

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

2024
June
19-23



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

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REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2024

Total Registration: 154

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	40 Adults	
	16 Young Friends	Total: 56
Chicago North	38 Adults	
	8 Young Friends	Total: 46
Chicago South	32 Adults	
	6 Young Friends	Total: 38
Other	13 Adults	
	0 Young Friends	Total: 13

Fully Virtual: 9

Mixed Virtual and In-person: 7

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2025 Annual Sessions will be held from June 18 to 22
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse

Website: ilym.org
Email: IllinoisYM@ilym.org

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

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

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2024-2025

Presiding Clerk: Kevin Brubaker

Assistant Clerk: Julia Pantoga

Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Assistant Recording Clerk:

Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek

Co-Treasurers: Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn

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

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

Among Friends Editors: Ted Kuhn

Field Secretaries: Marcia Nelson & Mark McGinnis

Administrative Coordinator: Wil Brant

Youth Coordinator: Rose Johnson

Children's Religious Education Coordinator:

Adult Young Friends Clerk:

High School Friends Clerk:

High School Friends Co-Clerk:

High School Friends Recording Clerk:

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

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 7/2023-6/2024

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR	U-C	
							<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>
							Average Attendance
6	5	17	30	6	3	20	Adults
1	<1	4	4	0	0	2	Under 18 years old
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>
11	19	7	37	2	3	48	Resident Adult Members
5	3	0	4	0	0	1	Resident Young Friends
3	35	17	76	1	3	67	Non-Resident Adult Members
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Non-Resident Young Friends
19	57	24	117	3	6	117	TOTAL
							Total Adult Members
14	54	24	113	3	6	115	Total Young Friends
5	3	0	4	0	0	2	
							NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Request
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Certificate of Transfer
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	Deceased
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Released or Withdrawn
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Transferred
0	1	0	0	0	0	1	TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	343
Metro Chicago	476
Wisconsin	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	838

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area											WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Elk*	Ev	57*	FV	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh*†	
18	8	6	36	16	5	22	25	12	4	13	6	258
0	0	1	13	<1	0	7	2	0	0	4	0	38
36	9	64	16	7	55	20	19	9	21	6	389	
0	1	2	1	0	8	0	0	0	7	0	32	
8	1	44	31	10	63	16	3	2	19	0	399	
0	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	14	
44	11	114	55	17	126	36	22	11	49	6	834	
44	10	108	47	17	118	36	22	11	40	6	788	
0	1	6	8	0	8	0	0	0	9	0	46	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	
1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
3	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	
0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	
0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	

*Downers Grove and 57th Street have dual affiliation with ILYM and Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting). Oshkosh has dual affiliation with ILYM and Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference). *Please note:* ILYM does not report half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the full membership of dually affiliated meetings. Elkhart is a preparative meeting under the care of the ILYM Ministry and Advancement Committee; attendees may be members of other ILYM monthly meeting.

†Statistics were not received for 7/2023-6/2024; RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018; Oshkosh statistics are from 2021-2022.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Request

To Downers Grove: Alix Gomez (9/10/23)
To Downers Grove: Rachel Bauer
(3/10/24)
To Evanston: Theodore "Ted" Dix
(12/17/23)
To Evanston: Dianne Atkinson (1/21/24)
To Evanston: Murphy Monroe (2/18/24)
To Lake Forest: "Michael" Cunningham
(2/4/24)

By Transfer

To Downers Grove: Judy Wolecki from
57th Street (11/12/23)
To Evanston: Mary Ellen Isaacs from
FrdsMtg Austin (2/18/24)
To Evanston: Martha Tuzson from
FrdsMtg Austin (5/19/24)
To Fox Valley: Judy Gottlieb from
Milwaukee Mtg (2021, not reported)

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Evanston: Molly Conover
(1/1/2024)

By Death

From Clear Creek: Rebecca Siegman
(1/11/24)
From Fox Valley: Alice Howenstine
(12/25/23)
From Lake Forest: Aileen Tyson (5/26/24)
From Urbana-Champaign: Mariellen
Gilpin (7/24/23)

By Transfer:

From Lake Forest: Ouida Courteol Parker
to 1st Friends, Richmond IN (10/1/23)
From Northside: Viv Woodland to Putney
FdsMtg, Vermont (8/13/23)

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

Site fee for ILYM groups:	\$ 25
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per ILYM group:	\$500

Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee
(at cost, according to size) if necessary.

