

## **Illinois Yearly Meeting**

**150<sup>th</sup> annual sessions, Sixth Month 19–23, 2024**

**Minutes of the first session, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 19, 2024**

**Minute 1** The meeting opened in waiting worship.

**Minute 2** Clerk Kevin Brubaker welcomed Friends to the meeting. Friends present introduced themselves. Guests from other yearly meetings were warmly welcomed.

**Minute 3** The reading clerk read a helpful epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting emphasizing the theme of their 2023 sessions, “Finding Our Way — Your Gifts are Needed.”

**Minute 4** Janice Domanik introduced the Committee of Care and explained that it is available for Friends who may feel in need of assistance during our sessions.

**Minute 5** The clerk introduced the Harassment Committee, which is available to deal with any incidents of harassment which may arise.

**Minute 6** Minutes 1–5 were read and approved.

**Minute 7** Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurers’ report. The meeting has received a large bequest from the estate of Chris Jocius. Other income and expenses are approximately as budgeted. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 8** Valerie Lester reported for the Finance Committee. In light of the money received from Chris Jocius, which was intended to support the future of the yearly meeting, a discernment process is under way to identify ways these funds may be put to best use. Valerie gave a preliminary presentation of the committee’s proposed budget for the coming year. For the first time, this includes a “Miscellaneous Committee” line item, replacing the separate lines for several specific committees which have not typically spent their budgeted amounts. Any committees spending more than \$50 from this part of the budget should inform the treasurers. The section of the budget for gifts to other organizations was written in conformity with a proposed policy developed by a subcommittee appointed for this purpose at our sessions last year. Valerie reviewed this policy, which identifies five categories of organization to which we donate, and recommends a goal of 10% of our budget going to such donations.

**Minute 9** Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. Gifts received exceed what was expected. The committee has written a brochure, available on the

ILYM website, on the process for large donations to the yearly meeting. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 10** Minutes 6–9 were read and approved.

**Minute 11** Marcia Nelson reported for the outgoing Naming Committee. They propose Kent Busse as a member of the Nominating Committee, for a term of two years. Friends approved this nomination.

**Minute 12** The clerk called attention to the report of the Nominating Committee, which will come up for consideration at a later session.

**Minute 13** Minutes 10–12 were read and approved.

**Minute 14** After announcements, the meeting closed in silent worship.

## **Minutes of the second session, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 20, 2024**

**Minute 15** The meeting opened in worship.

**Minute 16** The reading clerk read portions of a warm and moving epistle from South Central Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 17** The Committee of Care and the Harassment Committee were reintroduced.

**Minute 18** Mark McGuinness and Marcia Nelson reported as the Field Secretaries. They note that many of our meetings are small but dedicated, and appreciate visitation. They urged us to be kind to one another, and emphasized the value and effectiveness of Quaker process in working through potentially difficult and divisive meeting issues. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 19** Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. She urged more intervisitation among meetings, pointing out that it binds us together, and often results in new and unexpected developments, and unthought-of solutions to meeting problems. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 20** Janice Domanik reported as our representative to Friends General Conference. FGC much appreciates our support. She noted that her term is expiring, and expressed the profound value to her which her service as FGC representative has had for her personally.

**Minute 21** Mark McGuinness reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee hopes to conduct an online workshop for Friends of draft age. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 22** Janice Domanik reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee has worked to discover any historical involvement which Illinois Yearly Meeting may have had with boarding schools for Native Americans. A broader concern for the harmful effects of colonialism has brought Palestinian issues to a prominent place in the committee's attention. The Racial Equity and Education Committee together with the Peace Resources Committee proposes that Illinois Yearly Meeting approve the "Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge" developed by the American Friends Service Committee. Friends accepted the report. In a long and worshipful discussion in which many Friends offered heartfelt views, it became clear that the meeting was not in unity on all aspects of

the pledge. The Racial Equity and Education Committee is asked to consider the question further with the Peace Resources Committee and report to a later session.

**Minute 23** Minutes 15–22 were read and approved.

**Minute 24** Frank Young reported as ILYM representative to the American Friends Service Committee. He has been working to improve communication between ILYM (including its component meetings) and the AFSC board, and make sure the responsibilities of representatives are made clear and consistent. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 25** Visitors from other yearly meetings and Friends organizations were greeted and welcomed.

