

Illinois Yearly Meeting Fall Continuing Committee

Tenth Month 21, 2023

Chicago Friends School, Chicago, Illinois, hosted by Northside Meeting

Minute 1 The meeting opened in silent worship, with 32 Friends present, including four attending by teleconference.

Minute 2 Clerk Kevin Brubaker welcomed those in attendance, noting that the meeting was bringing together Friends from ILYM, Northside Meeting, and Chicago Friends School. Marie White offered a brief welcome to the school and pointed out relevant features of the facilities.

Minute 3 Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Minute 4 Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report. Last year's net income was better than what was budgeted. The surplus has been transferred into the Unrestricted Reserves Fund. The report was accepted.

Minute 5 Valerie Lester reported for the Finance Committee. The meeting is currently in good financial shape. A subcommittee has been working to develop policies for donations to others; its recommendations will be considered going forward. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 6 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes revisions to reflect recent changes to the caretaker function, *Among Friends*, and the Publications and Technology Committee. Friends approve the revisions as proposed. Pam also presented a draft description of the Children's Religious Education Committee, on which Friends offered several comments. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 7 Minutes 1–6 were approved.

Minute 8 David Shiner reported that the appointment of an in-person representative to the FWCC Gathering in South Africa next year requires meeting approval. It was previously announced that Julia Pantoga would serve in this role. Her appointment was approved.

Minute 9 Marcia Nelson reported for the Naming Committee. A vacancy has opened on the Nominating Committee; the Naming Committee is seeking a Friend to fill this position.

Minute 10 Marcia Nelson and Mark McGuinness reported as the Field Secretaries. The new system of having two Friends serving together in this role has been working well. Marcia and Mark have visited several meetings across ILYM. Marcia reported very positively on the last session of Blue River Quarterly Meeting. Mark attended the 2023 General Superintendents and Secretaries gathering in Chatham, New York. He recommends that Friends check the information about their meetings on the new interactive map on the website of the FWCC Section of the Americas at fwccamericas.org. The Field Secretaries request that their email address fieldsec@ilym.org be added to relevant email lists. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 11 Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. She urges that meetings that may be struggling with the impact of COVID-19 get in touch with them. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 12 Dale Gardner reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. The transition to a new coordinator has gone well. Attendance has been good at recent events, and more are planned. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 13 Dale Gardner reported for the Children's Religious Education Committee. Attendance at the children's programs at annual sessions was small for the middle school group but good for elementary school children. The programs went well, and the committee is optimistic for next year. The committee regards it as desirable to hire a regular staff person, but has not taken concrete steps to do so. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 14 Minutes 8–13 were approved.

Minute 15 Chris Goode reported for the Stewards and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. On a recent workday, the dining room walls at the yearly meeting meetinghouse were painted. Plans are in place to clear dead wood and damaged trees from the campus grounds. Many other projects are in planning stages or under consideration. The committee is forming smaller working groups to hire a caretaker, address accessibility issues, consider the future of the High School Bunkhouse, develop proposals to update our Campus Plan, and develop a maintenance manual and calendar. Friends accepted the report.

Minute 16 In discussion following Chris' report, several Friends stressed the need for a long-term vision for the future of the yearly meeting which might inform planning for the site. Hopes were expressed that a process might be put in place for the development of such a vision, including dialog with local meetings.

Minute 17 Following a period of silence, the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Minute 18 The meeting reconvened in silence, then thanked the cooks.

Minute 19 In regard to the desire for the development of a vision for the future of the yearly meeting, the clerk proposed that the working group of the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee which is charged with developing proposals to update the Campus Plan be given an expanded charge: to consider more than the future of the physical campus, and to communicate with local meetings in doing so. The possibility is kept open that this working group may be set off as an independent committee at some point, reporting to the Yearly Meeting rather than to the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. This proposal was approved.

Minute 20 Minutes 15–19 were approved.

Minute 21 David Shiner is appointed convener of the working group described in Minute 19.

Minute 22 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee plans to revise the contemplative nature trails first produced in 2007. The committee is also planning to produce new materials on environmental issues such as reducing plastic use. The report was accepted.

Minute 23 Bruce Kanarek reported for the Property Use Ad Hoc Working Group. The experimental use of Clear Creek House and the yearly meeting meetinghouse by an outside group earlier this year was successful. The report was accepted.

Minute 24 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. The support section of the ILYM website has been revised. An appeal letter should go out soon. The report was accepted.

Minute 25 Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee has been working on its policies and procedures regarding background checks and mandated reporting checks. It has also worked to improve and centralize its record-keeping. The report was accepted.

Minute 26 Minutes 21–25 were approved.

Minute 27 Mark McGuinness reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee proposes some changes to its description in the Handbook. Friends approve the changes as given in the report, and accept the report. Mark announced a forum on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be held via Zoom 2:00–3:00 p.m. (Central) November 11; details will be posted on the ILYM website.

Minute 28 Janice Domanik reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. A workshop was held via teleconference on Quaker-run indigenous boarding schools. Research by the committee on the history of ILYM involvement in such schools and in federal Indian Agencies is under way. The report was accepted.

Minute 29 Janice Domanik announced an effort by Friends General Conference for Friends across the country to hold discussions of Alice Walker’s novel *The Color Purple*. Details and materials are available on the FGC website.

Minute 30 Kevin Brubaker announced the upcoming meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, at which FCNL will consider taking up the issue of abortion.

Minute 31 Minutes 27–30 were approved.