ILYM 2024 PROGRAM

Theme: *Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward*

WEDNESDAY:

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

1:15-4:00 Recreation activities & programs
 for children

1:30-2:15 Worship sharing groups
 2:23-3:45 Workshops

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

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

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

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

SUNDAY

7:30-8:30 Breakfast
 8:15-8:45 Registration table open
 8:45-9:45 Reading of Epistles
 10:00-12:15 Babysitting & childcare in
 play area

10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by
 Grayce Haworth Mesner
 11:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

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

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

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

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

150th Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 19-23, 2024, ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

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 Review 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 of approximately \$300,000 from the estate of Chris Jocius. Other income and expenses are approximately as budgeted. Report accepted.

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. Report accepted.

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 approve 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 Committee of Care and Harassment Review Committee were reintroduced.

Minute 18 Mark McGuinness and Marcia Nelson reported as 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. Report accepted.

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. Report accepted.

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; she hopes this will encourage others to take up the work.

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

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 accept 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. Report accepted.

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. Report accepted.

Minute 29 Dale Gardner reported for the Children’s Religious Education Committee. Attendance this year is good. Report accepted.

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

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 Review 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 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 proposes appointing a representative to Chicago Friends School. Approved.

The committee nominates Sarah Pavlovic and Brandon Harrington to the Epistle Committee. Approved

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. Approved.

Minute 36 Minutes 24–35 were read and approved.

Minute 37 Andrea Kintree reported for Friends Peace Teams. Report 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. Approved, 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. Report accepted.

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. Report accepted.

Minute 40 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes revisions to several parts of the Handbook; see the written report. Report accepted and revisions approved 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. Report accepted.

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. Policy approved as proposed.

The committee also requests to be laid down. Approved 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. Report accepted and establishing the ad hoc committee as proposed approved.

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 a paper with the heading "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.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 22, 2024

Minute 47 The meeting opened in worship.

Minute 48 First-time attenders introduced themselves.

Minute 49 Committee of Care and Harassment Review Committees were reintroduced.

Minute 50 The reading clerk read an excerpt of an epistle from France Yearly Meeting on the theme of welcoming and community, and one from Switzerland Yearly Meeting touching on ubuntu, Pentecost, and other themes.

Minute 51 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee has continued efforts to remove poison hemlock from our grounds. He pointed out features of the pollinator garden. The committee is working with Clear Creek Meeting to replace trees which had to be removed. A retreat is planned for September 7. Report accepted.

Minute 52 Sarah Pavlovic reported as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. QEW makes “mini-grants” available for environmental projects. Young people are especially encouraged to apply. New staff have been hired. Report accepted.

Minute 53 Julia Pantoga reported as representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation. The Section for the Americas has exceeded the goal of its capital campaign. A world plenary is scheduled for August in South Africa; Julia will attend. Friends who would like to attend virtually with other Friends are invited to do so at Lake Forest Meeting meetinghouse; details will be announced. A search is underway for a new executive director for the Section of the Americas. Report accepted.

Minute 54 Kevin Brubaker reported as representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation. FCNL has been advocating strenuously for a ceasefire in Gaza. It has also worked for investigation and accountability for the historical damage done to Native peoples through Indian boarding schools. FCNL, after long and tender discernment, has taken a position opposing the criminalization of abortion services. Report accepted.

Minute 55 Valerie Lester gave a second presentation of the Finance Committee report, including the proposed guidelines for gifts to other organizations and the budget for the upcoming year. The committee also proposes that Continuing Committee be authorized to approve expenses of up to \$10,000 from unrestricted reserves to be used for the commemoration of ILYM’s 150th anniversary next year. Guidelines and budget approved, Continuing Committee authorized to approve 150th anniversary expenses as proposed. Report accepted.

Minute 56 Minutes 47–55 were read and approved.

