

# Illinois Yearly Meeting

## Fall Continuing Committee

Tenth Month 26, 2024

Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse, hosted by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, McNabb, Illinois

# Advance Documents

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# Fall Continuing Committee

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Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse, hosted by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting,  
14365 N. 350<sup>th</sup> Ave, McNabb, Illinois

**9:30 a.m.:** Fellowship with coffee and snacks will be ready.

**10:00 a.m.:** Settling into Worship to seek Divine Guidance for business at hand will begin at.

**Lunch** will be provided by our hosts, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. There will be a basket for contributions to cover the modest costs of the meal.

**Conclusion:** The meeting usually concludes between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Continuing Committee is open to all who have concern about the work of ILYM. Each person's presence (whether delegated or not) will enrich the meeting's deliberations.

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## Illinois Yearly Meeting

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

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## **Agenda**

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Finance Committee(p. 7)

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Naming Committee

Field Secretaries (p. 6)

Ministry & Advancement Committee (p. 11)

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**Treasurers Report**  
**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement**  
**FY2024 (7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024)**

<b>FY24</b>	<b>1 General</b>	<b>2 Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>4 Payroll Reserve</b>	<b>5 FWCC World Mtgs</b>	<b>6 Maint. Reserve</b>	<b>8 Property Impr.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income</b>							
Support from Meetings	94,375.00						94,375.00
Support from Individuals	39,824.45	297,115.56					336,940.01
Interest & Investment Income	10,262.90					1,455.08	11,717.98
Misc Income	910.00						910.00
<b>Gatherings-Retreats</b>							
AS Registrations	18,228.00						18,228.00
Gifts-Sessions	3,800.00						3,800.00
<b>Total Annual Sessions Income</b>	<b>22,028.00</b>						<b>22,028.00</b>
Site Use Fees	190.00						190.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	22,218.00						22,218.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>167,590.35</b>	<b>297,115.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,455.08</b>	<b>466,160.99</b>

<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
<b>Personnel &amp; Office</b>							
Employee Direct-Indirect	61,281.88						61,281.88
Staff Travel	3,917.94						3,917.94
Office Expenses	1,746.40						1,746.40
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>66,946.22</b>						<b>66,946.22</b>
<b>YM Travel Support</b>							
ILYM Reps Travel	1,942.76			5,300			7,242.76
<b>Total YM Travel Support</b>	<b>1,942.76</b>			<b>5,300</b>			<b>7,242.76</b>
<b>Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>							
Annual Services-Property Taxes	2,384.64						2,384.64
Mowing, Tree Trimming	3,520.00				6,350.00		9,870.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,226.46				2,000.00		5,226.46
Site Insurance Expense	16,192.00						16,192.00
Utilities	1,912.69						1,912.69
Work Weekend	887.84						887.84
<b>Total Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>	<b>28,123.63</b>				<b>8,350.00</b>		<b>36,473.63</b>

**FY24**

	<b>1 General</b>	<b>2 Unrestricted Reserves</b>	<b>4 Payroll Reserve</b>	<b>5 FWCC World Mtgs</b>	<b>6 Maint. Reserve</b>	<b>8 Property Impr.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Gatherings-Retreats Expenses/Annual Sessions Expenses</b>							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,092.21						1,092.21
AS Admin Coordination	6,383.97						6,383.97
AS Program Expenses	4,875.91						4,875.91
AS Cooking & Food	8,661.15						8,661.15
Children's Sessions Expenses	1,588.36						1,588.36
Transaction Fees on Registrations	425.66						425.66
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats Expenses</b>	<b>23,027.26</b>						<b>23,027.26</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>							
Committees-General	44.52						44.52
Ad Hoc Envisioning Workgroup	50.00						50.00
Development	356.00						356.00
Personnel	166.80						166.80
Publications & Technolgy	2,078.30						2,078.30
Youth Oversight	2114.12						2114.12
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>4,809.74</b>						<b>4,809.74</b>
<b>Support to Others</b>							
Support to Others	12,650.00	12,000.00		2,700.00			27,350.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>137,499.61</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>8,350.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>165,849.61</b>
<b>Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>30,090.74</b>	<b>285,115.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(8,000.00)</b>	<b>(8,350.00)</b>	<b>1,455.08</b>	<b>300,311.38</b>
<b>Other Income/(Expense)</b>							
Unrealized Gain/Loss		21,231.15				2,619.13	23,850.28
<b>Total Other Income / (Expense)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>21,231.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2619.13</b>	<b>23,850.28</b>
<b>Transfers</b>							
<b>Transfers - Budgeted</b>							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)			1,000.00			0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,850.00)				15,850.00		0.00
<b>Total Transfers - Budgeted</b>	<b>(16,850.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Transfers - Payroll Reserve		(1,175.00)	1,175.00				0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	(13,240.74)	13,240.74					0.00
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>(30,090.74)</b>	<b>12,065.74</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>318,412.45</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>(7,000.00)</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>	<b>4,074.21</b>	<b>324,161.66</b>