Minute 32 Janice Domanik reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. She pointed out the great fun Friends could experience by attending Site Prep. Marcia Nelson reported for the Chicago South Planning Group, which has chosen the theme “Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward” for the 2024 Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Grayce Mesner has agreed to give the Plummer Lecture. The reports were accepted.

Minute 33 The clerk pointed out that an ad hoc committee has been formed to plan celebrations of ILYM’s 150th anniversary in 2025. Additional volunteers would be welcome. Contact Beth Carpenter to get involved.

Minute 34 Bobbi Trist announced a fundraising party to be held in celebration of her 80th birthday 3:00–6:00 p.m. (Central) November 11 at the Urbana-Champaign Meetinghouse. Beneficiaries include Wells of Hope, Center for Development in Central America, and Urbana-Champaign Reproductive Justice.

Minute 35 Minutes 32–34 were approved.

Minute 36 Friends thank Northside Friends for their hospitality.

Minute 37 The meeting closed in worship.

Kevin Brubaker
Clerk

Peter Lasersohn
Recording Clerk

Treasurers Report
Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement
FY2023 (7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023)

FY23	1 General	2 Unrestricted Reserves	4 Payroll Reserve	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
Income							
Support from Meetings	96,292.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	96,392.50
Support from Individuals	41,070.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41,070.05
Interest & Investment Income	10,020.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,425.38	11,445.86
Other Income	823.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	823.06
Gatherings-Retreats							
AS Registrations	18,502.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,502.00
Gifts-Sessions	2,922.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,922.00
Total Annual Sessions Income	21,424.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,424.00
Total Income	169,630.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,525.38	171,155.47

Operating Expenses							
Personnel & Office							
Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	56,112.99	1,987.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	58,100.49
Staff Travel	1,147.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,147.88
Office Expenses	859.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	859.58
Total Personnel & Office	58,120.45	1,987.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,107.95
YM Travel Support							
ILYM Reps Travel	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Total YM Travel Support	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Site & Property Expenses							
Annual services-Property Taxes	2,585.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,585.61
Mowing, Tree Trimming	4,015.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,015.00
Repairs & Maintenance	1,992.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,571.81	0.00	10,564.64
Site Insurance Expense	14,805.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,805.00
Urgent Maintenance	2,149.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,149.50
Utilities	2,417.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,417.78
Work Weekend	361.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	361.18
Total Site & Property Expenses	28,326.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,571.81	0.00	36,898.71

FY23

	1 General	2 Unrestricted Reserves	4 Payroll Reserve	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
Gatherings-Retreats Expenses/Annual Sessions Expenses							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,355.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,355.73
AS Admin Coordination	6,723.39	163.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,886.66
AS Program Expenses	2,519.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,519.34
AS Cooking & Food	8,571.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,571.91
Children's Sessions Expenses	1,926.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,926.21
Transaction Fees on Registrations	386.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	386.70
Total Gatherings-Retreats Expenses	21,483.28	163.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,646.55
Committee Expenses							
Development Committee	261.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	261.88
Publications & Distribution Comm	2,027.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,027.62
YO Committee	1,379.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,379.75
Total Committee Expenses	3,669.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,669.25
Support to Others							
Support to Others	12,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,650.00
Total Support to Others	12,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	124,324.88	2,150.77	0.00	0.00	8,571.81	0.00	135,047.46
Operating Income	45,305.21	(2,150.77)	0.00	0.00	(8,571.81)	1,525.38	36,108.01
Other Income / (Expense)							
Unrealized Gain/Loss	0.00	12,678.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,864.87	14,543.77
Total Other Income / (Expense)	0.00	12,678.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,864.87	14,543.77
Transfers							
Transfers - Budgeted							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,850.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
Total Transfers - Budgeted	(16,850.00)	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Payroll Reserve	0.00	(2,875.00)	2,875.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Other	(625.19)	625.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	(28,455.21)	28,455.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Transfers	(45,930.40)	26,205.40	2,875.00	1,000.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	(625.19)	36,733.53	2,875.00	1,000.00	7,278.19	3,390.25	50,651.78

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Balance Sheet for FY2023 (7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023)

FY23

	6/30/2023		6/30/2022
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	107,198.19		68,878.18
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr.	35,414.69		33,549.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	240,068.84		227,389.94
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	382,681.72		329,817.94
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	0.00		180.00
Total Current Assets	0.00		180.00
Total Assets	382,681.72		329,997.94
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	9,665.62		6,935.62
Payroll Taxes	0.00		698.00
Total Liabilities	9,665.62		7,633.62
Net Assets			
		Net Income	
Unrestricted Undesignated			
1 General Operating	60,000.00	-625.19	60,625.19
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00		60,625.19
Unrestricted Designated			
2 Unrestricted Reserves	115,358.82	36,733.53	78,625.29
3 Campus Accessibility	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	111,068.22	7,278.19	103,790.03
Total Unrestricted Designated	272,352.04		224,465.32
Temporarily Restricted			
8 Property Impr.	40,664.06	3,390.25	37,273.81
Total Temporarily Restricted	40,664.06		37,273.81
Total Net Assets	373,016.10	50,651.78	322,364.32
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	382,681.72		329,997.94

**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement
FY2024 (7/1/2023 to 9/28/2023)**

FY24

	1 General	6 Maint. Reserve	Total
Income			
Support from Meetings	8,636.25	0.00	8,636.25
Support from Individuals	1,635.00	0.00	1,635.00
Interest & Investment Income	79.89	0.00	79.89
Total Income	10,351.14	0.00	10,351.14