Minute 57 Meredith George gave a second presentation of the Nominating Committee report, including nominations to offices and committees of the meeting. The earlier proposal that the committee nominate conveners to some committees instead of clerks is not brought back for consideration at this time. Julia Pantoga is nominated as Assistant Clerk, with the expectation that she will begin service as clerk after a year. Julia points out that she will require disability accommodations. Friends expressed enthusiastic support this nomination and gratitude for Julia’s willingness to serve. Report accepted. The full slate of nominations as proposed approved.

Minute 58 Janice Domanik reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee and the Peace Resources Committee. They propose that ILYM endorse the open letter “A Different Future is Possible: Quaker Organizations Share a Vision for Peace in Palestine and Israel.” In long and heartfelt discussion, Friends shared a variety of views. The meeting approves endorsing the letter, with some Friends standing aside.

Minute 59 As a Yearly Meeting, we have wrestled deeply in our discernment about joining the Apartheid-free Communities coalition. For some in ILYM, this initiative speaks clearly to their condition. Others hold deep concerns that the words of the pledge may be counterproductive to our efforts at peacebuilding. We are unable to reach unity as a Yearly Meeting at this time.

The Peace Resources Committee and the Racial Equity & Education Committee propose to join the Apartheid-Free Communities coalition as committees. The Meeting refers this issue to the Continuing Committee. These committees are also urged to consider proposing revisions to their committee descriptions.

Minute 60 Minutes 57–59 were read and approved.

Minute 61 The meeting then concluded.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 23, 2024

Minute 62 The meeting opened with a brief period of worship.

Minute 63 Epistles and reports of activities were presented from the preschool, younger and older primary school, middle school, and high school groups, and were much appreciated by those present.

Minute 64 Candy Boyd read a minute of St. Louis Monthly Meeting calling for a permanent and total ceasefire in Palestine and Israel and for a free flow of humanitarian relief. The meeting also reports that one of its members was assaulted by police while filming a peaceful protest and calls on Friends to work for an end to police brutality.

Minute 65 Pam Kuhn read the outgoing epistle. Epistle approved.

Minute 66 Virginia Schelbert and Richard Graef read their report of the exercises of this gathering, Exercises accepted.

Minute 67 The clerk announced that Fall Continuing Committee will be held at Clear Creek, Tenth Month, 26 2024 and Annual Sessions Sixth Month 18–22, 2025.

Minute 68 Minutes 62–67 were read and approved.

Minute 69 The meeting then concluded.

Kevin Brubaker, Presiding Clerk Peter Lasersohn, Recording Clerk

TRAVEL POLICY

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

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS rate per automobile mile driven in service of charitable organizations (14 cents per mile in 2024) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

EXERCISES

Wednesday, 6/19/2024: Arrival with joyous sounds of welcoming among Friends returning to our yearly meeting campus which was lovingly prepared by 22 Friends who worked so hard in such sweltering heat. The registration process went smoothly due to the diligence of our Administrative Coordinator organizing and planning during the preceding months.

Annual Sessions began with worship and the warm welcoming of guests and first-time attendees by the Presiding Clerk. After the beloved tradition of singing on the front porch before sharing our dinner meal prepared by our returning faithful cooks, we attended a presentation by Joanne Neuroth from Red Cedar's Monthly Meeting in Lansing, Michigan, "Growing the Seed Entrusted to You." A suggestion impressed upon us was the idea of stripping oneself free of the past and of the future as preparation for more centered worship.

Thursday, 6/20/2024: The schedule for today through Saturday was essentially the same, Meeting for Worship and childcare after breakfast followed by Meeting for Business and the Children's Program. After lunch there was time for recreational activities and swimming for the young and worship sharing groups followed by a variety of workshops for the adults which challenged and deepened our spiritual development.

The evening program was a presentation by the heads or a representative of the three Quaker schools in the Midwest region, Chicago Friends, Scattergood Friends and Olney Friends Schools, one of whom requested a representative from ILYM to be on their board.

Friday, 6/21/2024: The heat began to subside, after the day's activities, there was the cherished tradition of dancing on the lawn to the music and expert directions of the caller Jim Hicks. The joyous evening was enjoyed by the participants and observers of all ages, followed by the annual watermelon feast.