**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Balance Sheet for FY2024 (FY ending 6/30/2024)**

**FY24**

	6/30/2024		6/30/2023
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Checking Account	114,247.28		107,198.19
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr.	38,033.82		35,414.69
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	558,415.55		240,068.84
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>710,696.65</b>		<b>382,681.72</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Accounts Receivable	689.55		0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>689.55</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>711,386.20</b>		<b>382,681.72</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	14,208.44		9,665.62
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>14,208.44</b>		<b>9,665.62</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
		Net Income	
<b>Unrestricted Undesignated</b>			
1 General Operating	60,000.00		60,000.00
<b>Total Unrestricted Undesignated</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>		<b>60,000.00</b>
<b>Unrestricted Designated</b>			
2 Unrestricted Reserves	433,771.27	318,412.45	115,358.82
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00		1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	37,800.00	1,175.00	36,625.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	1,000.00	(7,000.00)	8,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	118,568.22	7,500.00	111,068.22
<b>Total Unrestricted Designated</b>	<b>592,439.49</b>		<b>272,352.04</b>
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
8 Property Impr.	44,738.27	4,074.21	40,664.06
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>44,738.27</b>		<b>40,664.06</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>697,177.76</b>	324,161.66	<b>373,016.10</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>711,386.20</b>		<b>382,681.72</b>

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**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement  
FY2025 (7/1/2024 to 10/5/2024)**

**FY25**

	<b>1 General</b>	<b>2 Unrestricted Reserve</b>	<b>6 Maint. Reserve</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Support from Meetings	6,636.25			6,636.25
Support from Individuals	1,305.00	20,000.00		21,305.00
Interest & Investment Income	134.69			134.69
Other Income	2.00			2.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,077.94</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28,077.94</b>

<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>Personnel &amp; Office</b>				
Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	14,177.11			14,177.11
Staff Travel	1,658.32			1,658.32
Office Expenses	344.06			344.06
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>16,179.49</b>			<b>16,179.49</b>
<b>Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>				
Mowing, Tree Trimming			10,700.00	10,700.00
Repairs & Maintenance	555.00		6,785.00	7,340.00
Urgent Maintenance			(12,476.55)	(12,476.55)
Utilities	494.71			494.71
<b>Total Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>	<b>1,049.71</b>		<b>5,008.45</b>	<b>6,058.16</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>				
Publications & Tech Committee	1,341.12			1,341.12
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>1,341.12</b>			<b>1,341.12</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>18,570.32</b>		<b>5,008.45</b>	<b>23,578.77</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(10,492.38)</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>(5,008.45)</b>	<b>4,499.17</b>

## Co-Field Secretary's Report

The Co-Field Secretaries dialed back visitation during the summer months, but September has seen us back on the road. We are developing a schedule for monthly meeting visitation from now until 2025 Annual Sessions. Friends may see only one of us rather than both, as we can cover more ground that way in this part-time position that we share.

We have observed or are aware of many meetings grappling with making a loving and justice-seeking response to the war between Israel and Palestine that is now spreading in the Mideast region. We commend the intensive efforts to educate Friends and the deeply felt sessions of deliberation about where meetings should stand. The Co-Field Secretaries can and have facilitated listening as Friends labor with divergent views on this difficult topic. We appreciate the work being done by other ILYM committees to promote greater understanding and informed action.

Other concerns for Friends include the future, both near-term and farther out. Friends at Blue River Quarterly have planning well in hand for the celebration of ILYM's 150th birthday at next year's Annual Sessions. You will hear more about that in the Program Planning Report. The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM is also hard at work, researching and interviewing. We met with them earlier in October to share our impressions of the state and vitality of ILYM. Downers Grove Monthly Meeting had a threshing session last month regarding the future. ONE SENTENCE HERE ABOUT THAT. Other small meetings share this concern.

It will hearten Friends to know that Blue River Quarterly's fall meeting in September included a lively children's program for 11 lively children who came from three different meetings. Five teenagers joined 26 adults for a program on reconciliation led by Judy Wolicki, former Field Secretary, and Marcia Nelson, current Co-Field secretary. Three attenders came from Memphis Monthly Meeting; their yearly meeting is grappling with a divisive issue. Blue River Quarterly meetings are mostly small but have strong social ties and social activism. Some meetings have expressed needs for more adult religious education.

To split our duties and visits, Marcia attended BRQ while Mark attended the General Superintendents and Secretaries Conference at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. There gathered Friends from FUM, FCG, Quaker Earth Care Witness, and yearly meetings from New England, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Western, and Canada. While the overall concern was for declining numbers and aging membership, the discussions ran the gauntlet of new software, annual sessions, resolving conflicts, mental health, fund raising, supporting environmental initiatives, and bouncing back from COVID.

Strong social ties is an expression of vitality we observe in meetings as we visit them. Friends gather to be with one another outside of Sunday Meeting for Worship. There are Meetings for Eating, midweek worship gatherings, book discussions, various fellowship groups, adult education, and joint political activism. Some are in person, some are online, some are both. All of these are forms of energy within our meetings that offer glimpses of a future for ILYM Friends.

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### Children's Religious Education Committee

Members: Dale Gardner (chair), Alexandra Colin, Kathryn Young, Quinn Parks, Anna Watson, Bobbi Trist, Charlotta Koppanyi (ex-officio).

The children's program at ILYM was a great success again. We had 23 kids registered from a good variety of age groups from all over the yearly meeting region. The program's success relied on Charlotta Koppanyi's organizational and planning abilities, who rallied babysitters, teachers and volunteers to make it all happen. Afternoon and evening activities for kids also seemed to work well with hair dyeing being one of the kids favorites. On the negative side of things, children and parents were concerned by the



disrepair of the swing set and we hope for improvement next year. For details, see Charlotta's report in the additional documents section.

Children's Religious Education Committee has embarked on a search for applicants for the staff position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator. We are pleased with Charlotta's work, but want to move beyond just using contract labor and have a regular staff person again. We have been putting out a lot of feelers seeking applicants and hope that Charlotta applies as well. We have high hopes that hiring will be complete by December. See job description in additional documents section.

