

# Illinois Yearly Meeting

## Theme: Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward

149th Annual Sessions  
Sixth Month 19-23, 2024

ILYM Campus, McNabb, Illinois

# Advance Documents

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In addition to these Advance Documents, there are three red Sessions binders on the front table in the display area for Friends to read which contain the minutes of each business session (added each day), supplementary and late-arriving reports, State of Society reports from the monthly meetings, memorials, and minutes from the Continuing Committee which meets in the Fall and Spring between Annual Sessions. There is also a folder containing Epistles from other yearly meetings. These documents can also be found online in the “Front Table Folders (Additional Documents)” at [ilym.org/2024AnnualSessions](http://ilym.org/2024AnnualSessions).

Please consider the reports in this document as preliminary. Changes may be made before approval. Reports as approved will be printed in the Minute Book for these Annual Sessions.

PRESIDING CLERK: Kevin Brubaker (Northside)  
ASSISTANT CLERK: Kent Busse (57th Street)  
RECORDING CLERK: Peter Lasersohn (Urbana-Champaign)  
READING CLERK: Pam Kuhn (Lake Forest)

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**Illinois Yearly Meeting**

5615 S. Woodlawn Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60637-1622

[www.ilym.org](http://www.ilym.org) AdminCoor © ilym.org 773-288-3066

**Proposed Agenda for  
Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions  
Sixth Month 19 to 23, 2024**

**Sixth Month 19 (WE)**

Treasurer (p, )  
Finance Committee/Budget (p, 11, 30/ 12)  
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Naming Committee

**Sixth Month 20 (TH)**

Field Secretaries (p, 9)  
Ministry & Advancement Committee (p, 19)  
Friends General Conference Representatives (p, 26)

American Friends Service Committee Representatives (p, 25)  
Racial Equity & Education Committee (p, 24)  
Peace Resources Committee (p, 22)  
Friends Peace Teams Representative (p, 27)

Publications & Technology Committee (p, 23)  
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**Sixth Month 21 (FR)**

Secondary Schools Representatives (p, 27)  
Youth Oversight Committee  
Children's Religious Education Committee

Stewards (with MP&E)  
Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (p, 18)  
Property Use Ad-Hoc Committee (p, 33)  
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## **Sixth Month 22 (SA)**

Environmental Concerns Committee (p, 10)

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative (p, 30)

Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives (p, 29)

Friends Committee on National Legislation Representatives

Budget (2nd Reading)

Nominating Committee Update

## **Sixth Month 23 (SU)**

Exercises & Epistles

Review & Acknowledgments

## **Upcoming Dates:**

Fall Work Day, ILYM Campus, Saturday, October 5, 2024

Fall Continuing Committee, Saturday, October 2024 (location and specific date TBA)

2025 Annual Sessions, ILYM Campus, McNabb, IL, June 18-22, 2025

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## Epistle & Exercises Committee Descriptions

### Epistle Committee

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.

[2022, Minute 28 & 2022 Fall Continuing Committee, Minute 15]

### Exercises Committee

The Exercises Committee is charged with writing the Exercises, a report which reflects the spirit that prevailed at the annual sessions as well as recounting the principal activities that occurred. The report serves the purpose of making a record of what was said in worship and what exercised the yearly meeting. The report, primarily for Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting, is beneficial as a summary for those not in attendance as well as a historical review of the annual sessions. It includes material that is not generally in the epistle or in the minutes. It is to be included in the Minute Book. [2014, Minute 17] If no volunteers are available, another creative solution for writing the exercises may be brought forward and decided upon. [2021, Minute 24]

Membership: Two or three Friends volunteer on the first or second day of Annual Sessions. One is encouraged to be someone new to the yearly meeting, one a longer-time attender. Teen Friends or Adult Young Friends are encouraged to be on the committee.

(From the ILYM Handbook, Rev. 10/2023)

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## Treasurers Report

### Illinois Yearly Meeting - Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 (as of 5/14/2024)

Assets	May14, 2024	May 14, 2023
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Checking Account	67,870.18	81,418.35
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr. ILYM3	35,414.69	33,549.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated ILYM5	537,184.40	227,389.94
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>640,469.27</b>	<b>342,358.11</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	6,341.00	13,276.25
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,341.00</b>	<b>13,276.25</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>646,810.27</b>	<b>355,634.36</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	404.75	12,786.50
Payroll Taxes	(734.00)	0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(329.25)</b>	<b>12,786.50</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(329.25)</b>	<b>12,786.50</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	274,123.42	20,483.54
<b>Unrestricted Undesignated</b>		
1 General Operating	60,000.00	60,625.19
<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	78,625.29
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	36,625.00	33,750.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	8,000.00	7,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	111,068.22	103,790.03
<b>Total Unrestricted Designated</b>	<b>272,352.04</b>	<b>224,465.32</b>
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>		
8 Property Impr.	40,664.06	37,273.81
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>40,664.06</b>	<b>37,273.81</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>647,139.52</b>	<b>342,847.86</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>646,810.27</b>	<b>355,634.36</b>

**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement**  
7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024 as of 5/14/2024

Account	1 General Operating	2 Unrestricted Reserves	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
<b>Income</b>						
Support from Meetings	54,875.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54,875.00
Support from Individuals	34,310.45	297,115.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	331,426.01
Interest & Investment Income	5,241.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	724.57	5,966.14
Other Income	280.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	280.00
<b>Gatherings-Retreats</b>						
<b>Annual Sessions Income</b>						
AS Registrations	4,996.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,996.00
Gifts-Sessions	1,225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,225.00
<b>Total Annual Sessions Income</b>	<b>6,221.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,221.00</b>
<b>Other Gatherings Income</b>						
Site Use Fees	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
<b>Total Other Gatherings Income</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>190.00</b>
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats</b>	<b>6,411.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,411.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>101,118.02</b>	<b>297,115.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>724.57</b>	<b>398,958.15</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>101,118.02</b>	<b>297,115.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>724.57</b>	<b>398,958.15</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
<b>1 Personnel &amp; Office</b>						
1A Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	53,183.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,183.88
1B Staff Travel	2,772.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,772.91
1C Office Expenses	1,662.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,662.40
<b>Total 1 Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>57,619.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>57,619.19</b>
<b>2 YM Travel Support</b>						
2A ILYM Reps Travel	1,942.76	0.00	5,300.00	0.00	0.00	7,242.76
<b>Total 2 YM Travel Support</b>	<b>1,942.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,242.76</b>
<b>3 Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>						
Annual services-Property Taxes	1,691.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,691.64
Mowing, Tree Trimming	3,520.00	0.00	0.00	6,350.00	0.00	9,870.00
Repairs & Maintenance	617.25	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,617.25
Site Insurance Expense	16,192.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,192.00
Utilities	1,638.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,638.44

<b>Account</b>	<b>1 General Operating</b>	<b>2 Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>5 FWCC World Mtgs</b>	<b>6 Maint. Reserve</b>	<b>8 Property Impr.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Work Weekend	407.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	407.68
<b>Total 3 Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>	<b>24,067.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,350.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,417.01</b>
<b>4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses</b>						
<b>4A Annual Sessions Expenses</b>						
AS Site Prep Expenses	(88.66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(88.66)
AS Admin Coordination	5,320.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,320.48
Transaction Fees on Registrations	108.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.32
<b>Total 4A Annual Sessions Expenses</b>	<b>5,340.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,340.14</b>
<b>Total 4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses</b>	<b>5,340.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,340.14</b>
<b>5 Committee Expenses</b>						
Development Committee	356.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	356.00
Publications & Distribution Committee	1,168.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,168.12
YO Committee	561.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	561.51
<b>Total 5 Committee Expenses</b>	<b>2,085.63</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,085.63</b>
6 Support to Others	12,650.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,650.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>103,704.73</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>5,300.00</b>	<b>8,350.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>129,354.73</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>(2,586.71)</b>	<b>285,115.56</b>	<b>(5,300.00)</b>	<b>(8,350.00)</b>	<b>724.57</b>	<b>269,603.42</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
<b>Transfers - Budgeted</b>						
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,850.00)	0.00	0.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Transfers - Budgeted</b>	<b>(16,850.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>(16,850.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(19,436.71)</b>	<b>285,115.56</b>	<b>(4,300.00)</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>	<b>724.57</b>	<b>269,603.42</b>

**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Constituent Meeting Contributions  
7/1/2023-6/30/2024 (Contribution as of 5/20/2024)**

Bloomington-Normal	2,520	Oak Park	6,000
Columbia	2,030	Saint Louis	8,800
Duneland	2,320	Southern Illinois	580
Evanston	17,125	Spoon River	720
57th Street	3,770	Urbana-Champaign	5,000
Fox Valley	500		
Northside	5,510	<b>Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>54,875</b>

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## Co-Field Secretaries Report

This past year has been a year of gradual recovering from the physical and social devastation of COVID-19 and rejoicing at the ability to be in tangible community again. It has also been a time of remembering that life in community depends on patience and listening, which requires work.