Saturday, 6/22/2024: The Memorial Minutes of beloved Friends who had passed on during this past year were read during the morning Meeting for Worship. We were reminded how much the impact of each of their remarkable spiritual lives have enriched so many of our own journeys throughout the years. The refreshing intergenerational Variety Show exhibited a wide range of talent in our community which was enjoyed by many in the afternoon.

In the evening while the children had a campfire and enjoyed s'mores, the adults heard Steve Chase, a Quaker activist, educator, writer, and a member of Friends Meeting of Washington, speak on "Seeking Justice in the Holy Land: Quaker, Zionism and Palestinian Rights."

Sunday, 6/23/2024: The morning began with the reading of the Epistles starting with the younger children progressing in age groups and ending with the Epistle sent by Illinois Yearly Meeting. We now look forward to hearing this year's Plummer Lecture to be presented by Grayce Haworth Mesner, a member of Clear Creek Meeting for over 60 years as well as of Central City Friends in Nebraska. Her talk will be followed by our final Meeting for Worship and our last lunch together. The campus will then be returned to its former state by those who stayed to help cleanup.

During our meetings for worship, we heard vocal ministry, often with messages urging us to open ourselves to the Divine Light within us, open us to the Christ within. We noted the vibrant voices and the happy laughter of our engaged children through the open windows during sessions.

Throughout our time together, many—especially those camping—were serenaded by the song of at 12 different types of birds on the grounds by the meetinghouse. As we prepare to leave, to return to our home meetings, we are grateful for our nourished spirits, our deepened faith and are mindful of the planning for the celebration of ILYM 150th anniversary in 2025.

EPISTLES

2024 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Friends of the Illinois Yearly Meeting held our Annual Sessions from June 19-23, 2024 in McNabb, Illinois. Coming back to our historic meetinghouse year after year, sharing in the preparations and reconnecting with the pastoral environment, centers many of us for the business of the meeting to come. This is a place with deep Quaker roots.

The theme of this year’s sessions was “Nurturing the Spirit, Carrying it Forward,” which we explored through worship sharing, various workshops, and invited speakers. The theme urged us to step back and take time for personal spiritual growth as it gently informed our corporate activities. Ongoing concerns have been to continue faithfully contemplating the future of our meetinghouse and grounds. What does the future of our yearly meeting look like? How can we nurture the meeting going forward?

On the first evening of our sessions, we were joined by Joanne Neuroth from School of the Spirit. She reminded us to take time to stop, set aside our busyness and make room for God, to be like a hollow reed that the Spirit can flow through. This gave us courage to follow the Spirit in our work together in our business sessions.

The presence of the Spirit within our Meeting was apparent as we considered the American Friends Service Committee’s “Apartheid-Free Communities” campaign pledge and a joint statement by several prominent Quaker organizations in response to the Palestine and Israel conflict titled “A Different Future is Possible: Quaker organizations share a vision for peace in Palestine and Israel.” Throughout our discernment, divergent messages were shared. Friends never lost their sense of caring and love for each other as we labored together. After deep worship and sharing, the sense of the meeting was that we were not in unity to sign the “Apartheid-Free Communities” campaign pledge but we were in unity to sign the joint statement “A Different Future is Possible,” with some Friends standing aside.

On the final evening of our sessions, Quaker activist and writer Steve Chase spoke about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. He described how his understanding of the conflict evolved as he researched the region’s complex history and visited the area. His narrative of the history of the region gave us additional context as we carry forward our discernment.

After days of high heat and humidity, our sessions are now concluding on a cool and breezy morning. As we rise from these annual sessions, refreshed by our spiritual nourishment, we go forward into the world bearing witness to the fruits of the Spirit.

We send you loving thoughts as you labor together in the Light,

Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sixth Month 23, 2024

High School Epistle

On Wednesday, waiting for the other half of our members to arrive, we decided to allow the rising 8th graders to join the high school group for the year because their program was very small. Popcorn was burnt and a fuse was blown, and the fuse box was finally found hidden behind a corkboard after 15 minutes of searching. In the evening, Daniel gave a presentation about the situation in Israel and Palestine and lead a discussion about the conflict and the pledge that was going to be proposed to the meeting.