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## **Development Committee Report**

The Development Committee is working to create the annual appeal letter and expects to complete this task by the end of the month. The remaining committee tasks are to examine the "support page" of the ILYM web site for any needed changes (usually the result of changes in tax rules) and to consider if there are new topics that need to be included in that web page.

Frank Young, Clerk

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## **Environmental Concerns Committee Report**

Only four Friends were able to attend our fall retreat, held on September 7, 2024: Nancy Halliday, Chris Goode, Sarah Pavlovic, and Noel Pavlovic

We revised the 2009 spiritual nature trail around the meetinghouse in preparation for the 150th ILYM anniversary. At the same time, we measured the diameters for all the trees around the meetinghouse for revision of the campus tree map.

Beth Carpenter asked us to address the Clear Creek patio area that now has turned into weeds with the removal of the silver and sugar maples. Horseweed and other plants have taken over the area. Some unwanted trees may be removed while others may be retained. We proposed to remove the water feature that Mike and Diane Dennis has installed and also the fence that enclosed the heating unit that was previously removed. We thought that a couple of picnic tables on each concrete pad might be a nice addition. We will continue evaluating the area prior to making a formal suggestion.

After lunch at Morenos, we ran into Dick Haworth. We then went with him to visit the Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie that Clancy Wilson took ECC to back 30 years ago. We were surprised to see how good the prairie looked with only couple of small trees on the 1.5 acres. We only spent a brief time but found quite a diversity of native prairie plants. There are several nature preserve signs and a rock with bronze plaque listing all the folks that are buried there. Since a cemetery was needed when the Europeans arrived, this highest point of land was set aside without being plowed.

Sarah and I also weeded the pollinator garden and planted some additional plants.

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## **Finance Committee Report**

Thank you to Dawn for closing the books on 23/24. We are grateful to all who donated to the yearly meeting and grateful to the Development Committee. ILYM reserves have grown, enabling ILYM to invest in the future of the yearly meeting. We look forward to the input being collected and direction that comes from the envisioning work being done.

The Review Committee met with our new Assistant Clerk and has approved up to \$1,000 to support our Assistant Clerk as she steps up to do the work of the yearly meeting (potentially for hotel & transportation during Annual Sessions).

We found no clear Minute describing the purpose and available uses of the Property Improvement Fund. Finance will work on such a Minute to bring to Annual Sessions and to be included in the Handbook.

In support to an update to *Faith & Practice*, the committee will work on guidelines for monthly meetings and their Treasurers. Once those guidelines are complete, they will be shared with monthly meeting Treasurers in advance of any update to F&P.

Finance reviewed our investments with Friends Fiduciary to make sure we are aligned with the responsibilities called out from the letter on Gaza that the Yearly Meeting signed. No changes were necessary. Friends Fiduciary has gathered a broad group of experts and stakeholders to season additional guidelines regarding the overlap between technology and weapons of war. We are represented on that Advisory group by Valerie Lester.

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## **Handbook Report**

### **Immediate changes to the Handbook based on approved minutes from Annual Sessions, 2024:**

Add to the policy section of the Handbook, the Policy for ILYM's Finance Committee in Considering Gifts to Others (P. 30 of the Advanced Documents.) [2024, Minute 55]

In the Reading Clerk description: Optional: serves on Epistle Committee for Illinois Yearly Meeting. [2024, Minute 35]

In the Epistle Committee description: The Reading Clerk (optional) is an *ex officio* member of the committee.

### Chicago Friends School (CFS)

#### **Mission Statement.**

Chicago Friends School — rooted in the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equity, and stewardship — develops the academic skills and strong character that K-8 students need to grow into purposeful lives. Our supportive and diverse school environment will nurture people to their full academic, creative, and spiritual potential and build character and love of learning within each person. Chicago Friends School students, graduates, and community members live Quaker values as they learn to engage with each other and the wider world. Chicago Friends School graduates people with the skills, experiences, and confidence to bring about a better world.

#### **Description and Additional Information**

Chicago Friends School is an independent Kindergarten through 8th grade school in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. Our academically challenging curriculum fosters intellectual curiosity and enables children to reach their full potential. Our commitment to Quaker values encourages service, peace, and thoughtful engagement with each other, the community, and the world.

#### **Number of ILYM representatives and term length.**

One representative has a three-year term. The representative keeps informed of general happenings of the school, visiting at least once a year, and reporting back to the yearly meeting at annual sessions or more frequently as needed.

[2024, Minute 35]

## **Drafts for consideration at 2025 Annual Sessions**

*Epistles from youth: children, middle schoolers and teens.* It is the custom at Annual Sessions for the youth in each group to write an epistle. The young Friends read these at the end of Annual Sessions, usually Sunday morning. These epistles are sent with the ILYM Epistle. The young Friends epistles should be from the youth point of view of how God was present in our time together and what aspects of our Quaker faith or testimonies these groups experienced. The participants should have a major role in writing them. They may begin with the phrase, “Dear Friends Everywhere,”

*Adult Young Friends Epistle.* The Adult Young Friends may choose to write a separate epistle of their own following suggestions to the Epistle Committee. This is also read at the end of sessions and sent with the other epistles.

### **Committee Clerk and Committee Conveners.**

*At this time, the Nominating Committee chooses a clerk for each committee. Friends at the 2024 Annual Sessions were wondering: Should the ILYM Nominating Committee choose committee clerks or should the Nominating Committee choose a convener and the committee decides on their own clerk? The Handbook Committee is attempting to consider what are the duties of the clerk of a committee. Here is a draft. Please bring any suggestions to the attention of the committee prior to annual sessions 2025.*

The **clerk of a committee** is responsible for scheduling the meetings, seeing that minutes are taken, and (when appropriate) seeing that a report is made at Continuing Committee or Annual Sessions. This person suggests an agenda and listens for the sense of the committee—though other members may contribute to both of these. On some committees, the clerk serves as the supervisor for an employee of the yearly meeting. The clerk may also remind Friends when the discussion has moved away from the charge of the committee.