With the guidance of Ministry and Advancement, we have attended all of the monthly meetings and some of the worship groups in person. The exceptions are Elkhart River Preparative Meeting, Macomb, Spoon River, and Springfield. We have a planned visit for Columbia before Annual Sessions. Our work included enhanced support for a few monthly meetings which needed more spiritual care and a loving and independent hand.

Once a personal connection has been made, visiting/attending online becomes more meaningful, and we have done that with regularity. Considering our yearly meeting stretches over four states and winter makes travel difficult, attending online has been a gift for us as well as others who cannot attend in person because of distance, illness, or other obligations. Virtually all monthly meetings now offer hybrid options for Meeting for Worship.

It has been a joy to meet Friends committed to their monthly meetings who we do not see at Annual Sessions. These Friends pour their energy into not just their meetings but their local communities. The flow of immigrants into the country has elicited support in a variety of ways from meetings. In keeping with the biblical injunction to care for widows and orphans, meetings are caring for the hungry and unhoused. Peace and justice committees have been galvanized into different forms of activism because of the Israel-Palestine war, with some Friends hearing a loud clarion call to action.

Meetings are growing in different ways. We suggest a number of ways to understand growth. A few meetings have blessedly energetic cohorts of children. Other meetings offer gateways for grown-ups; that is, they are welcoming to those unfamiliar with or suspicious of getting together on a Sunday morning to explore big questions. Still other meetings simply want to grow deeper in faith. All these different paths are blessed and they have different needs for us to address. We affirm your strength.

We have observed that some monthly meetings express feelings of being small and isolated. We sense a thirst for connection and spiritual growth and deeper understanding of Quakerism. We offered a class in Exploring Quakerism and supported a workshop. We have concluded there is a need to offer a Quaker 101 class online to smaller meetings and worship groups. We are setting the intention to offer ILYM-wide workshops in the coming year, and welcome suggestions for subjects. One is already being planned on end-of-life considerations.

We want to encourage Friends to step out of the mindset that Illinois Yearly Meeting is only four days in June. Our meetings and ourselves are part of something bigger and grander than just a gathering in the farm lands of central Illinois every year.

The Field Secretaries are at your service to problem solve, encourage, or answer your questions. We look forward to working more closely with you next year. Outside of these sessions, find us at fieldsec © ilym.org or our personal phone numbers for calls or texts.

Submitted with love, Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson

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## Stewards Report

Combined with the [Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee report](#), p.18

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## Development Committee Report

The committee sent out the annual appeal letter for individual contributions late in 2023. The committee intends to have the 2024-5 appeal letter distributed during 8th Month, 2024. The budgeted need for individual contributions in fiscal year 2023-24 is \$38,750. As of 5/14/2024, contributions received totaled \$35,535.

This year the Development Committee had only three members and one (Kay Drake) wishes to resign from the committee. There were several matters that required cooperation with other committees, specifically Finance and Maintenance and Planning. The Nominating Committee has been informed of the need for additional membership and for consultation with other committees. Regardless of the results of Nominating Committee deliberations, the Development Committee Clerk will continue to interact with other committees as necessary and beneficial.

The Development Committee is charged with raising funds. Contributions from individuals are arriving about as expected in the yearly meeting's budget for this fiscal year. The "Support" section of the yearly meeting website has information about various ways to support the yearly meeting. To make this information easy to use and analyze, it can be downloaded and printed in a booklet format. In addition, there is a simple description given on the "Support" section that enables anyone to contact Development Committee members or to ask questions. Although we cannot give professional advice about giving, we are able to refer individuals to multiple sources of information about charitable donations.

The Development Committee had advanced knowledge of the recent very generous bequest that was recently announced. Although the Development Committee knew that the gift had been arranged, we were not aware of its size. This bequest is expected to create significant benefits for the yearly meeting. The handling of such gifts is the responsibility of other officers (the Treasurers) and other committees (Finance, Maintenance and Planning). More specifically, the Finance Committee manages the investment of such funds and (in association with the Maintenance and Planning Committee) is charged with recommending how funds are to be spent. The yearly meeting, at its Annual Sessions (or at Continuing Committee meetings), makes final determinations regarding these matters. Arrangements have been made to have the envisioning subcommittee (clerked by David Shiner) of the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee consider ways that this bequest can have lasting impacts on the yearly meeting's future.

Frank Young, Clerk

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## Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The Environmental Concerns Committee last met on May 14. In attendance were Fariba Murrey, Chris Goode, Nancy Halliday, and Noel and Searah Pavlovic.

**West campus fencerow:** At the west campus treeline only one eastern red cedar is still alive at the north end closest to Quaker Lane (350th Ave). The remaining seven Osage orange trees were trimmed so that the mower can get closer to the trees without being impaled on the thorns.

**Poison hemlock removal:** The campus was scoured for poison hemlock and two specimens were cutoff below the ground on the campground. Several were also dealt with at the southwest of the barn.

**Brush piles:** It was windy on the work day, so no brush pile burning was done. The brush pile south of the Clear Creek House has gotten quite large so a new brush pile was started northwest of the west end of the barn. Branches and sticks from around the campus and Osage orange trimmings were added to the new pile thanks to the work of Margie, Dick, etc.

**Pollinator garden:** We were pleased the pollinator garden is doing pretty well. Many of the prairie dropseed grasses were still alive along the south and west perimeter of the garden. We removed the tall goldenrod from the center as it spreads rapidly. We also liberated the prairie dropseed grasses from the lawn grasses that are encroaching on the perimeter. We noted many blazing stars were still alive. We plan to replace the prairie dropseeds that died with new plants. We hope to continue to add additional plants to the garden.

**Burr oaks:** Sadly, none of the burr oak survived over the winter. These were planted on the south side of the path from Clear Creek House to the meetinghouse. Maybe larger specimens need to be planted.

**Replacing trees at Clear Creek House:** The silver maple out side the Clear Creek House dining room was cut down as was the sugar maple east of the garage. We hope to plant replacement trees with the advice of Clear Creek meeting. For the silver maple, we could plant one of the following species: magnolia, redbud, or flowering dogwood. For the maple, we could plant species such as oak, oak from Dick's white oak or tulip tree. Fariba knows a landscaper who would be able to plant larger trees.

**Fall Retreat:** We have tentatively scheduled our Fall retreat for September 7-8 with potential focus on revising the nature trails for the campus and/or revising the campus tree map.

No progress has been made on any other work of the committee. These lapsed projects include revising the nature trails and fact sheet about getting plastic out of our lives.

Report prepared by Noel Pavlovic

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## Finance Committee Report

Our 2023/2024 Income & Expenditures in our Operating Budget appear in line with expectations. In addition, it is with deep gratitude that the bequest from Chris Jocius was received (and reported on at Spring Continuing Committee) and added to our Unrestricted Reserves. The direction we received is that the gift is intended "to strengthen the future of the yearly meeting". We look forward to listening as we Envision our future.

A proposed budget for FY 2024/2025 follows. In an effort to reduce our "overbudgeting" and then requesting more gifts from Friends and monthly meetings than we need, we have reduced:

- Eleven committee budgets to \$0—these committees do not regularly spend funds. To cover any unanticipated needs, we have added \$400 to a Misc Committee fund to be used by committees without budgets. Finance asks that any committee expenditure over \$100 from this fund be submitted to the Review Committee.
- The budget for Routine Maintenance, as large expenditures come from our Deferred Maintenance reserves (as a result, we do not usually spend the budget)
- The mowing/tree trimming budget as we are not routinely spending the amount

Despite not spending the budget, we kept budgets (not to constrain committees) for an on-call Caretaker, Youth Oversight, Publications & Technology, and funding for a Part-time staff member of CRE

At sessions last year, we established a subcommittee to develop guidance for the Finance Committee in recommending our Gifts to Others (in additional documents section). That report was shared at Spring Continuing Committee, and the guidance was used in our preparation of the proposed budget for the upcoming year and is brought to this sessions for approval and once approved, added to the Handbook.

The new guidance for Gifts to Others encouraged us to raise our level of giving and give more consistent gifts within categories.