**Minute 26** The meeting concluded.

## **Minutes of the third session, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 21, 2024**

**Minute 27** The meeting opened in silent worship.

**Minute 28** Mike Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. Youth attendance at yearly meeting is good this year. Several activities focus on the situation in Gaza and how to deal with it. The “Quake” program is being revived. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 29** Dale Gardner reported for the Children’s Religious Education Committee. Attendance this year is good. Friends accept the report.

**Minute 30** Alex Lippett reported as our representative to Scattergood School and Catherine Young reported as board clerk of Chicago Friends School. Friends accepted the reports.

**Minute 31** The reading clerk read an epistle from the Europe and Middle East Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation emphasizing the “Spirit of Ubuntu” — roughly characterized as a sense of deep interconnectedness.

**Minute 32** The Committee of Care and Harassment Committee were reintroduced.

**Minute 33** First-time attenders introduced themselves.

**Minute 34** The clerk announced that Virginia Schelbert and Richard Graef have been appointed as the Exercises Committee.

**Minute 35** Meredith George gave the initial presentation of the Nominating Committee report. The committee has faced challenges filling some positions, and difficulties contacting Friends due to out-of-date contact information; Friends are asked to keep their information current. The committee requests authority in some cases to nominate conveners of committees instead of clerks. The convener would organize an initial meeting at which the committee might choose its own clerk. Friends refer this proposal back to the committee for further clarification. The committee also proposes that we appoint a representative to Chicago Friends School. Friends approve. The committee nominates Sarah Pavlovic and Brandon Harrington to the Epistle Committee. Friends approve. Currently the reading clerk serves *ex officio* on the Epistle Committee, but the Nominating Committee proposes that in cases where a reading clerk nominee does not feel led to serve on the Epistle Committee, the Nominating Committee may nominate an additional member to the Epistle Committee. Friends approve.

**Minute 36** Minutes 24–35 were read and approved.

**Minute 37** Andrea Kintree reported for Friends Peace Teams. The report was accepted.

**Minute 38** Dawn Crimson reported for the Publications and Technology Committee. The committee proposes a review of *Faith and Practice*, to determine whether an update will be needed as it reaches 10 years of use. Friends approve, leaving details of the process and timeline to the committee. Work is also underway on a Spanish translation. The committee is hoping to revive publication of *Among Friends*; submissions are solicited. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 39** Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee has updated the text of the employee manual to conform to state mandates. Processes are being considered to ensure continued compliance with state requirements. Friends accepted the report.

**Minute 40** Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes revisions to several parts of the Handbook; see the written report. Friends accept the report and approve the revisions with some small adjustments in wording.

**Minute 41** Chris Goode reported for the Stewards and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. A variety of repairs to our facilities have been made or are planned. Subcommittees have been formed to deal with different aspects of the committee's work. Chris noted that Clear Creek Meeting is no longer large enough to handle as much of the work of caring for our property as they once did; volunteers are urgently solicited to attend workdays and help in whatever other ways may arise. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

**Minute 42** Bruce Kanarek reported for the *ad hoc* Property Use Committee. The committee proposes a policy for use of our facilities by non-ILYM groups; see the written report. Friends approve the policy as proposed. The committee also requests to be laid down. Friends approve, with gratitude for the committee's work. One of the policies is that firearms and fireworks are prohibited on the property. State law may require signage for such a prohibition; the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee is asked to investigate.

**Minute 43** David Shiner reported for the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Working Group appointed at the Fall 2023 sitting of the Continuing Committee to undertake discernment about the future of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The working

group has produced a booklet, which Friends are encouraged to read. The working group proposes that it be established as an *ad hoc* committee of the yearly meeting, as opposed to continuing as a subcommittee of the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. The committee would be known as the *ad hoc* Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting, with responsibilities as follows: “The *ad hoc* Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting is charged with engaging in outreach to ILYM monthly meetings, worship groups and individuals; conducting additional research as needed; reporting on its progress at Continuing Committee during the 2024–2025 year; and bringing proposals concerning the future of ILYM to annual sessions in 2025.” The committee’s work is anticipated to be complete after one year. Friends accept the report and establish the *ad hoc* committee as proposed.

**Minute 44** Janice Domanik reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. They anticipate proposing to our session tomorrow the endorsement of the open letter “A Different Future is Possible: Quaker Organizations Share a Vision for Peace in Palestine and Israel” and the adoption of a minute outlined in “ILYM Peace Resources & Racial Equity Committees.” Friends are asked to read these documents in advance of our session tomorrow.

**Minute 45** Minutes 36–44 were read and approved.

**Minute 46** The meeting closed in silent worship.