Along the way, the clerk reminds Friends that this is a religious experience and also nurtures Quaker process by teaching, often by example, the committee members, some of whom may be new to our Friendly ways. The clerk encourages members of the committee and encourages everyone to have a role in the work of the committee. The clerk may be the first to notice when the committee needs to re-center in worship.

Our meeting community is a loving one, and we all enjoy spending time together. Meeting as a committee is one aspect of this. Spending time working with other Friends on committees, as committee members and as clerk, helps us to forge loving bonds with each other and strengthens the meeting community.

The **convener of a committee** calls the first meeting of the committee with the first agenda item to choose a clerk. The convener assumes all the responsibilities of the clerk until such time as a clerk has been chosen including acting as supervisor for an employee in some cases.

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## **Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee & Stewards Report**

Prepared October 5, 2024 for Continuing Committee on October 26. The committee members are Carol Bartles, Mark Robinson, Marie White, Dennis McQueen, Margie Haworth, Christina Schulz, Noel Pavlovic, Sam Davis, Diane Clark Dennis, Dick Ashdown, and the Stewards: Chip Rorem, Grayce Haworth, Beth Carpenter, and Chris Goode.

**Fall Workday:** We held a workday on October 5. We had thirty persons come to help, and to hear Evan Welkin, the new Executive Secretary of FWCC. We cleaned up the area east of Clear Creek House (CCH), removing rocks and fencing. We cleared a thicket growing alongside the metal storage shed and

nuisance trees growing among spruces at the southeast corner near the meetinghouse (MH). We painted the new siding boards at the MH damaged by raccoons and secured all of the doors at the campground against winter animal intrusion and other regular campus maintenance needs. We were unable to burn the existing stick pile due to winds, and, once again, started a new one in the SW corner of the property. Our next Work Day will be on May 3, 2025.

**Current Maintenance Items:** The campground electrical service panel was damaged by weather exposure and insect intrusion and has been replaced for a little over \$1,000. We will have the five campground electrical pedestals that have also deteriorated, properly grounded and repaired with weatherproof receptacles. We will also add a receptacle at the MH northeast corner of the east room to allow a better place for control of hybrid meeting capabilities during Annual Sessions, and will also add and reallocate circuits at the MH basement to reduce or eliminate tripping circuits caused by too much power usage from the kitchen appliances, fridges, freezers, dehumidifiers and air conditioners that we often have running simultaneously. The cost for this new work will be around \$2,000. 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. A windstorm in July rolled up the metal roof on the east side lean-to of the barn. We will not be replacing it right away, or perhaps at all. We will need to move the lumber stored there to a dryer location in the barn. That storm also knocked down trees at CCH and the campground and large branches all over the campus. We had the trees removed and stumps ground and other trees on the campus further trimmed and the grounds cleaned up at a cost of about \$10,000. We need to patch the garage roof where the tree did damage, and the aluminum soffit is coming loose along the front of the porch and also needs to be professionally repaired.

**Future Maintenance Items:** It has been around 25 or more years since the interior of the meetinghouse was painted and, while the plaster walls and ceiling look mostly in good shape, the wood elements are showing signs of needing to be repainted. Likewise, the meetinghouse windows are in need of repairs, and repainting, and this should be done carefully and professionally. These might be among the larger projects for the year after the 2025 sessions.

**Insurance:** Chip worked with Church Mutual to close out our 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 and we received about an additional \$10,000.

**Caretaker:** We have begun to try to find a local person to help to serve as a very part-time caretaker over the next year with a total of about 50 hours of time to help with checking on campus concerns, meeting contractors, orienting renters, etc. We hope to have someone onboard before the start of the year. We may need to consider more hours and perhaps more maintenance abilities in future budgets.

**MP&E Working Groups:** Last January we divided ourselves up into several sub-committees in order to discuss and divide the work up, and try to get more things considered and attended to. Those sub-committees include Workday Planning, Long-Term Maintenance Planning, Campus Accessibility, High School Bunkhouse Planning, Maintenance Manual/Contractor List/Annual Calendar, Caretaker Solutions, South MH Property Addition. Chip will be our Insurance Contact. Some of those committees have met and are working on their concerns. Others will be doing so in the upcoming months.

**High School Bunkhouse:** In 2023, 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. Our Bunkhouse working group has met with a contractor, and examined the building issues, and is doubtful that the existing building is worth trying to repair and save. They are continuing to determine the best way to move forward with a new High School Friends campus meeting place and hope to make recommendations at 2025 Annual Sessions.

**Children's Play Equipment:** The permanent large outdoor play equipment is not as safe and stable as it ought to be. We are interested in putting together better, safer, very stable and fun play equipment to replace the existing timber swing set and slide. We feel this is an urgent need. We will need input from

families with children on what will work best. Please help us to determine what will work best so that we can purchase and install it before next Annual Sessions. Please contact Chris Goode or Beth Carpenter if you have some good ideas and can help to make this happen.

**Mattress Care:** At last Annual Sessions we decided to tarp over the mattresses after stacking them on the top bunk to deter rodents. We are also hoping that other efforts to keep mice out of the cabins and bunkhouse will help keep them clean.