Valerie Lester

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## Proposed Budget

	BUDGET FY2025	% Change	BUDGET FY2024	Actual 4/16/2024	ACTUAL 6/30/2023	ACTUAL 6/30/2022	ACTUAL 6/30/2021
Contributions-Meetings	\$103,200	2%	\$100,950	\$54,875	\$96,293	\$97,341	\$90,531
Gifts-Individuals	\$40,000	1%	\$39,750	\$34,310	\$41,070	\$35,644	\$32,413
Bank & Investment Income	\$10,000	25%	\$8,000	\$5,242	\$10,020	\$8,261	\$6,525
Misc. Income	\$0	0%	\$0	\$280	\$823	\$1,465	\$0
Gatherings-Retreats	\$25,000	6%	\$23,500	\$6,411	\$21,424	\$19,089	\$7,829
	<b>\$178,200</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>\$172,200</b>	<b>\$101,118</b>	<b>\$169,630</b>	<b>\$161,800</b>	<b>\$137,299</b>
<b>1 Personnel &amp; Office</b>							
	<b>\$75,600</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>\$73,250</b>	<b>\$57,619</b>	<b>\$58,120</b>	<b>\$50,910</b>	<b>\$48,101</b>
<b>2 YM Travel Support</b>							
	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$1,943</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$133</b>
<b>3 Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>							
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$3,000	36%	\$2,200	\$1,692	\$2,586	\$2,226	\$1,078
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$4,500	-31%	\$6,500	\$3,520	\$4,015	\$3,900	\$8,400
Routine Repairs & Maintenance	\$4,000	-11%	\$4,500	\$1,025	\$2,354	\$4,220	\$2,816
Urgent Repairs	\$2,000	0%	\$2,000	\$0	\$14,805	\$0	5194
Insurance	\$16,500	6%	\$15,500	\$16,192	\$2,150	\$12,860	\$10,564
Caretaker Expenses	\$1,250		\$1,250	\$0			500
Utilities	\$3,500	0%	\$3,500	\$1,638	\$2,418	\$5,998	\$2,568
Total Site & Property	<b>\$34,750</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>\$35,450</b>	<b>\$24,067</b>	<b>\$28,327</b>	<b>\$29,204</b>	<b>\$31,120</b>
<b>4 Gatherings-Retreats</b>							
Annual Sessions Event Expenses (oversight: Admin.Coord.)	\$9,000	-5%	\$9,500	\$5,429	\$6,723	\$6,381	
Annual Sessions Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Group)	\$10,300	3%	\$10,000	\$0	\$8,572	\$8,199	
Annual Sessions Program Aft/Eve (oversight: Planning Group)	\$3,000	0%	\$3,000	\$0	\$2,519	\$3,120	
Annual Sessions Children's Program (oversight: CRE Cmte.)	\$2,750	120%	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,926	\$323	
Annual Sessions Site Prep (oversight: Planning Group)	\$1,750	0%	\$1,750	(\$89)	\$1,356	\$2,346	
Other Gatherings	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$387	\$599	\$5,982
Total Gatherings-Retreats	<b>\$26,800</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$25,500</b>	<b>\$5,340</b>	<b>\$21,483</b>	<b>\$20,968</b>	<b>5,982</b>
<b>5 Committee Expenses</b>							
Miscellaneous Committee	\$400		\$ -	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -
Adult Young Friends	\$0	-100%	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Children's Religious Education	\$0	-100%	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

	BUDGET FY2025	% Change	BUDGET FY2024	Actual 4/16/2024	ACTUAL 6/30/2023	ACTUAL 6/30/2022	ACTUAL 6/30/2021
Development	\$400	0%	\$400	\$356	\$262	\$306	\$80
Environmental Concerns	\$0	-100%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$36	0
Finance	\$0	-100%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Handbook	\$0	-100%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	\$0	-100%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$88	0
Ministry & Advancement	\$0	-100%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Nominating	\$0	-100%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Peace Resources	\$0	-100%	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Peace Tax Fund	\$0	-100%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Personnel	\$0	-100%	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Publications & Distribution	\$3,000	0%	\$3,000	\$1,168	\$2,028	\$2,078	\$1,656
Youth Oversight	\$2,400	0%	\$2,400	\$562	\$1,380	\$58	\$64
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,200</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$2,086</b>	<b>\$3,669</b>	<b>\$2,566</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>
<b>6 Support to Others</b>							
Quaker organizations that support the Yearly Meeting							
Friends General Conference (FGC)	\$5,000	14%	\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,400	\$4,000	\$4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	\$5,000	30%	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,500	\$3,500
Quaker Organizations that Nurture ILYM Friends							
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	\$250	150%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50
Friends Journal	\$250	0%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200
Regional Quaker educational institutions							
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	\$300	-14%	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300
Scattergood Friends School and Farm	\$300	20%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200
Earlham College	\$300	20%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	\$300	140%	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$100
Olney Friends School	\$300	140%	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$100
Quaker Organizations that Support our Testimonies							
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$400	\$400
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$400	\$400
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	\$350	0%	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300	\$300
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	\$500	67%	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$250	\$250
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	\$350	0%	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$300
Project Lakota/Ville	\$350	40%	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$200

	BUDGET FY2025	% Change	BUDGET FY2024	Actual 4/16/2024	ACTUAL 6/30/2023	ACTUAL 6/30/2022	ACTUAL 6/30/2021
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	\$350	0%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$50
Support to Organizations that Support the Work of our Committees							
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	\$100	0%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	100
CAARPR	\$500	0%	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Total Support to Others	\$15,500	23%	\$12,650	\$12,650	\$12,650	\$11,550	\$11,650
	<b>\$161,350</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$155,350</b>	<b>\$103,705</b>	<b>\$124,325</b>	<b>\$115,197</b>	<b>\$98,787</b>
To Maintenance Reserve	\$15,850	0%	\$15,850	\$15,850	\$15,850	\$11,500	\$11,500
To FWCC World Meetings	\$1,000	0%	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Special Gifts				\$0	\$28,455	\$34,103	\$26,012
Total Budgeted Transfers	<b>\$16,850</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$16,850</b>	<b>\$16,850</b>	<b>\$45,305</b>	<b>\$45,503</b>	<b>\$38,512</b>
	\$178,200	3.5%	\$172,200	\$120,555	\$169,630		
	\$0		\$0	(\$19,437)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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## Handbook Committee Report

**Section 2:** Mutual Caring of the Yearly, Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to each other, page 10-11 in current Handbook. Yearly Meeting a) add after provides an important unifying influence...“and receives epistles from other yearly meetings, sends a copy of our epistle for other yearly meetings to read.” Monthly Meetings: a) Appoint a representative from the monthly meeting to attend the annual sessions and continuing committee sessions in order to report on any monthly meeting activities that need the attention of the yearly meeting. Report back to the monthly meeting on any relevant ILYM activities. ... d) [State of Society reports] add at the end. “See State of Society Reports section including queries in *Faith and Practice: Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*, pages 136-139. ... h) delete last sentence about the representative reading the memorial because this is covered in the description of the memorials under 10. Memorials.

**Under Field Secretary,** change section titles from Compensation and Support to “Oversight” and from Estimated Hours to “Compensation.”

**Record Retention Policy.** 1) Delete section on *Record Retention and Storage*, (page 47 of the current Handbook) which is not part of our current practice. 2) In the introduction to Standing Committees. Replace *Minutes* description (page 28 of the current Handbook) with the following which is more reflective of our practice.

### *Minutes*

Each standing committee (with a few exceptions) should appoint someone to take minutes at each meeting. These minutes are approved by the members of the committee. Copies of these minutes may be sent to the Administrative Coordinator for retention or may be incorporated in reports to the yearly meeting at annual sessions and Continuing Committee. For confidential minute retention, consult with the Administrative Coordinator for storage options.

**Personnel Committee:** Change membership to “Four independent members plus a representative from each committee who supervises an employee and a member of the Finance Committee. The Nominating Committee brings forward names of four independent members one of whom is named as clerk. The Finance and committees-of-oversight each name a representative from their committees. A subcommittee of the independent members may meet separately to discuss confidential personnel matters. [2018, Minute 31 and 61; 2019, Minute 18]

Change to the following for **10. Memorials.**

When a Friend in a monthly meeting or worship group dies, it is appropriate to remember and give thanks for that person’s life in the meeting in the form of a memorial minute. These become part of the minutes of the monthly meeting. At the yearly meeting, minutes are read aloud by a member or designee of that monthly meeting or worship group during the period at the annual sessions designated as the "time for memorials" (currently during the Saturday morning Meeting for Worship). The memorial minute is also included in a section of the yearly meeting minute book.

The appropriateness of a memorial to be read to the yearly meeting should be determined by the local Meeting, using the queries below as guides. These minutes are generally less than 700 words, bearing in mind the one-hour length currently given to this period of worship. Unlike an obituary, a memorial minute emphasizes aspects of that person’s spiritual journey and participation in Friends worship and practice. Although memorials concern persons active (or formerly active) in monthly meetings or worship groups associated with ILYM, active participation in ILYM itself is not necessary for the minute to be read at annual sessions. The clerk or representative of the monthly meeting or worship group needs to send a copy of the minute to the Administrative Coordinator in time for the deadline, generally two weeks prior to Annual Sessions, for inclusion in that Session’s Minutes and Proceedings. The Publications and Distribution Committee may edit the text of any given memorial prior to its publication.