Operating Expenses			
Personnel & Office			
Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	13,656.51	0.00	13,656.51
Staff Travel	1,113.58	0.00	1,113.58
Office Expenses	535.90	0.00	535.90
Total Personnel & Office	15,305.99	0.00	15,305.99
Site & Property Expenses			
Repairs & Maintenance	162.18	2,000.00	2,162.18
Utilities	434.76	0.00	434.76
Total Site & Property Expenses	596.94	2,000.00	2,596.94
Gatherings-Retreats/Annual Sessions Expenses			
AS Site Prep Expenses	(88.66)	0.00	(88.66)
Total Gatherings-Retreats/AS Expenses	(88.66)	0.00	(88.66)
Committee Expenses			
YO Committee	550.00	0.00	550.00
Total Committee Expenses	550.00	0.00	550.00
Total Operating Expenses	16,364.27	2,000.00	18,364.27
Net Income	(6,013.13)	(2,000.00)	(8,013.13)

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Balance Sheet for FY2024 (7/1/2023 to 9/28/2023)

FY24

	Sep 28, 2023	Jun 30, 2023
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Checking Account	92,607.91	107,198.19
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr. ILYM3	35,414.69	35,414.69
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated ILYM5	240,068.84	240,068.84
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	368,091.44	382,681.72
Total Assets	368,091.44	382,681.72
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	3,088.47	9,665.62
Total Liabilities	3,088.47	9,665.62
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(8,013.13)	50,651.78
Net Assets	0.00	(50,651.78)
Unrestricted Undesignated		
1 General Operating	60,000.00	60,000.00
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00	60,000.00
Unrestricted Designated		
2 Unrestricted Reserves	115,358.82	115,358.82
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	36,625.00	36,625.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	8,000.00	8,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	111,068.22	111,068.22
Total Unrestricted Designated	272,352.04	272,352.04
Temporarily Restricted		
8 Property Impr.	40,664.06	40,664.06
Total Temporarily Restricted	40,664.06	40,664.06
Total Equity	365,002.97	373,016.10
Total Liabilities and Equity	368,091.44	382,681.72

Co-Field Secretary's Report

We have settled into our new roles as Co-Field Secretaries nicely. One or both of us have visited a number of monthly meetings already:

Duneland: Mark was able to celebrate with Duneland on their first in-person meeting in two years.

The meeting's new home is at Timber Ridge Community Center in Valparaiso. They were pleased the hybrid technology worked well in the new location. Their only concern is it is small and there is no suitable place for a children's First Day School.

57th Street: This is one of the few meetings within ILYM that can boast having more younger Friends than older, graying ones. There was a potluck and two other visitors: Earl Smith from Ohio and Shawn McConaughy, Superintendent of Western Yearly Meeting.

St. Louis provided us with hospitality and a chance to worship together. St. Louis has a new clerk, Andy Thorp.

Oshkosh had a small meeting. It was just Mary Ann and Tom Barlow when Mark visited. They are always appreciative when anyone pays them a visit. They are working with the county to reduce bail for inmates and to provide a small shelter at the bus stop just outside of jail. The meeting is having technical problems with their emails and phone. To contact the meeting call them either at (920) 843-2693 or (920) 223-5804.

South Bend is considering better ways to have conversations with visitors. How do they make new visitors feel welcome and explain what to expect during silent worship? They are also considering bringing back a mask mandate.

Mark also visited Columbia, Northside and Lake Forest via Zoom.

At the time of writing, we are expecting to attend memorial services in October for Mariellen Gilpin and Chris Jocius at Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting.

Marcia attended Blue River Quarterly, held at a lovely, tucked away church camp in DuBois, Illinois. The theme for the meeting was gratitude, presented in a beautiful film. Friends were heartened by the attendance of a sizable number of teens, middle schoolers and school age kids. This causes me (Marcia) to dare to hope that Annual Sessions 2024 will attract more families with young children. Apart from that, it is pleasing to watch another young cohort coming up in the ranks, growing friendships, learning Friendly values, and being boundlessly energetic.

Mark attended the 2023 General Superintendents and Secretaries gathering in upstate New York. Superintendents and Secretaries from New England, New York, Western, Wilmington, Canada, and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings were there, as well as a Superintendent from FWCC of the Americas, and a representative from FCNL. Each reported on the health of their organizations. The main concerns were aging populations, declining numbers, too many committees, and unbalanced budgets. What was helpful was to create new contacts with other Friends and to feel a part of the wider Quaker world.

Mark also attended the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago. Janice Domanik, David Shiner, and Mark hosted a morning and afternoon session consisting of an introduction to Quaker worship, an abbreviated Meeting for Worship, and a Q&A session afterwards. Both sessions were lightly attended. But the Parliament was an opportunity to hear lectures and converse with people of different faiths from around the world.

We continue to report each month to the Ministry and Advancement Committee, which provides guidance, support, and feedback. We also meet with meetings and individuals who need special care and give support to meetings going through difficult times.

Some overall observations: Friends are emerging from the shared trauma of COVID and its rupture of in-person relationships. Potlucks have resumed, Friends have modified mask-wearing requirements, and hybrid meetings are not uncommon, though not all meetings have them. Despite the grim numbers overall that were presented at the general superintendents conference, new people keep on finding us. We continue to offer a distinctive refuge of silence and community.