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

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## **Ministry and Advancement Committee Report**

Ministry and Advancement Committee tries to meet once a month. We have generally been able to meet every month except July. The Co-Field Secretaries and committee members visit meetings and are in contact with meetings which ask for assistance. The presence may be holding a meeting in prayer as it makes a difficult decision or joining them to share being together. The committee is open to hearing concerns from meetings and individuals. The Co-Field Secretaries and members are open to visit with meetings.

The committee is aware of needs within the yearly meeting. We continue to host an all yearly meeting worship on the 10th of each month via Zoom. This provides an opportunity for ILYM friends to gather regularly. It is a time for us to hold the entire yearly meeting in prayer. At the close of worship, we are trying to have a short time for people to share with each other.

The committee is offering a workshop this fall:

### **Final Thoughts: End-of-Life Considerations**

Getting prepared for the end of one's time on earth can be regarded as morbid. Another way to think about it is an opportunity to confront fears and make plans to help yourself and loved ones. Using a Quaker approach, this workshop/discussion is intended to help empower you to face the spiritual and practical aspects of getting your affairs in good order.

A recommended resource (not required!) is *A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life* by Patricia M. Nesbitt and Kristin Camitta Zimet (Baltimore Yearly Meeting, 2024). Time and date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, November 9, online. Registration required and closes November 4.

Facilitator: Marcia Nelson, ILYM Co-Field Secretary and retired hospital and hospice chaplain

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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 continue to cohost 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 drafting a new description of our committee for the Handbook to meet the needs of our changing world.
- 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.

### *New Committee Description for Handbook*

The Peace Resources Committee's purpose is to help Friends live up to our Peace Testimony, to be opposed to the aggression of nations, to work towards a more peaceful world, to speak out against oppression, injustice, and gun violence, and to be a resource for monthly meetings, worship groups, the quarterly meeting, peace committees, and individuals within the Illinois Yearly Meeting community.

*Membership:* Six to twelve members nominated by the Nominating Committee who are Friends with gifts, skills, knowledge and strong leadings regarding the objectives.

The Committee's objectives include:

- a. At the request of ILYM youth leaders, providing information to young Friends regarding conscientious objection, the draft system, and military recruitment. Assisting young people in developing their own Peace Testimony.
- b. Working with existing peace-building organizations such as the Quaker Voluntary Service and Project Lakota to enhance peace building with a spiritual and service-oriented basis for young Friends.
- c. Encouraging Friends to examine and reexamine the meaning of the Peace Testimony in the context of our response to modern terrorism, war, and gun violence which has made it possible to wreak major devastation on people and their environment.
- d. Serving as a resource for monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, regional meeting and ILYM's program committee in identifying knowledgeable speakers and workshop leaders on the above topics.
- e. To speak out and encourage others to speak out against war, violence, oppression, and other items that may lead to the occasion of war.

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## **Personnel Committee Report**

The Personnel Committee has met twice this fall. Based on the readiness of the Children's Religious Education Committee to begin a search for a staff member to fill the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position, Personnel Committee met to review and ultimately approve a staff job description for this position. At a later meeting, the Personnel Committee reviewed our committee responsibilities as outlined in the ILYM Handbook and identified priorities for the year. Work on these priorities has begun. The overall focus is to continue to ensure our practices and policies remain consistent with state and federal guidelines and are aligned with the priorities and vision of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

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## **Publications and Technology Committee Report**

Regularly scheduled ILYM publications have been produced and shipped by the ILYM Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant: 2024 Minute Books, 2024-2025 ILYM Directories, and the 2024 Plummer Lecture.

Digital versions of the 2024 Minute Book and Plummer Lecture can be viewed and downloaded on the ILYM website ([ilym/publications](http://ilym/publications)).

Videos of the 2024 Annual Sessions evening presentations and Plummer Lecture can be viewed on the ILYM website ([ilym.org](http://ilym.org)) as well as the ILYM YouTube channel.

A vendor has provided a proposal for doing electrical work which includes adding a power outlet in the northeast corner of the meetingroom (the main entry door side, which is the back of the room when programming is on the dais). This will support moving the A/V control table to the normal location of a venue "sound booth" so that tech facilitators can more easily see and hear what the audience experiences.

Year round fiber internet is being made available on the campus.

Wil Brant has been fielding requests for assistance from committees. Blue River Quarterly, and meetings regarding information and use of, and presence on, the ILYM web server and website.

*Zoom Meetings:* The ILYM Zoom account is set up to host meetings and programs for ILYM committees. To schedule a meeting, send a date and time request to Wil Brant at admincoor © ilym.org. With confirmation of the scheduling you will get the meeting ID and passcode to share with attendees. You will also get a host key code and instructions, which will be for only for the person hosting/facilitating the meeting. The host key code allows you to claim the host function of the meeting without needing to log into the Zoom account.

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

The Racial Equity and Education Committee (REEC) remained highly active since Annual Sessions. We have met formally at least once per month in addition to hosting ongoing study and support sessions for one another. As part of fulfilling ILYM's commitment at Annual Sessions (via signing onto AFSC's "A Different Future is Possible: Quaker organizations share a vision for peace in Palestine and Israel") to participate in protests for a ceasefire in Palestine, REEC members joined with Friends from 57th Street, Downers Grove, Evanston, and Northside to protest at the Democratic National Convention in August. The urgency and need for actions opposing genocide and expanding wars have only grown since then, and we hope that our meetings can unite boldly in pursuing the justice necessary for lasting peace.