Queries to guide writing a memorial minute: How does the information included in the memorial minute reflect the light in this Friend’s life? What spiritual gifts did this Friend bring to our lives? How did this Friend’s service in their Monthly and Yearly Meeting reveal the light within and/or the light in others? How did the Friend enrich our meeting community? How do we remember the Friend’s spirituality and personality?

Update the **description of the Administrative Coordinator** position to the following which is currently in use.

### ***Administrative Coordinator***

Committee-with-Oversight: Personnel Committee

Supervisor: Clerk of Publications and Technology Committee

Last Revised: 12/02/19

#### **Purpose and Estimated Tasks**

- 1: Support for meetings (Annual Sessions and Continuing Committee)] (40%)
- 2: Publications and Communications (Minute Book, Plummer Lecture, Among Friends, Email announcements, website postings) (30%)
- 3: Records: maintains logs, database, lists, and files (20%)
- 4: other general office functions: stationary, interaction with wider Quaker organizations, mailings, etc. (10%)

Qualifications. Ability to support events such as Annual Sessions, Continuing Committee, etc. Strong computer technology skills, ability to use website and email, editorial and proofreading skills, strong organizational skills, good communication skills, set and be able to maintain timelines.

Responsibilities.

1. Support for Meetings (Annual Sessions and Continuing Committee)
  - a. Duties before ILYM Annual Sessions (spring/early summer):
    - Sends out reminders to monthly meetings for submitting annual reports: Statistics/Appointments, State of Society, and ILYM Mailing List Update
    - Prepares, posts online and mails out Annual Sessions registration packets
    - Prepares necessary documents for registration at Annual Sessions and completes registration spreadsheet.
    - Works with the Presiding Clerk in distribution and collection of materials and information relative to the conduct of the business meeting at Annual Sessions.
    - Prepares and distributes Advance Documents.
    - Communicates with Planning Group Coordinators regarding a timeline for tasks to be completed in preparation for Annual Sessions.
    - Performs many small details for Annual Sessions preparation
  - b. During ILYM Annual Session:
    - Coordinates the display space for Quaker and other organizations at Annual Sessions.
    - Is on site to provide information, smooth out problem areas, and provide response, referral, and guidance for other duties necessary for the efficient functioning of the meeting.
    - Acts as Registrar.
    - Gives collected funds and reports fees received to Treasurer at end of Annual Sessions.
  - c. Plummer Lecture: edit, proofread, typeset, print and distribute.
    - Evening addresses: post to website.
  - d. Continuing Committee:
    - Compile and distribute announcements and Advance Documents for Continuing Committee.
    - Attend Continuing Committee meetings (October and March).
    - Format and distribute the minutes of Continuing Committee
2. Publications and Communications:
  - Prepare the printing of the ILYM Directory.
  - Communicate with other Quaker organizations, providing names of new representatives
  - Respond to requests for information and engage in correspondence related to the operation of the yearly meeting.
  - Provide and distribute the official ILYM stationery.
  - Distributes ILYM epistle to other yearly meetings.
  - Minute Book:
    - o Prepares the statistics chart,
    - o Additions and Losses by Name page,
    - o Appointments and committee lists, and
    - o Registration report.
    - o Coordinates and collects documents and sees to the preparation of the Minute Book,



3 and 4. Records and other office functions throughout the year:

- Update address database and yearly meeting events listing
  - o Email List:
    - Maintain the email and ILYM mailing lists.
    - Send pertinent ILYM announcements to the email list on a regular basis.
    - Makes use of the ILYM mailing list as directed by action of the Yearly Meeting.
- Log Books:
  - o Maintain and distribute ILYM Planning Group Log Books (mainly online)
  - o Maintains log books, including Administrative Coordinator Log.
- Maintain files of ILYM committee minutes.
- Maintain schedule for use of ILYM campus.
- Distribute Site Use Brochure and information about use as requested. Keeps record of site use.
- Website:
  - o Post information to the website as needed.
  - o Post most current issue of Handbook on the website and distribute print copies as needed.
- Prepare and send out annual appeal letter for Development Committee
- Performs many other duties as indicated in the Administrative Coordinator Log.

**Evaluation.** Reports to and is evaluated by Clerk of Publications and Technology Committee as part of the Administrative Coordinator Committee of Oversight

**Pay and Budget.** Salary is based on 1,000 hours per year (~20 per month excluding time spent at CC and Annual Sessions) set by the Yearly Meeting annually.

**Children's Religious Education Committee**, proposed description first brought to Fall Continuing 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.

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## **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 three times this year via Zoom, and organized two workdays.

In our January meeting, we divided ourselves up into several subcommittees in order to discuss and divide the work up, and try to get more things considered and attended to. Those subcommittees include Workday Planning, Long-Term Maintenance Planning, Campus Accessibility, High School Bunkhouse Planning, Maintenance Manual/Contractor List/Annual Calendar, Caretaker Solutions, South Meetinghouse Property Addition. Chip will be our Insurance Contact. Some of those committees have met and begun to work on their issues.

**Spring Workday:** We held workdays on October 7 and May 4 We had over twenty persons each time. We did grounds work, and tree trimming, painted the meetinghouse (MH) dining room walls and the MH east porch door, repaired the guards and handrails at the MH ramp, repaired some cabin steps, cleaned kitchen, cabins and High School (HS) Bunkhouse ready for Site Prep. We were unable to burn the existing stick pile due to winds, and started a new one in the southwest corner of the property. The HS Friends intend to have a Memorial Day Quake to do further work on getting the bunkhouse ready. Our next Work Day will be on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

**Maintenance Items:** The MH back bathroom toilet that began to leak at the end of last Annual Sessions was repaired and reinforced. We have had animal infiltrations at the rear of the MH in late April and hired Joe McCall to remove them from the building. We will have contractor Dean Tieman repair the damaged wall siding and take measures to try to exclude future intrusions. He will also attach new handrails on the guards at each end of the MH porch and a second set of handrails on each interior stair at Clear Creek House (CCH) to improve accessibility. The MH kitchen window will be repaired and the split rail fencing protecting the septic field will be repaired/replaced by Michael Murphy and son, with assistance. Screen doors at the Penn House and Women's Bathhouse window screens will be replaced prior to sessions. We will also ask an HVAC contractor to price out recommendations for replacing and improving the aged and unbalanced air conditioning system at CCH before Annual Sessions in 2025.

**Tree Care:** In the fall we hired a professional tree maintenance firm that removed two large trees near the CCH, removed and ground out some stumps elsewhere on the campus, and trimmed several trees of dead branches, especially at the campground. The cost was \$6350.

**Insurance:** Chip is working to close out our separate claims for the roofing at the MH and CCH that was completed last spring of 2023, and the wind storm gutter and tree damage at CCH that followed that work.

**Caretaker & Maintenance Calendar/Contractor List:** We have created 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 last Annual Sessions. As of this report we have not made any headway. 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 a local person who might fill this role in the coming year. We have started to create a maintenance calendar/contractor list that can be shared and hope to have a healthy start on it by annual sessions.

**Accessibility Concerns:** We have created a small working group to address ways to make our campus more accessible to those who are aging and who have disabilities so that our campus is more comfortable and usable for all of us. Some things that come out of this 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 and there have also been animal intrusions through the floor from above and below.

We have another small working group that has begun to determine if the existing building is worth repairing, and is also developing some ideas of how best to replace it should that be decided.

**Mattress Care:** Our cabin and bunkhouse mattresses do not get a lot of use, but are old and we try to keep them away from animals by stacking them on top bunks during the year. Some are damaged and some have had contributions made by mice and possibly other varmints despite our efforts. A small group will meet at Annual Sessions and discuss how to best manage and dispose of mattresses to keep them in good shape and prevent health issues.

**Corn Crib:** Matt Miller, a friend to Clear Creek Meeting from Florida, who often helps with trimming on our work days, has expressed an interest in taking our metal corn crib west of CCH and next to the metal equipment shed for his own use. The Stewards with the advice of MP&E committee agreed that he can have it if he takes it away carefully and leaves the site in clean condition.

**South Property Purchase:** We are still potentially interested in obtaining about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of property behind the meetinghouse from Matthew Nelson in the future, but are holding off pending decisions about the future direction of ILYM currently in the process of discernment.

