming Committee this spring. They are being presented for approval at Spring Continuing Committee so that they will be ready by the time of Annual Sessions to present a replacement candidate for the current clerk of the Nominating Committee, who is completing her term at the rise of those sessions. Approved.

**Minute 22** Kent referred Friends to the Publications and Distribution Committee report in the Advance Documents. Publications and website are up to date. The committee has not yet received any contemporary Spanish outreach and religious education resources. Once those resources have been received, they will be posted on a Spanish resources page on the ILYM website. Report accepted.

**Minute 23** Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The prairie pollinator garden is still in the process of being worked on. The committee plans to host two workshops during Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

**Minute 24** Kent reminded Friends that a core group of ILYM Friends is being assembled to learn and carry forward to future years the A/V system setup that occurs during site prep. To date three or four individuals have volunteered, which meets this need. More volunteers will be needed during Annual Sessions to learn to operate the A/V controls and run microphones during meetings. Friends are asked to respond to upcoming lists (in the ILYM Announcements) of these service opportunities, and to sign up on sheets that will be posted at the meetinghouse during Annual Sessions.

**Minute 25** Minutes 15-24 were approved.

**Minute 26** Kent again thanked 57th Street Meeting for hosting Continuing Committee, and thanked everyone in attendance for their participation.

**Minute 27** Spring 2023 Continuing Committee closed with grateful waiting worship.

Kent Busse, Clerk      David Shiner, Recording Clerk

## ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2023-2024 APPOINTMENTS

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

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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|--|---|
| <p>Childrens Religious Education Committee<br/>Clerk: Dale Gardner<br/>2024: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin<br/>2025: Anna Watson, Katherine Young,<br/>Quinn Parks<br/>2026: Bobbi Trist</p> <p>Development Committee<br/>Clerk: Frank Young<br/>2024: Marcy Harman, Frank Young<br/>2025: Kay Drake<br/>2026: Alex Lippitt</p> <p>Environmental Concerns Committee<br/>Clerk: Noel Pavlovic<br/>2024: Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris<br/>Goode, Fariba Murray<br/>2026: Adrian Fisher, Nancy Halliday,<br/>Phyllis Reynolds, David Wixom</p> <p>Finance Committee<br/>Clerk: Val Lester<br/>2024: Judy Jager, Ashlee Miller-Berry,<br/>Val Lester<br/>2025: Cynthia Harris<br/>ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, MP&amp;E Clerk</p> <p>Handbook Committee<br/>Clerk: Pam Kuhn<br/>2024: Pam Kuhn, Julia Pantoga, Sue Styer</p> <p>Maintenance, Planning &amp; Envisioning<br/>Committee<br/>Clerk: Chris Goode<br/>2024: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen<br/>2025: Christiana Schulz, Trevor Brandt,<br/>Margie Haworth-Davis<br/>2026: Carol Bartles, Diane Clark-<br/>Dennis, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White<br/>ex-officio: all Stewards</p> <p>Ministry and Advancement Committee<br/>Clerk: Janice Domanik<br/>2024: David Wixom</p> | <p>2025: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia<br/>Schelbert, Steve Tamari<br/>2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor</p> <p>Nominating Committee<br/>Clerk: Meredith George<br/>2024: Amal Tamari<br/>2025: Meredith George, Julia Pantoga,<br/>Lilith Swygert<br/>2026: Brad Laird</p> <p>Peace Resources Committee<br/>Clerk: Mark McGinnis<br/>2024: Mark McGinnis, Dan Stevens<br/>2025: Jan Mullen, Don Moorman<br/>2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman</p> <p>Personnel Committee<br/>Clerk: Colleen Reardon<br/>2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth,<br/>Colleen Reardon<br/>Designated members of Youth<br/>Oversight, Finance, CREC,<br/>Publications, MP&amp;E, M&amp;A</p> <p>Publications &amp; Technology<br/>Clerk: Sean West<br/>2024: Sean West<br/>2026: Dawn Crimson<br/>ex-officio: Admin. Coord., Editor of<br/><i>Among Friends</i></p> <p>Racial Equity and Education Committee<br/>Clerk: Janice Dominik<br/>2024: Janice Domanik, Meredith George<br/>2025: Beth Burbank, Steven David<br/>Flowers<br/>2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel<br/>Lakemacher</p> <p>Youth Oversight Committee<br/>Clerk: Mike Dennis<br/>2024: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis,<br/>Daniel Lakemacher<br/>2026: Charles Howard-McKinney, Brad<br/>Laird</p> |
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## APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation  
2024: Coco Collin, Frank Young  
2025: Steve Tamari  
2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin

Friends Committee on National Legislation  
2024: Kevin Brubaker  
2025: Fariba Murray  
2026: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David  
Wixom

Friends General Conference Central Committee  
2025: Janice Domanik, Lilith Swygert  
2026: Trevor Brandt

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender  
& Queer Concerns  
2026: Jad Tamari

Friends Peace Teams  
2026: Andrea Kintree

Friends Secondary School Liaison  
2025 Olney: Grayce Mesner  
2025 Scattergood: Alex Lippitt

Friends World Committee for Consultation  
2025: Julia Pantoga  
2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist

Quaker Earthcare Witness  
2026: Sarah Pavlovic

## INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert  
Web Contact: Sean West  
*Among Friends* Editor: Ted Kuhn

Blue River Quarterly Clerk: Beth Carpenter

## YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS COMMITTEES

2023 Exercises Committee: "Michael"  
Cunningham, Marcia Nelson

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

<h3>2024 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES</h3>
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Food: Blue River Quarterly Program: Chicago South Site Services: Chicago North
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## MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

with meeting locations and times

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

### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

1100 N. Beech St #7, Normal, IL 61761  
10:30 am  
[bnquakers.wordpress.com/](http://bnquakers.wordpress.com/)  
Business: varies

### BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek)  
Burlinton Arts Center,  
301 Jefferson St., Burlington, IA 52601  
8:30 am

### CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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

### COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

505 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203  
10:00 am  
[comoquakers.org](http://comoquakers.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](http://www.dgquakers.org)  
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:15 pm

**DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING**

Timberbridge Condominium Clubhouse,  
 3205 Creekside Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46385  
 2nd & 4th First Days, 10:00 am  
[duneland.ilym.org](http://duneland.ilym.org)  
 Business: 2nd Fourth Day, 7:00 pm

**ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING**

(under the care of M&A Committee)  
 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.org](http://EvanstonQuakers.org)  
 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](http://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](http://quakercloud/cloud/lake-forest-friends-meeting)  
 Business: 1st First Day, 9:00 am

**MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP**

(under the care of Clear Creek)  
 Contact Erin Taylor for meeting information

**NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING**

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

**OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING**

Oak Park String Academy,  
 350 Harrison St., Oak Park, IL 60302  
 10:00 am 708-445-8201  
[oakparkfriends.org](http://oakparkfriends.org)  
 Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

**OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING**

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901  
 4:00 pm  
 Business: 2nd First Day 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](http://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](http://siquaker.org)  
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 am

**SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING**

In homes 309-734-5848  
 10:00 am  
[srqm.wordpress.com](http://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](http://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](http://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	
Downers Grove	Chris Goode
Duneland	Sarah Pavlovic
Evanston	Phyllis Reynolds
57th Street	
Fox Valley	Mark McGinnis
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	Marsha Heck
Southern Illinois	Dawn Crimson
Spoon River	Jackie Urban
Urbana-Champaign	Bobbi Trist & Dale Gardner

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

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

Cover Painting of ILYM Meetinghouse: M. Richie