Here are queries to consider: Friends, as long as we can keep our doors open, how much of what we see numerically is the natural ebb and flow of a group's life cycle? Are there other measures of spiritual vitality and commitment besides numbers? As times change and our numbers do, should we be making changes to our structures and processes? Some of us look to the Bible for reassurance as we grapple with changes: fear not!

Finally, Friends, please add the co-Field Secretaries to your mailing list so that we can stay apprised of your activities. It is easy: use the e-mail address fieldsec ☺ ilym.org, that way both of us see what you send.

Submitted with love, Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson, Co-Field Secretaries

Children's Religious Education Committee

The children's program at annual sessions proceeded very smoothly. We had 21 children of varying ages, with particularly ample numbers in elementary school groups. Families attended from the Chicago area, downstate, and the St. Louis area.

Teachers, parents, and children seemed to be enthusiastic and happy about how the children's program went. Each age group had well-planned activities and reasonably well-ordered groups. We were very thankful for the various volunteers who helped out through the week, whether as supplemental teachers or as additional adults in the room/tent.

Moreover, we were especially pleased with the paid babysitters/minders who provided much appreciated care for the children throughout the day into the evenings. And, of course, we would not have been able to pull off the program without Charlotta Koppanyi, who provided leadership for our program throughout.

Some things could have gone better. Drought discouraged having the Saturday campfire. Playground equipment was too crowded or worn out. Some childish rowdiness tried our patience at times. Parents and CRE found that some vehicles were speeding down Quaker Lane despite our warning signs. Communication with sessions planning was sometimes smooth, sometimes not.

Going forward we hope to work closer with other committees as we prepare for 2024 Annual Sessions. We plan to continue to consult with Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning about the facilities, especially about more and safer playground equipment. We have every reason to believe this next program will be even better attended and equally well structured.

For more details, see the following report from Charlotta:

Registration and Attendance: 21 registered and 20 attended. One registrant did not attend class (autism); 2 siblings did attend class on and off, not interested however very interested in art.

Childcare/babysitters: 2 registered/2 attended, 2 children attend both Childcare & Preschool (important to provide both for families); Preschool: 3 registered/3 attended; Primary: 5 registered/4 attended (1 child sick); Intermediate: 8 registered/8 attended; Middle School: 2 registered/2 attended.

Assistant and Support Person: Margi & Raphael Roberts, worked out great. It is important to have in place people who are willing and capable to step in to do what is needed when it is needed. Both Margi and Raphael stepped in as second teachers for all the classes as we did not have volunteers. Margi will probably not assist in 2024. Camille would be a good Assistant, possibly Molly. Steve Roberts might be attending instead; he would be a great teacher. We should "book" Raphael for 2024.

In addition, they handled all spare of the moment situations that Charlotta was not able to attend to; provided snacks in addition to the Snack person; checked in and out children; played with all children; and made everything flow.

ChildCare/Babysitters: Norah & Kiva. Kiva hurt herself and had to step down. She is interested for next year. Norah did a great job and expressed a clear interest for work 2024. Norah requested more

pay due to the increased work load and responsibility, which she received—both Charlotta & Dawn supported this requested.

Snack Person: Reliable and great; Zack purchased snacks; Charlotta provided a snack list; Charlotta purchased Ritz crackers and water for all children; Kitchen made popcorn each day; and Charlotta provided brown bags for popcorn.

Teachers: Great team of teachers; Baby sitters: Norah Von Zer Muehlen & Kiva Schobernd; Preschool: Nancy Duncan & Raphael Roberts; Primary: Charlotta & Margi Roberts; Intermediate: Monica Tetzlaff & Joseph Salis; Monica also dressed up as two different historical persons; Middle School: Dale Gardner & Hilarie Hunt; Guest Teachers: Rex Nyquist, David Shiner, Daniel Lakemacher; Rex Nyquist (John Woolman 2023) might be interested in being George Fox 2024.

Tents & Fox Hole: All tents were used. Charlotta brought small rugs to sit on, however younger classes used the tables and chairs; Raphael assisted Preschool; Margi assisted Primary; It worked out well to have each age group separated.

First day we all gathered for a welcome, introduction, worship, and getting to know each other. Fox Hole was cleaned, painted, and a new white board was put up. There was one work day and two days with two guest teachers as a part of class. Charlotta brought cleaning supply, paint, brushes, etc.

Art Tent: Charlotta brought art supply, however few children were interested and only about two-three sessions. Young children needed extra supervision. There was no Saturday art exhibit. Craft people provided materials and organized a few activities.

Playground: Pools are great; swings are very popular; balls; jumping ropes; afternoon swimming each day was organized by the program group. Raphael and Norah attended, very popular.

To consider for next year: Three hours for children to attend class is too long. Need to break up the morning with some activities before and during class: snack, gather around the pool, art class & craft.

Historical figure who visits and for children to ask questions was popular: John Woolman around the pool. Organize art class for children who are not interested in attending class but in participating in art. If so, need dedicated art (craft) person/teacher

As afternoon art classes conflicted with swimming few attended; sign for crossing the road – campus/camping; signing in and out worked very well due to the Assistant; guest teachers and historical figures were well perceived, however, we need to be sure it is engaging; Middle School has to be engaging, doing, making, active; medical forms were not submitted for all; Which meetings are planning what for 2024?; get the list and see who we might want/can work with; EFM responsibilities; get dedicated art/craft person who will be there the whole time; can Marianne attend?; campfire is important to do; prepare with appropriate fire/grill equipment.