REEC continues to offer educational, worship, and discussion opportunities during our monthly Anti-Racism Café and at the Meeting for Healing co-hosted with Peace Resources. Our September Café became an interfaith gathering when educators from Jewish Voice for Peace presented, "Finding Our Footing: A Teach-in On Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism, and Collective Liberation." We were joined by congregants from Mennonite and Brethren churches with whom some of us have marched at protests carrying a "Christians for Ceasefire" banner. The benefits of these fortuitous ecumenical opportunities in the streets and at the Café reinforced our desire for the Yearly Meeting to approve the Racial Equity and Education Committee to join the Apartheid-free Communities Coalition (apartheid-free.org), and we bring this request as an action item in addition to our report.

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## **Annual Session Planning Groups**

### **Blue River Quarterly: Program**

The theme for the 2025 ILYM 150th celebration is "Honoring the Past, Living the Present, Envisioning the Future."

The program will include: Wednesday a variety of musical groups including a sing-along; Thursday a panel discussion from Friends who have grown up within Illinois Yearly Meeting; Friday square dance; Saturday a presentation by Tom Hamm; and Sunday's Plummer Lecturer will be Beth Carpenter.

An added bonus this year will be the 150th birthday party on Saturday afternoon. Invitations will be sent to surrounding monthly and yearly meetings, local newspapers and possibly *Among Friends*.

Saturday afternoon schedule will be changed to include planning groups after lunch (1:15-1:45 p.m.), the party from 2:00-4:30 p.m. and the variety show at 4:45 p.m. Workshops and worship sharing will only occur on Thursday and Friday to allow time for the party on Saturday. Worship sharing queries will be focused on the future of ILYM.

We will be working on digital and physical collages of photos from the sessions of the yearly meeting through the last 150 years. Please send photos to Sharon Haworth at 605 W. Washington St, Urbana, IL 61801 or [sharonlhaworth@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlhaworth@gmail.com).

A cookbook is also being worked on by a small group. Please send potluck recipes and any stories that go with them to Pam Wolfe at [midwestgardener@gmail.com](mailto:midwestgardener@gmail.com).

All coordinator positions have been filled except that we still need volunteers for Thursday night children's program.

### **Chicago North: Food**

We have the necessary people to fill the positions and we have cooks. So all is in order.

### **Chicago South: Site**

All positions for Site have been filled except for Site Prep Coordinator. We hope to fill that position by or shortly after Fall CC. We look forward to folks from all over the yearly meeting coming to join in helping with site prep June 14-18.

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## **Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting was approved at this year's Annual Sessions (Minute #43). As that minute states, our committee "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." To those ends, the committee began by hosting daily workshops during sessions of the yearly meeting in June. Speaking generally, the main things we heard from Friends during those workshops were as follows:

- 1) Love for the ILYM campus;
- 2) Concern about steady declines in attendance and participation in both the yearly meeting and monthly meetings;
- 3) Curiosity about how other yearly meetings are faring;
- 4) Longing for more spiritual opportunities and sustenance.

After reviewing the results of the workshops, we embarked on outreach to other Quaker yearly meetings throughout the United States. Briefly, we learned the following:

- 1) Every yearly meeting is in decline numerically, both in terms of overall membership and attendance at annual sessions. This includes all branches of Quakerism. The declines in ILYM (averaging about 1% per year over the last 20 years) appear to be typical.
- 2) The length of yearly meeting sessions varies widely. ILYM is, again, about average in that respect.
- 3) The cost of attending ILYM annual sessions is among the lowest of all yearly meetings on a per-day basis unless hotel accommodation is included, in which case it is among the highest.

As concern had been expressed in the past that the ILYM campus near McNab, Illinois, is too far from some meetings for travel purposes, we investigated that too. We discovered that the site is near the geographical center of all current ILYM meetings and worship groups.

That briefly summarizes the bulk of our work since Annual Sessions. We now turn to consideration of our next steps.



The current ad hoc committee began as a subcommittee of Maintenance Planning & Envisioning a year ago. At that time, our main concern was the sustainability of ILYM in light of several factors: the maintenance and need for decisions about the physical plant, the decline in attendance at annual sessions, and the decreasing ability of Clear Creek Friends to provide physical support for campus upkeep. Chris Jocius’s generous bequest was thought to be potentially helpful in considering solutions to these problems, so proposals about how to spend those funds were added to our responsibilities.

Since that time, it has become increasingly clear to us that the sustainability of ILYM depends in large measure on the strength of its constituent meetings. ILYM is a bottom-up organization, one in which local meetings are regarded as primary. This is the case both theoretically, in that the Yearly Meeting does not preside over or “dictate” to the local meetings, and practically, in that most members and attenders of our local meetings have little or no direct and engaging experience of ILYM. So our local meetings, almost all of which are in numerical decline, need strengthening and assistance from ILYM, both for the sake of their futures and so they will come to care enough about ILYM to participate in outreach about its sustainability.

Given our initial understanding of our charge, we had intended to arrange visits to each monthly meeting to discuss the issue of the sustainability of ILYM. It has now become evident to us that that approach is unlikely to bear fruit unless we are first able to represent ILYM as supportive of the local meetings at greater levels than at present. In addition to events that are already taking place (Field Secretary and M&A visits, regularly-scheduled online monthly events, etc.) the committee has discussed, among other possibilities, holding more events at Clear Creek House and the ILYM campus, holding events of general interest online (Quakerism 101, for example), sharing best practices for outreach between meetings, and hiring an Adult Religious Education Coordinator to structure and promote such events. These are only a few examples of possible ILYM endeavors. We will ask for additional suggestions at Fall Continuing Committee.