**Larger Envisioning for the Yearly Meeting (and Campus Plan):** At Fall Continuing Committee a sub-committee of the MP&E committee was formed to address larger envisioning of the future of the yearly meeting. This group was tasked with looking at larger issues facing us such as aging and declining membership, our struggling children's, high school, and young adult programs, our increasing expenses, maintaining our rural and somewhat remote meeting location, etc., and this should happen before we can update our Campus Plan. This committee includes two Stewards, but also other interested members of the yearly meeting, and is clerked by David Shiner. They have prepared separate reports, and plan workshops at Annual Sessions, and with monthly meetings and worship groups in the Fall as they look not just toward our physical future, but also to our future as a continuing strong spiritual community. They plan to bring recommendations to Annual Sessions in 2025 to help us choose our future.

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

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## **Ministry and Advancement Committee Report**

We ask you to review the reports to the Fall and Spring Continuing Committee meetings which tell you about the work we have been doing this year. While we have been in contact with the meetings, their stories are not to tell. We encourage you to read the State of Society reports prepared by the monthly meetings. In these you will see how God is at work in all our monthly meetings. Sometimes one finds another meeting is considering a similar issue and learning their approach may be helpful. The language in the State of Society reports is rich and there are phrases which can open us. Examples include:

‘a spirit of energy and opportunity’

‘...we are grateful for our caring community where meeting together nurtures our spiritual growth’

‘Meeting continues to navigate rebuilding a sense of community that was diminished during the pandemic.’

‘We strive to keep a safe space for everybody to feel welcome, heard, included, and supported in their faith and life journeys. We have great diversity in our beliefs and religious traditions, and still, we feel at home with each other. We are aware of how rare and precious that is and are deeply grateful to God that has brought us together.’

‘a place to experience the Divine, to begin and develop a spiritual path through hearing the insights of others, a place of healing and religious or spiritual belonging.’

- ‘This has been a year of stability and growth for our meeting. We had our first full year meeting in our new meeting house, seeing the seasons change.’
- ‘An unexpected benefit of the pandemic was an increase in numbers of Friends attending Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business when it moved to Zoom.’
- ‘We have a welcome depth in our silence. Messages, when they come, are heartfelt and from a variety of Friends’
- ‘We have found ministry in working together to maintain the meetinghouse and trying to solve some water issues that come with owning a building.’

Finally we are sharing queries:

- How do I contribute to deepening our spiritual life together? When problems within the monthly meeting arise, what is my response? What is my responsibility?
- How does my monthly meeting witness our testimonies to the wider community?
- How does our monthly meeting welcome newcomers?
- How does our monthly meeting provide support for individual spiritual journeys?
- How does our monthly meeting provide support for individuals engaged in community work?
- What types of adult religious education does your meeting provide?
- How might a retreat enrich our meeting?
- If you have children, how might an intergenerational event help meeting participants to know each other?

We trust the queries will stimulate discernment and anticipate some requests may come from friends as a result of the queries.

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## **Nominating Committee Report**

Nominating Committee had a problem finding people willing to serve as committee clerks. We would like to start a policy some meetings follow of NomCom selecting a convenor who calls the first committee meeting of that term. In that meeting, the committee selects its clerk from committee members.

Nominating Committee has had a rather stagnant pool of ILYM members to choose from. The pool gets smaller, while the committee sizes stay the same. There are not enough willing members to fill all the empty positions. In addition, many people feel they must stay on committees for ever because there is nobody new to join the committee.

Nominating Committee has struggled with a dwindling membership. Originally 5 members, our last two meetings have only had 2 people. Filling all positions no longer feels like a doable job.

### **Appointments** *(names in bold are new appointments)*

Appointments starting at the rise of 2024 sessions, terms end at the rise of the sessions listed

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

Assistant Clerk:- \_\_\_\_\_ **(assists 2025)**:-

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

Assistant Recording Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ **(assists 2025)**.

Reading Clerk: **Bruce Kanarek (2025)** (3 year term, renewable as appropriate)

Co-Treasurers: **Ted Kuhn (2027)**, Dawn Crimson (2025)

Stewards: Chris Goode (2025), Grayce Mesner (2026), Beth Carpenter (2027), Chip Rorem (2027)  
Among Friends Editor: **Ted Kuhn (2027)**  
Records Librarian: Brent Eckert  
2024 Epistle Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Standing Committees:**

*Children's Religious Education,*  
**Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_  
2025: Anna Watson, Katherine Young, Quinn Parks  
2026: Bobbi Trist  
**2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin**

*Development,* Clerk: Frank Young  
2025: Frank Young  
2026: Alex Lippitt  
**2027:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Environmental Concerns,*  
**Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_  
2025: Sarah Pavlovic  
2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday  
2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann

*Finance,* Clerk: Val Lester  
2025: Cynthia Harris  
**2026:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**2027: Val Lester,** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ex Officio: Treasurers, Clerk, and MP&E Clerk

*Handbook,* Clerk: Pam Kuhn  
2025: Julia Pantoga  
**2027: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer**

*Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning,*  
Clerk: Chris Goode  
2025: Christina Schultz, Trevor Brandt, Margie Haworth-Davis  
2026: Dianne Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic  
**2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen**

*Ministry & Advancement,*  
Clerk: Janice Domanik  
2025: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert, Steve Tamari  
2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor  
**2027:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ex Officio: Field Secretaries

*Peace Resources,* **Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_  
2025: Jan Mullen, Dave Moorman  
2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman  
**2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi**

*Personnel,* Clerk: Colleen Reardon  
2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon  
Ex-officio: Mike Dennis (Youth Oversight), Val Lester (Finance), Dale Gardner (Children's RE), Publications and Technology Clerk, Chris Goode (M&P), Janice Dominik (M&A)

*Publications & Technology,* **Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**2025: Lilith Swygert (Technology)**  
2026: Dawn Crimson  
**2027: Nathan Lasserson**  
Ex-officio: Wil Brant (AC), Ted Kuhn (*Among Friends* Editor)

*Racial Equity and Education,* Clerk: **Daniel Lakemacher**  
2025: Beth Burbank, Steven David Flowers  
2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher  
**2027: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner**

*Youth Oversight,* Clerk: Mike Dennis  
2026: Charles Howard-McKinny, Brad Laird  
**2027: Mike Dennis, Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher**

*Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:*

*AFSC*  
2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin  
**2027: Frank Young, Beth Burbank**

*FCNL*  
2025: Fariba Murray  
2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner  
**2027: Kevin Brubaker**

*FGC Central Committee*  
2025: Janice Domanik, Lilith Swygert  
2026: Trevor Brandt

*FLGBTQC*  
2026: Jad Tamari

*Friends Peace Team*  
2026: Andrea Kintree

*Friends School Liaisons:*

*Olney*  
2025: Grayce Mesner

*Scattergood*  
2025: Alex Lippitt

*Chicago Friends School\**  
**2025: Sallyann Garner**

\*Nominating Committee requests approval for the creation of a representative to Chicago Friends School.

*FWCC*  
2025: Julia Pantoga  
2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist

*QEW*  
2026: Sarah Pavlovic

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## **Peace Resources Committee Report**

We continue to meet once a month on Zoom. The PRC has been involved with peace and justice projects during the year:

- We are cohosting a Palestinian/Israeli Meeting for Healing once a month. The other cohost is the Racial Equity and Education Committee.
- Together with the Racial Equity and Education Committee, we will be supporting the AFSC's Apartheid Free Pledge.
- We are gathering information on how each monthly meeting responds to the current migrant and unhoused people situation.
- We are looking forward to new members joining our committee to help bring new insight and direction.

We, of course, are open to any request from a monthly meeting to act as a resource for peace.

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## **Personnel Committee Report**

The Personnel Committee has focused its efforts on reviewing updates to state and federal regulations as they apply to employers and staff employed by ILYM. Specifically, regulations and recommendations for background checks, mandated reporting regulations and sexual harassment regulations were reviewed. We reviewed the Employee Manual and updated language to comply with these regulations. Changes were approved at Spring Continuing Committee. The committee is implementing procedures that align with the state mandates.

We continue to look at our processes for hiring and employing staff so that even when there are changes in clerks or others who supervise staff, we can follow these processes. We also are putting in place procedures to ensure we have copies of certificates of completion and other documentation as evidence of complying with state and/or federal regulations.

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## Publications and Technology Committee Report

### Publications

*Faith and Practice Review:* The Book of Faith and Practice was approved and printed in 2020. The committee is proposing a review to see if there should be a 2030 edition/update. Following is a potential timeline for reviewing Faith and Practice to see if a 2030 edition/update would be desired/needed. It is expected that there only will be very minor updates/additions, the nature of which might be addressed with an insert rather than a publication of a revised or new edition. What is being proposed is a four year production cycle. It is being presented early in case more time might be needed.