Development Committee Report

Minor revisions have been made to the SUPPORT section of the ILYM.org web site. All the information in that section is now downloadable in either of two formats—printed in a normal format or printed in a format suitable to use to create a booklet.

The annual appeal letter is presently in development. It is expected to be distributed by early November.

Those who have questions about making donations may contact the committee using the instructions found in the “Contact Us” section of ILYM.org.

On behalf of the Development Committee, Frank Young, Clerk

Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The Environmental Concerns Committee has met twice since Annual Session by Zoom and in-person. Members of the committee include Chris Goode, Nancy Halliday, David Wixom, Fariba Murrey, Bill and Alice Howenstine, Adrian Fisher, Barbara Fuhrmann, Phyllis Reynolds, Sarah Pavlovic, and Noel Pavlovic. The following are the topics we are addressing.

West Fence Row: There are seven Osage Orange trees remaining with some getting quite large. Despite having been pruned last spring, they all need pruning again. Two red cedars survive but one just barely. It is not clear why the others have died. In 2024, we intend to add the following trees and shrubs to the fencerow: a couple redbuds, hazelnuts, downy hawthorn, and prairie crab.

The Barn: We note the poor and deteriorating condition of the wooden barn.

The Old Field: The two Burr Oak trees planted on the north side of the old field and south of the walkway from the Clear Creek House (CCH) to the meetinghouse, are doing well. The trees in the old field are getting larger and we need to make some decisions soon about its condition and what we want this land to become. Further discernment will be needed.

The Pollinator Garden of Prairie Plants: The summer conditions have not been kind to the native plants that we planted this year. The preexisting plants that we did not remove are doing well. We need to redouble our efforts to control the aggressive native plants (tall Goldenrod, Illinois Tick Trefoil among others). More planting is needed next year. We hope for a wetter year in 2024.

Nature Walk Revival: In 2007, the ECC produced two contemplative nature trails on the campus, one around the meetinghouse and the other in the campground. We are planning the revise and present these earthcare focused trails in 2024. We may also develop a new trail for the west campus.

Workshops for Annual Sessions: We have begun to discuss possible workshops for Annual Sessions focusing on the theme: Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward. Ideas for ECC workshops included a guided earthcare walk, making a new nature trail for west campus, a birdhouse workshop for kids, and how to make a pollinator garden at your meeting.

Communicating Earthcare to Friends: We are investigating the possibility of providing earthcare messages on a frequent basis. These could be “Green Tips from ECC,” “ECC Tip of the Month,” or something like these. Topics could run the gamut but remind Friends of how to approach earthcare and climate change. Ideas brought forth included “How to Get Plastic Out of your Life,” “How to create a Pollinator Garden,” or “How to Reduce Waste in Your Life.” We liked the idea of regular communication and will be developing such information in the future.

Fall 2024 Retreat: We have begun to determine the focus of the Fall 2024 retreat. The ECC plans to meet again in November.

Minutes prepared by clerk, Noel Pavlovic

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee is grateful for the generosity of our monthly meetings and members. Once again we responded to the call to support the Yearly Meeting. The results of FY22/23 increased our Unrestricted Reserves by \$28,000 and enhanced our faith in the budget projections for FY23/24. In the event we need the Review Committee to season requests significantly above budget, this year’s Review Committee members are: Valerie Lester (Convener/Finance), Ashlee Miller-Berry (Finance) & Kevin Brubaker (Presiding Clerk).

Funds are available for planned maintenance projects, and Chris will be submitting roof & gutter expenses to Church Mutual for potential additional compensation. Funds are available for hiring a caretaker, when the MP&E Committee is ready to move forward.

The Property Use Ad Hoc Committee asked about invoicing groups using the site. Dawn offered to send an invoice (creating invoices is a capability of our accounting software).

The Gifts to Others Ad Hoc Subcommittee has worked thoughtfully to draft guidance for Finance. The Finance Committee will review and season.

Val Lester

Handbook Report

Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. From the Advance Documents.

- a. Move the Caretaker Description from Paid Staff to the Appendix changing title to “Possible Caretaker Position.”
- b. Add to item “b” in the M, P, E description. “Arrange for caretaker function (parttime or independent contractors) of the meetinghouse and grounds.”

[2023, Minute 51 see report]

Note: We have not included information about having outside groups use the meetinghouse and grounds because this is still in the trial phase.

Note: Field Secretary: We understand that two people will be sharing a single job. We are not aware that we need to change the description.

Peace Resources Committee – we anticipate a report at Continuing Committee

***Among Friends* Description**

Replace the *Among Friends* description with the one in 2023 Annual Sessions Advance Documents, approved in Minute 34.

Publications and Technology Committee

Rename the Publications and Distribution Committee to Publications and Technology Committee. Add description from 2023 Advance Documents reformatted and adding 3-5 members, as approved in Minute 33.

Publications and Technology Committee

The Publications and Technology Committee oversees the production and distribution of ILYM publications and the technology needs of the yearly meeting.

Membership: Three to five members. The *Among Friends* editor and the Administrative Coordinator serve *ex-officio*.