As a result of these considerations, we are now considering making two visits to each meeting, rather than only one. The purpose of the first meeting would be to ask what ILYM can do for that particular monthly meeting: at the second, we would ask about the sustainability of ILYM. This endeavor will take time and sweat equity. As a small (5-member) committee, we had already recognized that the desired outreach to monthly meetings was well beyond our capacity. If we settle on the approach outlined here, much more involvement will be needed—from Ministry & Advancement, the Field Secretaries, and representatives to ILYM.

Given the road ahead, the process of outreach, research, and discernment might well take longer than the projected year (2024-2025) than was indicated in Minute #43. While we hope to have some concrete proposals to share at next year’s Annual Sessions as mandated in that minute, we will not regard our charge as having been fulfilled without meaningful consultation, whether undertaken by the committee or by others. Our committee expects to take steps toward beginning that consultation soon. We will report on our continued progress at Spring Continuing Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee,  
Beth Carpenter, Chris Goode, Bruce Kanarek, Colleen Reardon, David Shiner

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## **Children’s Religious Education Coordinator Job Description**

**Overview:** The Children’s Religious Education Coordinator plans and administers youth (grades K-8) religious education programs for designated events within the Illinois Yearly Meeting. This position is supported by, and reports to the Children’s Religious Education Committee.

**Responsibilities:**

- Provide a Quaker-focused, safe, fun, inclusive, and enriching environment for all children attending Illinois Yearly Meeting events including Annual Sessions and up to 3 additional week-end programs per year.
- Plan and implement children's religious education programs in collaboration with the Children's Religious Education Committee.
- Manage program details including activities, hours, expenses, safety protocols, educational resources, responsibilities and roles of volunteers and/or program staff.
- Secure all resources needed prior to Illinois Yearly Meeting events for children including snacks, play equipment, educational resources, volunteers and/or event staff.
- Serve as lead for all in-person children's activities and programming.
- In collaboration with Children's Religious Education Committee, create relationships with monthly meetings to identify Friends who have gifts to share in working with the children.
- Attend Children's Religious Education virtual committee meetings, participate in their efforts of engagement with member meetings and the larger Quaker world.
- Track and report hours worked and submit expense receipts to the Illinois Yearly Meeting Treasurer.
- Submit quarterly reports to the Children's Religious Education Committee.
- Read and follow expectations outlined in the Illinois Yearly Meeting Employee Manual including those for ongoing training.

**Qualifications:**

- Understanding of the spiritual basis of Religious Society of Friends that serves as the basis for our business practices and our social concerns. (Member or attender of a Quaker Meeting or organization preferred).
- Commitment to children's spiritual development.
- Ability to work collaboratively with the Illinois Yearly Meeting Children's Religious Education Committee and follow through with responsibilities independently.
- College degree or equivalent experience. (Preference will be given to applicants with training in child development, education or related areas).
- Proven ability and experience in working with children.
- Computer literacy including email, social-networking and web groups (preferred) or willingness to obtain training.
- Pass a background check and complete mandated reporter training.
- Commitment to obtaining first aid training/certificate (expense compensated by ILYM).

**Compensation:** \$23 per hour in 2024 (with annual COLA) for an assumed 500 hours per year with payment of equal amounts spread throughout the year. Social Security/Medicare withholding. Worker's Compensation. Reimbursement for all necessary travel. Professional development allowance for relevant training or experience.

**HOW TO APPLY:** We expect people who meet our requirements to have an initial 30 minute interview. If you move forward you will have a 30 minute interview with 3 members of the hiring committee. References will be checked before an offer is extended. We hope this process will take about 30 days after we close the job.

**Send:** Resume; Cover letter explaining interest in job and qualifications; Contact information. Send to wanderingprofessor@yahoo.com. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Hope to hire by December 15. For questions, please call or text Dale Gardner at 217 714-8987.

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## Annual Sessions Children's Sessions Report

**Registration and Attendance:** 23 students registered. One in childcare did not attend due to the heat. One student in Middle School transferred to the High School group. Two students/siblings attend class on and off, not interested however very interested in art. These were the same students last year. Let's be sure to catch them next year, and possibly have more of a one-on-one class

Preschool 3 reg/3 attend; Primary: 6 reg/6 attend, Intermediate: 6 reg/6 attend, Middle School: 6 reg/5 attend (1 transferred to HS); 2 new children – rest previously attendees

**Assistant & Support Person:** Steve Roberts & Raphael Roberts worked out great. Steve handled check in/check out, floating and supervision, and stepped in as a teacher among other. Raphael worked all mornings and assisted with nursery, preschool and supervision, and playtime. Worked closely with Anya and was always with the children and or available at the play ground

Both Steve & Raphael stepped in as second teachers for all the classes as we did not have volunteers. Steve really enjoyed his time at ILYM and being support person who could be a floater and a teacher if needed—which he was. Available for 2025—“book him for 2025.” Raphael is essential and the children connect with him. Great team with Anya. Available for 2025—let's “book him for 2025”

In addition, they handled all spare of the moment situations that Charlotta was not able to attend to. Played with all children—provided supervision and attention as well as safety. Made everything flow.

**Gathering in the Morning:** We started each morning with a gathering of students (children), teachers, volunteers and a few parents. After a short worship and grounding we all introduced ourselves and share one thing each morning. Thursday morning: Something about you. Friday morning: One of your favorite foods. Saturday morning: What do you like/appreciate the most with coming to ILYM Annual Session. After that, we left with our teachers and volunteers one by one.