*Spanish Translation of Faith and Practice:* The process is proceeding with one translator/editor. A second translator/editor or a reviewer/proofreader (who engages in conversation about the translation content with the translator) is needed for full production. At last Annual Sessions a second person came forward, but needed to step back/decrease activity due to other time commitments, so we are looking for another person. Due to this set back there is no timeline for production. Chapters will probably be released on the ILYM website as stand alone publications.

*Among Friends:* The committee is still hoping to resurrect this publication on the ILYM website. Unfortunately there is a lack of submissions. Please reach out to the editor, Ted Kuhn, with submissions.

### Technology

With the change to a fiber optic connection, the wireless router has been upgraded to handle more connections and further coverage. Also the fiber optic connection setup now allows for internet connection at both Clear Creek House and the ILYM meetinghouse during sessions.

A large display computer station has been acquired for use during sessions. This provides equipment for visual presentations during workshops and plenary programs and the opportunity for hybrid worship sharing and workshop. This station will also provide people who need a cooling area during plenary sessions in the meetingroom to be able to participate in plenary sessions from the cooling area. This year it will be used for workshop presentations, for hybrid worship sharing, for cooling area participation, and some open fellowship/visiting time (on-line only attenders to sessions have expressed an interest in being able to have casual conversation times with those attending in-person). Next year there might be hybrid workshops and maybe a second station so there would be one in the meetinghouse basement and one in Clear Creek House.

### Proposed Timeline for review/revision of Faith and Practice

Year	Action	Action Date
2024	Propose and approve timeline to allow changes if more time is needed	At 2024 AS (Jun 2024)
2025	Request ad-hoc committee to be created and members to be appointed at 2026 AS	At 2025 AS (Jun 2025)
2026	Appoint committee members Review and gather thoughts on potential changes	At 2026 AS (Jun 2026) Jun-Jan 2026
2027	Review and gather thoughts on potential changes (cont) Develop changes to text	Jan-Jun 2027 (potentially including workshop at 2027AS) Jul-Dec 2027

2028	Develop changes to text (cont) First presentation of changes Get feedback	Jan-May 2028 At 2028 AS (Jun 2028) Jul-Dec 2028
2029	Get feedback and make final changes Final approval Typeset, proof, index update	Jan-May 2029 At 2029 AS (Jun 2029) July-Dec 2029
2030	Typeset, proof, index update (cont) Print Distribute	Jan-Feb 2030 Mar 2030 April-May 2030

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## **Racial Equity and Education Committee Report**

During our Annual Sessions workshop last year Friends watched the documentary *Dakota 38* and discussed the impact of how America’s settler colonial project involved the genocide and ethnic cleansing of millions of Indigenous Peoples to clear the land. Continuing this theme, we hosted Paula Palmer who led a workshop in the Fall, “Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools—A Call for Research, Accountability, and Healing.” Following this, members of the committee are continuing research in the ILYM minute archives, learning about the yearly meeting’s vigorous support of Quaker Indian Agents in administering Bureau of Indian Affairs policies on reservations and helping to craft President Grant’s assimilation policies.

Applying our increasing understanding of settler colonialism as a tool of white supremacy, our committee recognized this same dynamic at work in the oppression of the Palestinian people. To facilitate learning across the yearly meeting, we hosted an online event, “*Education & Action for Palestine*,” to see how Israeli apartheid operates in Hebron. The film was made by a Palestinian-American reporter whose father grew up in Hebron, the film shows how the Israeli military and settlers restrict Palestinian movement in and around the city. The same night Steve Tamari of St Louis Monthly Meeting shared a family video of his father’s first visit inside his childhood home in Jaffa since 1948. That year, he and his family—along with 750,000+ Palestinians were forced to evacuate their homes. The video shows the moment in 2009, sixty years later, that he was able to briefly visit the home with his son and granddaughter.

In response to this event, Friends began engaging in collective action in a variety of ways. Some traveled together to visit elected officials urging a ceasefire, others brought forward ceasefire minutes to their monthly meetings, and one Friend new to our committee’s work suggested that we host a Meeting for Healing focused on all those suffering. This Meeting for Healing quickly became a recurring monthly event jointly hosted by the committee with ILYM Peace Resources Committee at Downers Grove Meeting’s Virtual Meetinghouse. In addition, several Friends attended an in-person screening of the film *Israelism* in the Chicago area, have attended the weekly Action Hours for Gaza hosted by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and have participated in demonstrations for Palestinian liberation. Our committee also continues to host the online Anti-Racism Cafe on the 15th of each month. Several of the more recent Cafes have been used as opportunities for learning and conversation around Israeli apartheid.



With the committee’s encouragement, several Friends have brought the prospect of joining the Apartheid Free Communities initiative to their monthly meetings for discernment. AFSC convened this campaign in 2022 following the emerging consensus among the international human rights community that Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian people amounts to the Crime of Apartheid. According to the United Nations, apartheid is a crime against humanity that involves “inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them.”

The Racial Equity and Education Committee urges ILYM to join this interdenominational coalition of faith groups and communities of conscience in North America with a common goal to dismantle apartheid by adopting the following minute.

### **Proposed Minute:**

Illinois Yearly Meeting joins the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), South Central Yearly Meeting, and monthly meetings around the world in the “Apartheid-Free Communities” campaign. We are guided in this by our commitment to live out our testimonies of equality and peace, neither of which are possible under a system of apartheid. For this reason, ILYM responds to the AFSC’s and others’ call for faith communities and other organizations of conscience to educate ourselves and others about racist laws and state systems at home and abroad in an effort to ensure that we do not contribute to the creation and maintenance of apartheid systems. As such:

- We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;
- We oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and
- We declare ourselves an apartheid-free community and to that end,
- We pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

Furthermore, we ask that all monthly meetings in ILYM educate themselves from the diversely sourced materials available on [apartheid-free.org](http://apartheid-free.org), consider joining this network, and communicate within the yearly meeting their collective actions to dismantle apartheid based on our testimonies.

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## **AFSC Representatives Report**

Excerpts from the ILYM Handbook - American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation

- **Mission Statement.** Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with communities and partners worldwide to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.
- **Description and Additional Information.** AFSC is an independent Quaker organization which carries on programs of service, development, justice, and peace, on behalf of several branches of Friends in America. The Corporation of the AFSC is the organizing body that chooses the AFSC Board, which in turn sets the direction of the organization. The Corporation meets annually.
- **Number of ILYM representatives and term length.** Based on the number of members in ILYM, we appoint four representatives who serve for 3 years.
- **Expectations of ILYM representatives.** Representatives are members of the AFSC Corporation. Together with “at large” members, they are responsible for the governance of AFSC and select the AFSC Board of Managers. Corporation members attend the annual AFSC Corporation Meeting in April and any called meetings.

**Some ILYM and AFSC recent history:** The ILYM Minute Books from 2016 through 2020 contain fairly lengthy reports about the AFSC and the work of the representatives. The ILYM Minute Books for 2021 and 2022 have no reports from the ILYM AFSC Representatives. This can be explained by the appointment of new representatives who replaced representatives with long experience; significant changes in the AFSC staff responsible for working with Corporation members; and the difficulty of locating, revising, and circulating appropriate documents regarding terms, duties, procedures for representative activities. The COVID epidemic also contributed to lower attendance at Corporation Meetings.

The Minute Book for 2023 contains a very short report that was written by the only ILYM representative that attended the Corporation Meeting that year.

**The future:** Inquiries and suggestions have been made to improve communication between ILYM and AFSC. The goals are to make important information available for future Minute Books, for the ILYM Nominating Committee, and for potential nominees. Many actions are being done informally by individuals. Examples include: getting potential nominees information about the responsibilities of representatives; communicating complete information about terms of representatives so that AFSC, ILYM Nominating Committee, and representatives all have identical information; and getting complete information about important tasks that must not be forgotten (e.g., getting literature about AFSC available for distribution at Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in June).

Frank Young

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## FGC Representatives Report

After last year's Annual Sessions, FGC hosted the first in-person for all ages Gathering since 2019 at Western Oregon University. It was a small Gathering with just about 500 people participating. There was a similar excitement about being together in-person to that which we experienced the first time we returned to in-person annual yearly meeting sessions. During the year, FGC has tried a couple of virtual small conferences. In January of 2024, there was a Changing Times virtual conference with the opportunity to spend time considering how Quakerism may change in the years ahead or one could spend time exploring issues around the impact of racism and work towards being an actively anti-racist spiritual community. In April, there was a second virtual small conference on Encountering Spirit. This was focused on our spirituality and had plenary's included Three Friends shared about Encountering Spirit, Encounter through Spiritual Practice, and finally Encountering through the Gathered Meeting. Both of the small conferences were well-received and there will be more of them offered in the future.