The committee duties include:

- a. Publishing and distributing to the member meetings the following documents:
 - 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 worship groups, and the appointments to Illinois Yearly Meeting committees.
 - The Jonathan Plummer Lecture.
 - *Among Friends*, the official yearly meeting publication
 - Such other writings, lectures, publications or presentations that are of special value to the yearly meeting.
 - Maintaining and implementing a publications style sheet.
- b. Overseeing and caring for the technology needs of the yearly meeting. This includes:
 - The website and the host server, including other apps installed on the host server
 - Virtual meetings, currently via Zoom
 - Hybrid business meeting equipment and training to setup and use

- Social media presence, currently including the ILYM Facebook Group and ILYM Social Network.
- Working with other committees and staff with other electronic communications, such as the ILYM Announcements emails and website pages.
- Working with monthly meeting who desire to have their websites hosted on the ILYM host server.

[2023, Minute 33]

Children’s Religious Education Committee Description

We have created a new description of the Children’s Religious Education Committee based on discussion as captured in Minute 49 of the 2023 Annual Sessions. Please note that the Handbook Committee has not yet received a complete description of the coordinator’s position from the committee.

Children’s Religious Education Committee

The purpose of the committee is to provide the morning program and input for the afternoon and evening programs for children from infancy through middle school at annual sessions. In the past, the committee also supported monthly meetings and worship groups by informing Friends of the availability of Quaker (and other religious) materials related to nurturing the spiritual life of children and youth.

Membership: The committee consists of ____ Friends nominated by the Nominating Committee. Members are not required to serve as teachers during annual sessions.

The current responsibilities include:

- a. Hiring and overseeing the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator CREC, a part-time paid staff position. If no one is available for this position, the committee needs to find other means to do this work such as using independent contractors or volunteers.
- b. Along with input from the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator, creating the children’s morning program at annual sessions each year and finding teachers for each age group.
- c. Assisting the Program Committee to provide the afternoon and evening sessions for children and youth.
- d. Hiring (with communication with the Finance Committee) independent contractors as needed to be babysitters or assistant teachers for different age groups.

[2023, Minute 49]

Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee & Stewards Report

The committee members are Carol Bartles, Mark Robinson, Marie White, Dennis McQueen, Trevor Brandt, Margie Haworth, Christina Schulz, Noel Pavlovic, Lorelei Taylor-West, Diane Clark Dennis, Dick Ashdown, and the Stewards: Chip Rorem, Grayce Mesner, Beth Carpenter, and Chris Goode. Our committee met on September 19 via Zoom.

Workday: We will hold a workday on October 7 from 9:30 a.m. to ~5:00 p.m. with a potluck lunch. We made plans to cut up two fallen tree branches at the campground and Clear Creek House (CCH) and removal of all sticks on the ground to the burn pile, maybe burn the pile if conditions are favorable, trimming and grounds work, finish repairs to the meetinghouse (MH) ramp, and perhaps at High School Bunkhouse floors, paint the MH exterior doors, paint the MH dining room walls with water resistive paint, putty windows at tool room and consolidate and box up our supplies there, and other things that need work.

Tree Care: Chris Goode will work with Beth Carpenter to hire a tree care service. While we can deal with smaller tree branch removal, we have had several trees fall over the last year and will need to get the trunks fully removed. We have noticed several trees that need dead branches removed, especially at the campground, and others that may need to be removed entirely. This may turn into one of the largest maintenance expenses of this year.

Upcoming Maintenance: Art Hejka finished gutter repairs at CCH caused by the May wind storm. One of the CCH fake shutters was blown away and may be replaced. We will get Dean Tieman to address the repairs for the MH rear bathroom toilet. There are window repairs required at the CCH attic and the MH kitchen. In the interest of making our campus more accessible in the short run we plan to have a carpenter add new handrails opposite the existing at both CCH stairs and against the guards at each end of the front MH porch as well as the ramp and steps at the west side door. We intend to investigate the existing condition of floor and wall insulation at CCH with infrared cameras to see if that should be improved in the future. The air conditioner unit at CCH is over 25 years old and due for replacement. The ducts are large and made for heating before fans moved the air and do not cool well at the second floor. We will investigate the best way to cool the building, either by balancing the ducts and getting a new condenser, or by using new mini split systems while leaving the ducts for heating only. We intend to create a small working group to start to create a more comprehensive maintenance plan for the campus to better predict our future needs.

Caretaker: Create a small working group to search for a local, part-time caretaker, who might be a person, or a property management business, for about 50 paid hours over the year as was approved at Annual Sessions. 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, Friends or otherwise, who might fill this role in the coming year.

Accessibility Concerns: We have long been concerned with making our campus more accessible to those who are aging and who have disabilities so that our campus is more usable for all of us. We will create a working group to start to address this and determine things we can do to make the campus more easily traversed and with better accommodations. Some things will be easier and affordable, while others might be more difficult or expensive to accomplish.

High School Bunkhouse: Last Spring we 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. We are forming another small work group to begin to envision how to improve or replace the bunkhouse and project some costs.

Revised Campus Plan and Larger Envisioning: The last two items above are key items that are a part of our plan to revise and update the physical aspects our Campus Plan. But there are other larger issues that we need to begin to seriously think about as our members are aging, our membership is declining, our children's and high school and young adult programs are struggling, our expenses are growing, etc. We will create another working group to start to look not just toward our physical future, but also to our future as a strong spiritual community.

Maintenance Manual: We have several tasks that are regularly required monthly, seasonally, or annually. Another work group with Christina Schulz and Chris Goode will work to develop a calendar/manual to list and schedule these tasks with descriptions and any contractors. Chris will work with Dick Ashdown and Beth Carpenter to arrange winterizing of the campus after workday.