For 2025: have a gathering at the end of class time, sharing what we learned and together walk over to have lunch. Time to be considered if the Middle Schoolers and interested Intermediate students are to help with meal service.

**One-on-one Time:** Charlotta had the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with some of the students. This is an important aspects to see and recognize a child's needs, regardless if they ask/something happened or not.

**Child Care/Baby Sitters:** Anya Gardner stepped in as Kiva was not available. Anya did all the required trainings and background check. Norah cancelled due to person reasons. Anya connected us with Kailey as the second child care person. Kailey contracted COVID a few days before and did not work. Kailey did all the required trainings and background check. Anya did a great job and is interested for 2025. She worked with Raphael

**Snack Person:** Reliable and great however was not aware of the “snack mobile.” Connect before with information about the “snack mobile.” Zack purchased snacks (see list). Charlotta provided a snack list. Charlotta purchased Ritz & fish crackers, apricots and water for all children to have on hand in each tent as extra snack. The kitchen made popcorn each day. Charlotta provided brown bags for pop corn. Need to get more brown bags for 2025. A committee member purchased popsicles—very popular. Add to snack list for Zack for 2025.

**Teachers:** Great team of teachers. Floaters are essential in order to step in when needed. *Baby sitters:* Anya Gardner; *Preschool:* Raphael Roberts;

*Primary:* Allison Boyaris & Lindsay Rabbe, Charlotta, Steve Roberts. Allison Boyaris and Lindsay Rabbe on Thursday for class & play time. Lindsay asked for a lead teacher as both Allison and Lindsay were more comfortable being an assistant teacher. Allison's husband got sick and only taught Thursday.

Lindsay Rabbe & Charlotta taught Friday, Steve Roberts & Lindsay Rabbe taught Saturday. Rex Nyquist Guest teacher – historic Quaker person. Lindsay and Allison suggested doing tie-dye which was very popular. Had a Zoom meeting prior to ILYM. Charlotta sent suggested class notes for each day and brought story baskets and other class room materials

*Intermediate:* Monica Tetzlaff & Rachel Vanalstine, Sarah P (guest teacher) and Charlotta (guest teacher). Studied Bayard Rustin together with Middle School, and Alice Howenstine, and connected them to the testimonies.

*Middle School:* Dale Gardner, Choz with Liam Gardner & Nathan Lasersohn. Thursday, Karen Carney (guest teacher Friday), Emily Provence (guest teacher Saturday).

Guest Teacher: Rex Nyquist as a historic Quaker, John Hover and visited all classes.

**Tents & Foxhole:** All tents were used. Charlotta brought small rugs to sit on, however younger classes used the tables and chairs. Raphael assisted Preschool. Worked out well to have each age group separated. all classes had a bottled water and extra snacks. Foxhole was cleaned, painted as a continuation of last year's work. Charlotta brought cleaning supply, paint, brushes etc.

**Art Tent:** Tie-dye on T-shirts and bandanas – extremely popular. A committee member purchased more T-shirts. Volunteers brought in the dye. Charlotta brought art supply, however few children interested and only about two-three sessions. Young children needed extra supervision.

Craft people provided materials and organized activities, however few children attended outside of the tie-dye, as most went swimming.

**Playground:** Pools are great and very popular. Kept the younger children entertained for hours. Cooled children and adults in the heat

Swings are very popular. Safety issues as one of the chains broke. Intermediate class planned to talk to Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning committee to improve the playground. Purchase for 2025: Balls and Jumping ropes

A few children use their phones and iPads for on the playground. Charlotta asked them not to do so. Strongly suggest/recommend/ parents that children should use “screens” at the playground. Annual session is a wonderful time to be in nature, have “face-to-face” time among many other reasons.

**Swimming:** Indoor pool at Hennepin; Organized by ILYM; Very popular. Charlotta sent list of who could swim to volunteer

**To Consider For Next Year 2025:** 150- and 500-years anniversaries – what is planned and how can we make it more special? Partnership with Middle School and High School students. Thurs. High school/Middle School. How it is to attend HS. Fri: swimming at lake/pool or pool & convers. Can/connect w. Young Adult Friends for assisting teaching. Conversation with Liam: Three hours for children to attend class is long for children and adults. At morning gathering children said “being and seeing my friends” was the best part of Annual Session. Gathering in the morning and before lunch will break up the class time and create community. Walk together for lunch

Need to break up the morning with some activities before and during class: Snack, Gather around the pool, Art class & Craft as a part of class time.

Middle School and Intermediate to assist, as a part of social service, with the meals

Historical figure who visits and for children to ask questions to popular, however, the visit cannot be too long and need to be able to adjust to the questions of the children. Guest teachers and historical figures was well perceived; however, we need to be sure it is engaging

Organized art class for children who are not interested in attending class but in participating in art. If so, need dedicated art (craft) person/teacher. As afternoon art classes conflicted with swimming few attended.

Sign for crossing the road – campus/camping needs to requested each year. Signing in and out worked

very well due to the Assistant. Middle School has to be engaging, doing, making, active. Medical Forms was not submitted for all. Which Meetings are planning what for 2025? Get the list and see who we might want/can work with. EFM responsibilities.

Get more T-shirts, bandanas and tye-dye plus cardboard cut out of T-shirt. Get dedicated art/craft person who will be there the whole time. Campfire is important to do. Prepare with appropriate fire/grill equipment. Develop and communicate a new, larger, safer and better playground equipment. The current playground equipment is inadequate

Charlotta worked and was in communication with Marica (planning), Colleen (personnel) and teachers regarding planning. Charlotta, Steve and Raphael, Anya stayed Sunday for breakdown.

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