FGC continues to offer regular spiritual deepening opportunities. In order to participate we need to regularly watch the Spiritual Deepening section of the FGC website. There are regular events for People of Color and for White Friends Confronting Racism which require advance registration. FGC continues to be part of the World Council of Churches and has often had representatives who have had an impact on the written statements released by the World Council. Tom Paxson quietly did important spirit led writing for the World Council of Churches while he served on it for FGC. Quakers have had a significant impact on the World Council of Churches in spite of our small numbers.

ILYM along with other yearly meetings, monthly meetings, and individuals contributed to the successful FGC Campaign. The Central Committee of FGC and staff thanks ILYM for its commitment to the work of FGC. We are already seeing the fruits of the campaign in the staff which are supporting programs offered and in the added funds available to assist people in attending the Gathering.

Janice Domanik

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## Friends Peace Teams Representative Report

Barb, who keeps the books for FPT, reported that the committee members joyously met face-to-face in 2023. They had not met since the beginning of the pandemic.

Efforts continue to be made to attract younger people to join in.

Last year was an active one, with programs to address in:

- African Great Lakes Region: Programs on Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, Children's Peace Libraries, peer mediation, work with refugees, compassionate listening, agriculture workshops, and savings for help groups.
- Asia and West Pacific: Programs on addressing religious violence, supporting women and children, protesting militarization, preserving local languages, working with indigenous people, and climate justice actions.
- Europe and the Middle East: Addressing trauma and gender equality.
- Latin America: Programs on trauma resilience, domestic violence awareness, and fortitude in the face of living under repressive regimes.
- North America: Programs addressing decolonization, rooting out racism, and Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples research and education.

Alternatives to Violence workshops were given in all regions.

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## Secondary Schools Representatives Reports

### Olney

Olney is an ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) accredited, progressive, co-educational boarding and day school for grades nine through twelve located in Barnesville, Ohio. Their farm provides much more than the organic food served at meals. It also provides the basis for exploring such questions as "what is knowledge?" and "what does it mean to be a global citizen?" Throughout its history, farming and farm-to-table concepts have been an integral part of Olney's curriculum.

The 2023 Commencement speaker was Kelly Schwager, Vice President of Global Communications. An excerpt from her talk was, "...more people should know about the tremendous value of an Olney Friends School education. You are graduating from a very special place that creates opportunity, fosters innovation, and builds community; and it has prepared you to find solutions to some of the biggest problems facing us today."

Christian Acemah, Head of Olney Friends School will be taking part in the ILYM Thursday evening session this year, as a panel member representing one of the three Quaker schools to which our yearly meeting contributes. Do take advantage of getting to know all three of these participants and getting better acquainted with the schools we help to support.

Do you know of someone who would benefit from attending a high school like this? Are you able to help financially to enable this school with Quaker testimonies to continue? Contact [mainoffice@olneyfriends.org](mailto:mainoffice@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. 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.

SFS fosters the development of the whole person in becoming a global citizen and steward of the Earth. It strives toward instilling a sense of purpose from our values and commitment to the wider and rapidly changing world.

In the next school year (2024-25), SFS is implementing the Focus Program to highlight Scattergood's great strengths. Built on a solid college preparatory foundation each student will have the opportunity to dig deeply in Arts and Craftsmanship, Sustainable Agriculture, and Peace and Social Transformation.

In its 133rd year, SFS life remained rich and vibrant with 25 High School students, mostly boarding, and 10 students in the Middle School Day program. Graduating seniors have been accepted into respected colleges, some going on into enriching gap years before attending college.

2023-2024 was a year of development and change:

- A significant increase in funding came from the Measey Foundation in Philadelphia which enabled the school to increase financial aid, optimally staff the school, and increase salaries and benefits.
- The admissions program was overhauled with the expectation of a significant increase in students this coming fall including an unprecedented retention of students from the middle school to the high school.
- SFS was reaccredited with full membership by ISACS (the Independent Schools Association of the Central States) based in Chicago.
- SFS received a very enthusiastic initial report from the Friends Council Visiting Team.
- A capital campaign to address facilities needs and bring dorms into compliance with modern regulations and standards ramped up.
- A very successful solar installation was implemented in 3 sites on the campus. A geothermal program is also in the works.
- Implementation of the State of Iowa school vouchers for private schools went smoothly. 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. Almost all students receive some amount of financial aid.
- The first SFS alumni reunion in many years was held last summer.
- There was an April Quaker Youth retreat that will hopefully be an annual event

It was also a year of ongoing traditions:

- Under the capable Directorship of Head of School John Zimmerman, the theater program had another great year with a production of *Once upon a Mattress* this spring.
- Great field trips were undertaken.

Traditional summertime activities continued:

- the Camp Scattergood summer program and
- Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative (IYMC) Annual Sessions
- A visit from the SWARM artist group.

Alex Lippitt,

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## FWCC Representatives Report

Representatives: Pam Kuhn, Julia Pantoga, David Shiner, Bobbi Trist

The World Office of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), is preparing for a World Plenary in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 5-12, 2024. The theme will be Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation—and one another. Many of you may be familiar with this theme from World Quaker Day events in 2023 and the Section of the Americas (SOA) annual meeting in March 2024.

This is the first World Plenary since January 2016. Thanks to the generosity of ILYM, Julia Pantoga will be attending this event in person. In the spirit of worshipping and having fellowship with Friends around the world, she will spend time with Friends in Europe, both before and after the world plenary. This will include attending Britain Yearly Meeting. Julia is accepting donations to assist with board and lodging costs for her extra travel days, as well as to provide ILYM with additional funds to send to FWCC for travel grants to representatives from low income countries to future World Plenary gatherings.

Friends are encouraged to join the World Plenary over Zoom. Registration information is required and is on the website. At reasonable times for our time zone, there will be some hybrid sessions and replay of sessions that occurred previously. Lake Forest Friends will be offering a hub at their meetinghouse if you would like to view the World Plenary with a group of Friends. David Shiner and Pam Kuhn are planning to attend. Any and all Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting are welcome to join. Please let Pam know if you are planning to attend.

On March 17, 2024, over Zoom, the 2024 Section of the Americas meeting was held. This was a scaled-down event from previous section meetings. Friends worshiped, shared their spiritual journeys, and conducted business together. The meeting focused on the theme of Ubuntu, sharing answers to the queries posed by the World Office. The Convocations Committee found that that the simplified structure worked well for on-line events.

FWCC Section of the Americas (SOA) concluded its “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs” capital campaign successfully, with \$2,444,262 (196% of the goal!) raised. With these funds, FWCC will embark on the following programs:

- An interactive map of Friends Around the World (in coordination with the world office).
- A pilot of Quaker Connect. This new program of consultations and intervisitations will allow the SOA to serve Friends by addressing topics of interest, both in person and virtually. It will help Friends meetings and churches to try new experiments and learn from each other how to connect the depths of our Quaker tradition and the breadth of our Quaker community with the living reality of our local context under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Enhanced and much-needed training for interpreters.
- Friends glossary in an app form.

This year FWCC SOA will be welcoming a new Executive Secretary (ES), as Robin Mohr, the current ES (and keynote speaker at ILYM last year), will be moving on to new projects, after 13 years of service to FWCC SOA.

World Quaker Day 2024 will take place on Sunday, October 6. The theme of this day will be determined with the new FWCC SOA ES.

The 2025 FWCC SOA annual meeting will be held in March 2025 near Phoenix, Arizona. Additional information about this meeting will be distributed in the ILYM announcements.

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## Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report

Yearly meeting representatives are members of QEW's Steering Committee, and as such, participate in decision-making at the organizations business sessions, usually held at twice-yearly gatherings.

In October 2023, QEW held an in-person gathering at Pendle Hill, with some parts also available to virtual attendees. QEW's October business meeting was then held via Zoom a week later.

I attended several sessions of the Pendle Hill retreat virtually. The sessions I attended via Zoom on Friday and Saturday were "cross-pollination" sessions in which several committees and/or working groups had an opportunity for informal communication about their current activities and concerns and to discover potential for collaboration among groups. This was a welcome introduction to some of the people currently involved in QEW and to the work of some of the committees and working groups. This gathering was also a chance for newly hired young staff members to be introduced. The new General Secretary is Keith Runyan, and Miche McCall is the new Communications and Outreach Coordinator.

QEW's 2024 Spring Gathering was held via Zoom on April 25-28. Participants at the gathering did not shy away from facing up to/examining/confronting/naming the immense issues facing our planet Earth. On Friday evening, speaker Daniel Schmachtenberger talked about the many interconnected ways in which humans have amassed power—economic, scientific, political—in systems and patterns that are unjust, unsustainable, difficult to change, and that in many ways have outrun humanity's wisdom with regard to how to use such power for the good of all life. The question, as always, is how do we then respond?