Insurance: We will close out our claim for the roofing at the MH and CCH that was completed last fall and spring. We need to complete our claim for the gutter damage at CCH caused by the windstorm and fallen tree this past May.

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

Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

When we gather for Continuing Committee the Ministry and Advancement Committee will have met three times since Annual Sessions. We have been working with the Co-Field Secretaries as they make the position their own. They are taking calls, visiting meetings, attending events and keeping M&A members informed. The committee continues to offer the virtual meeting for worship for all of ILYM on the 10th of each month. Meetings still struggle with the impact of COVID on their members. The committee is willing to support meetings as they confront these residual issues. We carry a concern concern for the spiritual and community life of meetings

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee has not met yet since sessions and has nothing to report.

Our members are Julia Pantoga, Lilith Swygert, Brad Laird, and Meredith George (clerk). Amal Tamari has resigned from the committee due to time restraints.

Meredith George

Peace Resources Committee Report

We continue to meet once a month on Zoom. Our two projects this season are about letters to the editor concerning peace and the environment and on Russia's war on Ukraine. With peace and environment, we will be providing information so Friends might be able to write letters to their local newspaper editors. With the war in Ukraine, we are trying to gather speakers to give a presentation followed by a Q&A session.

In the Spring of 2024, we plan to have a gathering for Friends to get ideas on what direction they would like to see the committee move.

Handbook Description:

Peace Resources Committee

The Peace Resources Committee consists of 6-12 members appointed for 3-year terms to accomplish objectives listed below. The ILYM Peace Resources Committee would neither duplicate nor replace the work done within our monthly meetings. Over time a liaison relationship may develop between monthly meeting committees and the yearly meeting committee.

Membership: The Nominating Committee will find members for the committee who are Friends with gifts, skills, knowledge and strong leadings regarding the objectives

Objectives:

- a. At the request of ILYM youth leaders, provide information to young Friends regarding conscientious objection and the draft system, and assist young people in developing their own peace testimony.
- b. Work with existing peace-building organizations such as Quaker Voluntary Service and Project Lakota to enhance peace building with a spiritual and service-oriented basis for young Friends.
- c. Encourage Friends to examine and reexamine the meaning of the Peace Testimony in the context of our response to modern terrorism, war, and gun violence which has made it possible to wreak major devastation on people and their environment with minimal direct human involvement.
- d. Serve as a resource for monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, regional meeting and ILYM's program committee in identifying knowledgeable speakers and workshop leaders on the above topics.

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee met in late August. In the last 18 months or so, there have been more changes in staff than typical in a given year. This prompted us to take an especially careful and thorough review of the committee's responsibilities as outlined in the ILYM Handbook. We will have a few updates for the Handbook Committee as we delve further into our work. While we are working in alignment with these responsibilities, a few items will receive renewed focus in the coming months including communication on timelines for staff evaluations, placing an emphasis on communicating with staff annually at the time of their review to see if they have needs to share with the Personnel Committee and continuing to update the staff manual as needed.

We are working to tighten our documentation that all paid staff have completed the mandated reporters training every two years as mandated by the State of Illinois. A system of consistent tracking of background checks is also being refined. An issue of completing background checks for seasonal staff has been a challenge and is being addressed in conjunction with the Children Religious Education Committee. Finally, we are ensuring that all personnel files are stored in Box and have been kept updated.

At our next meeting, we will be updating our checklist of documents that will be collected from new employees and a process for facilitating background checks when needed.

Report prepared by Colleen Reardon, Clerk, Personnel Committee

Publications and Distribution Committee Report

The committee has not had an opportunity to meet since sessions so has nothing to report. Fall publications packages have been sent to monthly meeting, preparation meetings, and worship groups.

Racial Equity and Education Committee Report

The committee continues to meet monthly. We provided a workshop at Annual Sessions which was well attended and energized individuals. The monthly anti-racist café continues with focus on a specific issue for each gathering.

We provided a workshop opportunity on **Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools—A Call for Research, Accountability and Healing** with Paula Palmer on Monday October 16. In preparation for this workshop, research began about Illinois Yearly Meeting's participation in the federal government's assimilation policies toward Indigenous Peoples living on the land of this nation. Committee members have been in touch with Peter Lasersohn who is writing a history of ILYM based on his reading of yearly meeting minutes. In addition, records in the Newberry Library have provided information about the involvement of Quakers in the creation of the American Indian Center in Chicago.

Youth Oversight Committee Report

Committee Members: Allison Boyaris, Michael Dennis (Clerk), Dale Gardner, Choz Howard-Mckinney, Rose Johnson (Youth Coordinator), Daniel Lakemacher, Zara Schobernd, Lorelei Taylor-West, Hannah Laird

The 2023 Annual Sessions at McNabb was attended by six teens: Zara Schobernd, Lorelei Taylor-West, Hannah Laird, Matt Robinwhite, Anna Gardner, Gabby Drew. Some of the activities included workshops about Quaker processes (queries, clearness, clerking) and high-ropes (with Adult Young Friends). It was also Rose's second first summer as coordinator. They set their schedule (below) and agreed to focus their service projects for the year on creating a space for the Adult Young Friends. They are finalizing a t-shirt and reusable bag to sell at the 2024 Annual Sessions.