The theme of the Spring Gathering was "Finding Our Prophetic Voice." The steering committee clerks and QEW staff shared their vision that our Quaker practice of "listening and devoting our lives as living testimony to the promptings of the Divine" is critical in responding to the current needs of the world.

Awarding mini-grants for environmental projects is one practical way that QEW puts our aspirations into action. In 2023, mini-grant funding supported tree planting in Kenya, Burundi, and Mexico helped Concord Monthly Meeting in New Hampshire meet their goal of becoming carbon neutral; and supported youth from Guilford College and from Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica to have access to environmental education opportunities. I recently agreed to co-clerk the mini-grants working group along with current clerk Al McGrew.

How can everyone become involved with QEW?

- Sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter *BeFriending Creation*
- Watch the website for online events you can join such as monthly worship sharing or the June 24 "Navigating the Storms—Prophetic Witness for an Earth Restored"
- Donate to the mini-grants fund to support earthcare projects around the world
- Apply for a mini-grant to help with an environmental project in your own backyard
- Check out the QEW website for educational materials and for inspiration

Sarah Pavlovic

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### Policy for ILYM's Finance Committee in Considering Gifts to Others

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has a long history of connections with the wider Quaker world, through both active involvement and financial contributions.

This proposed policy is offered to guide our finance committee in preparing the annual budget for consideration at Annual Sessions.

We aspire toward 10% of the total ILYM budget being Gifts to Others knowing that this may vary year to year depending on our priorities at a given time.

We suggest that the following criteria could be used to help evaluate whether and how much ILYM should give to other organizations:

- Quaker organizations in which Illinois Yearly Meeting is one of the constituents.
- Quaker organizations that nurture ILYM Friends, including youth
- Organizations that provide regional Quaker education
- Organizations that support Quaker testimonies
- Organizations that support the work of our Committees around specific causes

The application of these criteria can be seen as follows. (Note that the dollar figures listed are those ILYM budgeted for 2024 and are listed for information only; they are not meant to suggest or determine future giving.)

1. ILYM values its relationship with Quaker organizations that support our yearly meeting. We view these relationships as analogous to those between monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. We intend to continue our practice of making significant gifts to these organizations.

- Friends General Conference\* (which ILYM helped found)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation\* (plus funds for travel/yr for World Plenaries)

2. ILYM supports other Quaker organizations that nurture ILYM Friends, including youth. The size of these gifts depends upon the level of support provided to ILYM Friends:

- Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns\*
- *Friends Journal*

3. ILYM values Quaker education in our region. We support these organizations with nominal gifts intended primarily to communicate our support to them and their constituents. Distinguishing between them is difficult, so in the future, these nominal gifts might be of equal size.

- Chicago Friends School
- Scattergood Friends School\*
- Earlham College
- Earlham School of Religion
- Olney Friends School

4. ILYM supports a variety of Quaker organizations that support our testimonies. That list is potentially vast. We have traditionally restricted contributions to those organizations where ILYM has a formal role in governing the organization or where the relationship to ILYM is otherwise deep. The size of the gifts to these organizations is guided by the above criteria. **We support these organizations with nominal gifts intended primarily to communicate our support to them and their constituents.** ILYM, through Finance Committee, should revisit this list of organizations at least every five years to ensure that it continues to reflect our collective priorities. Suggestions for new organizations to add to this list should come to the finance committee from monthly meetings and ILYM committees, ideally at Continuing Committee.

- American Friends Service Committee\*
- Friends Committee on National Legislation\*
- Quaker Earthcare Witness\*
- Right Sharing of World Resources
- Project Lakota/Ville
- Quaker United Nations Office
- Friends Peace Teams\*

5. ILYM supports other organizations, including those without Quaker affiliation, as necessary to support the work of its committees. The size of these gifts is determined by their membership dues and the recommendation of committees. We anticipate the organizations on this list will change over time as our committees undertake various projects.

- National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- Chicago Alliance Against Racist Political Repression

Capital campaign gifts are unusual and will be restricted to organizations above with which we have an especially deep relationship. If ILYM is led to give, these gifts would normally come out of ILYM unrestricted reserves. Capital campaigns often have a long lead time so such requests should be raised at Continuing Committee, including guidance on the amount, to allow Finance Committee ample time to season the request.

Other one-time gifts that we may be called to consider based on an event in the world should be seasoned through a committee or monthly meeting and if possible brought to Continuing Committee or Quarterly Meeting for seasoning prior to Annual Sessions.

\*Organizations to which ILYM nominates or names members of the governing body.

1/15/2024 – Policy draft adopted by Finance Committee.

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## **Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Working Group Report**

An MP&E working group was conceived and appointed at Fall 2023 Continuing Committee to undertake discernment about the future of ILYM. That group meets monthly via Zoom. We are grateful to Downers Grove Meeting for providing the Zoom platform for our meetings.

Our work thus far has involved discernment about the various issues that face the yearly meeting, particularly those regarding the ILYM campus. It has become clear to us that one of the yearly meeting's main tasks is to discern whether the future of ILYM lies on that campus or elsewhere. We will be hosting workshops every day during Annual Sessions that will focus on this topic, presenting information that can help Friends consider the many issues involved.

We are grateful to the late Chris Jocius for bequeathing approximately \$300,000 to secure the future of the yearly meeting and enable it to thrive. While we do not intend to provide forums for Friends to state how they believe those funds should be used at these annual sessions, we believe that there is no need to exclude any ideas for the future of the yearly meeting that are based on an assumption that funds will not exist that can turn those ideas into reality.

Once the 2024 Annual Sessions have concluded, more outreach and discernment will be required. The working group plans to use the 2024-25 year for outreach to monthly meetings and individuals as needed and discernment as led, in hopes of helping the yearly meeting to come to unity on how best to apportion our talent and treasure. We intend for this process to conclude with proposals at the 150th anniversary ILYM gathering in June 2025 for how Illinois Yearly Meeting may best continue and thrive as our spiritual home.

David Shiner, convener

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## Property Use Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Members: Beth Carpenter, Bruce Kanarek (clerk), Chris Goode, Judy Jager, Val Lester

### Annual Sessions 2023, 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.*

The ad-hoc committee's work began with the trial experiment, as suggested by Chris Goode during Annual Sessions 2023, renting our ILYM Campus to a non-ILYM group (NILYMG). A group came. Good news: it was determined to be a successful experience, as reported during Spring 2023 Continuing Committee.

With an eye to future NILYMG rentals, this committee developed a packet of materials, edited and finessed by our Administrative Coordinator, with whom the rental process resides. The packet includes: a cover letter describing the packet, a property use agreement, an outline codifying the rental process (from initial request to final payment), check-in and check-out checklists, maps of the campus and Clear Creek House, an updated Property Use Guidelines booklet (last revised in 2013). The Guidelines now detail information for both ILYMers and NILYMGs. Friends are welcome to review the packet, copies of which are available on the back table.

As minute 73 directed, we noted policies needed to be developed to accommodate NILYMGs, along with a clear definition of a NILYMG. We seek approval from the body for the following:

1 Definition: An NILYMG is a group that is not affiliated with ILYM Quakers (e.g.: a knitting group or writing group) - and is led by, under the care of, an ILYM Friend who will act as their liaison, assuming responsibility for the group's members and the property, and is already familiar with the campus. An ILYM Friend is defined as a member/attender of an ILYM monthly meeting or worship group.

2 Policy: The ILYM Administrative Coordinator will verify that the member requesting a rental is in good-standing with their monthly meeting and, if an attender, they've the support of their MM or WG.

2 Policy: NILYMG rentals occur only when we have a local caretaker.

3 Policy: All NILYMGs sign a property use agreement.

3 Policy: Fireworks and firearms are added to the list of items already prohibited.

4 Policy: All NILYMGs bring their own supplies, refraining from using anything Clear Creek members would have to replace or clean.

5 Policy: Fees are doubled for NILYMGs

site fee (per use) \$50 (rather than \$25 for ILYMers)

per-person fee (per night) \$10 (rather than \$5 for ILYMers)

security deposit (refunded if not used) \$125 (no security deposit for ILYMers)

6 Policy: NILYMGs are asked to refrain from entering some Campus areas (e.g.: Barn, Meeting House Kitchen, east porch toolshed, etc)

As we wrap up our work, we find ourselves hopeful about the future of the Campus rentals. We will continue to hold in the Light the hiring a caretaker, concerns about dwindling people resources, and hopes for increased usage of the property by NILYMGs and ILYMers who haven't yet connected to our historic well-loved Campus.

We request our ad-hoc committee be laid down.

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