The 9/2023 Fall Quake was held at Camp Dubois in conjunction with Blue River Quarterly. It was attended by four High School Friends (Zara, Lorelie, Hannah, and Matt). They participated in the intergenerational program gratitude and went horseback riding (with Rose's horse farting the whole time). They also shared the cabin, horseback riding, and some free time with two Junior High School Friends in attendance (Milo Johnson, Sam Haworth). The cabin shower was much better after we realized how to turn on the water heater.

We are submitting paperwork to Evanston Friends Meeting to see if we can hold the Quake that Rocked the Midwest there on Martin Luther King weekend (1/12-15/2024). We plan to invite other yearly meetings (Northern, Ohio Valley, Lake Erie) and Scattergood school. Please feel free to connect any other interested Quaker teens or meetings to Rose Johnson. We plan to do a workshop on Bayard Rustin and are working with Charlotta Koppanyi to finalize out and service trips.

The teens hope to have their Spring Tremor/Quake at Urbana-Champaign's meetinghouse, but we are still finalizing those plans. The current plan includes inviting 8th graders to get to know the high school group and program. We encourage all 8th graders to attend to help them learn and experience the Quaker process of clearness and prepare themselves for the transition to the High School Friends program.

For any inquiries, please contact Rose Johnson's at rose.ijohnson@yahoo.com or 309-532-2237 or Michael Dennis at mdennis@chestnut.org or 309-826-7852 or via the contact form on the ILYM website at ilym.org/contact.

Annual Session Planning Groups

Blue River Quarterly: Food

At our September 15-17 Blue River Quarterly gathering we met to discuss Food Planning. The cooks have agreed to return, and all coordinator positions are filled.

Chicago North: Site

All of the individuals responsible for specific aspects of Site Planning are in place. We will be sharing information about site prep in the spring. We hope many will join us for this opportunity at community building. Remember that with many volunteers the work goes faster.

Janice Domanik

Chicago South: Program

The Chicago South Group of monthly meetings is responsible for program planning for the 2024 Annual Sessions. We have met three times so far.

The theme for sessions is "Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward." We felt this theme united the desires for spiritual development and faith-based activism that Quakers strive to practice. The Plummer lecturer for 2024 is Grayce Mesner. We have discussed evening speakers and activities and have contacted the square dance band and a possible intergenerational panel. No speakers are yet in place for Saturday. This is a work in progress, as are activities for Wednesday.

Children's activities are shaping up. We have craft tent volunteers and swimming is planned as usual. We are in particular need of volunteers whose gifts are overseeing outdoor games for school-age children. We ask Friends to look to their monthly meetings and approach Friends involved in monthly meeting CRE to see if they are willing to lend a hand during annual sessions.

Lovingly submitted, Marcia Nelson, Program Planning Coordinator

Property Use Ad hoc Workgroup

We are happy to report the one-time experiment of leasing the campus to an ‘outside group’ passed the test. Nothing was damaged. There were no lawsuits. The McNabb police were not called. Dick or Beth did not have to rescue anything or anyone.

An ‘outside group’ is defined by it not being an ILYM monthly meeting or ILYM committee; instead, a group under the care of an ILYM member who assumes responsibility for group members who are not affiliated with ILYM, and who is familiar with the campus. Defining an ILYM member is hazy: We opted to define it as someone who is a frequent attender or member of an ILYM monthly meeting.

This test group was under the care of Trevor Brandt, 57th Street Meeting. He brought his University of Chicago writers’ group August 25-27, for a retreat. He reported, “... everything went great this weekend. We were on site from about 6 p.m. Friday until 2 p.m. Sunday, and I don't think that a single issue came up. Hopefully the folks at CC are happy with how we left the house—to my eyes it looked the same as when we arrived. I and one other friend attended CC’s meeting yesterday, which was a nice addition to the weekend.”

Our workgroup met twice.

We developed a Property Use Agreement contract based on the content of the two existing Property Use Guidelines booklets, using best practices for general contracts. We also referred to useful and detailed queries generously provided by Frank Young.

We are currently developing a packet for both prospective users and our not-yet-hired Campus Caretaker which will include a process map (detailing the process, from initial request to final payment), cover letter (describing the parameters of engagement of an ‘outside group’), map of Clear Creek House rooms, checklists for both the user of the Campus and our Campus Caretaker, map of the ILYM Campus, and updated Property Use Guidelines booklet (last revised in 2013).

We will include Treasurer Dawn Crimson and Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant as we develop procedures, for the use of our campus impacts their responsibilities.

We remind Friends, during 2023 Annual Sessions we were in unity that we would allow only this one “outside group” experiment, the writers’ group.

This workgroup confirms we will not lease to outside groups until we have a Campus Caretaker in place.

We remind Friends, during Annual Sessions 2023 we determined our insurance will cover “outside groups” using our Campus and that we are allowed to receive unrelated income without impacting our corporate tax status.

We reviewed current fees and determined they are insufficient. Currently, fees for “outside groups” are simply doubled and there is no security deposit or fee for turning on/off the shower house water.

We propose:

FEE	ILYM Friends	Outside Groups
property use fee	\$25	\$100 (was \$50)
per person fee per night	\$5	\$10 (same as before)
Shower House (turning water on/off, lighting pilot)	Friends don’t incur cost if they do this themselves	TBD based on contractor/Caretaker charge
security deposit (covers damage and cleaning - is refunded if not required)	\$0	\$120 (new fee)

Submitted: Beth Carpenter, Chris Goode, Judy Jager, Bruce Kanarek, Val Lester

Pertinent Minutes from Annual Sessions 2023

Minute 51 ... 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.

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.