On Thursday, we attended morning business meeting during the deliberations about taking the pledge or not and heard many interesting statements from both sides of the discussion. We attended various workshops, most of which were chosen in part for having a location with air conditioning. We volunteered during dinner, after which most decided they did not enjoy it, while one earnestly stated that it was “so freakin fun”. We began our shirt sales and attended the evening presentation by Quaker schools, including the school Matt graduated from (Chicago Friends School).

On Friday, we continued our presentation about Israel/Palestine from Allie because Daniel was feeling sick. After, Mike talked about AFSC nominating the World Central Kitchen, the charity we chose to donate our shirt sale money to, for a Nobel Peace Prize. We had what is probably the shortest business meeting ever, deciding after 6 minutes that Hannah would be the new co-clerk, and Sam would take over the high school position on the Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee. In the evening, some of us danced, while others ran an impromptu hair salon dying hair purple and blue.

Our out trip was on Saturday, and we went to a climbing gym with bouldering, caves, and rock walls in silos. After that, we went to Mike’s house to have the hot dog lunch we were missing out on and to go swimming in the lake and pool. We attended the variety show, ate dinner, played wink, and went on our graveyard walk. As we were leaving the graveyard, it started pouring rain, so we had to pile into Rose’s minivan and get a ride back to the bunkhouse. We ate pizza with AYF and finished the evening with writing this epistle.

To conclude, we would like to share that we have joined the letter and pledge discussed at this year’s annual sessions. We stand with the yearly meeting in accepting the Quaker Envisioning Statement. And, after multiple presentations and discussions about the topic, as well as attending business meeting and hearing the support and concerns of the wider community, the ILYM High School Friends have decided to join the Apartheid Free Communities Coalition as well. We also strongly encourage Illinois Yearly Meeting and all monthly meetings to join.

Because we interpret this pledge as a commitment for us to take further action, we plan to continue talking about the situation in Palestine and to participate in related service projects. Our first project will be donating the money from our t-shirt fundraiser to World Central Kitchen, a program delivering food relief to Palestine. Still, we recognize that adult voices are often heard sooner and louder than those of young people, and that so much more will be accomplished with us all working as a wider community.

Middle School Epistle

In our group we made new friends. Other things we have done are: we painted a wall and cleaned up the brushes and ourselves; we painted each other as well; we made coats of arms for ourselves; we learned about what SPICES mean; we learned about Bayard

Ruston; we tie-dyed t-shirts and played a board game called Pandemic; we washed paint off ourselves and our hair; we learned about what Quakers in other places do as well as here. This was what we did and had fun with.

Intermediate School Epistle

Every day, Rachel's sound bowl invited Spirit into our group. Young friends who have worshiped at Evanston Meeting taught us these words and motions we want to share: "We gather the energy from the earth, We calm the oceans and our emotions, We hold up the sky, reach for the stars, Bring the light to our hearts" (Repeat 3 times and on the 3rd time add "and share it")

We studied Quakers Bayard Rustin, who lived from 1912-1987, and Alice Howenstine, who lived from 1930-2023. We connected them to the testimonies: Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship of the Earth

Bayard Rustin was a Quaker who was gay and Black in a time when that was not accepted. He refused to fight in World War II and went to prison. In prison he organized protests against segregation and forgave a man who attacked him. Rustin was friends with Martin Luther King, Jr. and organized the March on Washington. He recruited Friends and others who made it happen together.

We had a visit from time traveler John Hoover who lived in the 1800s. He told us about his life going to different Quaker meetings and churches.

We learned about Alice Howenstine through photos and her Plummer lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting. We also interviewed two of her friends. Alice loved outdoor camp and we played camp games. We volunteered for recycling and compost to honor Alice. We made plans to talk to the ILYM Environmental Concerns Committee clerk about a memorial tree for Alice. We also made plans to talk to Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning committee to improve the playground. We made a display about Alice's life that is in the basement.

Primary School Epistle

We started the morning with each one picking a card from the Children's Wellbeing Card, and shared our affirmation and supporting "angel" for the day. We played with friends, ate yummy snacks, played feeling charades, and John Hover came to visit us and we learned about him and his life. He was a blacksmith We made clay objects of what we bring to the world, we did crafts and went to the pool. We talked to each other, we got very sweaty and hot. We had teachers. We went off the diving board at the pool (during swimming, not class time). We played charades with cards, and we read a story called *Let's explore the Quaker Way*. We had so much fun.

**ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024**

	Contribution
Bloomington-Normal MM	2,520.00
Clear Creek MM	5,500.00
Columbia FM	2,030.00
Downers Grove FM	8,800.00
Duneland FM	2,320.00
Evanston MMoF	17,125.00
57th Street MoF	3,770.00
Fox Valley QM	500.00
Lake Forest FM	19,400.00
Northside FM	5,510.00
Oak Park FM	6,000.00
St. Louis MM	9,600.00
Southern Illinois QM	580.00
Spoon River QM	720.00
Urbana-Champaign FM	10,000.00
Total	94,375.00

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

**MONTHLY MEETING
RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER
IS \$290.**

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - BALANCE SHEET

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

	6/30/2024	6/30/2023	
Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	114,247.28	107,198.19	
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restrct Property Imp	38,033.82	35,414.69	
Friends Fiduciary-Unresetricted Designated	<u>558,415.55</u>	<u>240,068.84</u>	
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	710,696.65	382,681.72	
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	689.55	0.00	
Total Current Assets	689.55	0.00	
Total Assets	<u>711,386.20</u>	<u>382,681.72</u>	
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	<u>14,208.44</u>	<u>9,665.62</u>	
Total Liabilities	14,208.44	9,665.62	
Net Assets		FY24 Net Income	
Unrestricted Undesignated			
1 General Operating	<u>60,000.00</u>	<u>60,000.00</u>	
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00	60,000.00	
Unrestricted Designated			
2 Unrestricted Reserves	433,771.27	318,412.45	115,358.82
3 Campus Accessible	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	<u>118,568.22</u>	7,500.00	<u>111,068.22</u>
Total Unrestricted Designated	592,439.49		272,352.04
Temporary Restrictred			
8 Property Impr.	<u>44,738.27</u>	4,074.21	<u>40,664.06</u>
Total Temporary Restricted	44,738.27		40,664.06
Total Net Assets	<u>697,177.76</u>	<u>324,161.66</u>	<u>373,016.10</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>711,386.20</u>		<u>382,681.72</u>

Restricted (*Temporarily Restricted*) funds are received for a specific purpose and can only be used for that purpose. Endowments are permanently restricted funds for which the principle is invested and not spent, but the investment income is considered temporarily restricted and is used for a specific purpose.

Unrestricted (*Unrestricted Undesignated*) funds are received for general operating purposes and are made use of as determined by the business meeting, usually through the approved budget.

Designated (*Unrestricted Designated*) funds have been designated by the business meeting for a specific purpose. The business meeting can approve a change in the designation at any time, move the funds, or revert the funds to general operating purposes.

Friends Fiduciary Fund balances change daily. The value in the Assets section is a snapshot on this report date. Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the ILYM site (land and buildings in McNabb, Ill.) is omitted from the Assets section above.

I LYM Income Statement 1 July 2023 to 30 Jun 2024

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Income							
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
Gatherings-Retreats							
Annual Sessions Registrations	18,228.00						18,228.00
Gifts-Annual Sessions	3,800.00						3,800.00
Total AS Income	22,028.00						22,028.00
Site Use Fees	190.00						190.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	22,218.00						22,218.00
Total Income	167,590.35	297,115.56				1,455.08	466,160.99
Operating Expenses							
Personnel & Office							
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
Total Personnel & Office	66,946.22						66,946.22
YM Travel Support (Reps Travel)	1,942.76			5,300.00			7,242.76
Site & Property Expenses							
Ann. 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
Total Site & Property	28,123.63				8,350.00		36,473.63

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2023 to 30 Jun 2024 (continued)

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Gatherings-Retreats Expenses							
Annual Sessions (AS) Expenses							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,092.21						1,092.21
AS Admin Coor	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 Registration	425.66						425.66
Total Annual Sessions	23,027.26						23,027.26
Total Gatherings-Retreats	23,027.26						23,027.26
Committee Expenses							
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 & Technology	2,078.30						2,078.30
Youth Oversight	2,114.12						2,114.12
Total Committee Expenses	4,809.74						4,809.74
Support to Others	12,650.00	12,000.00		2,700.00			27,350.00
Total Operating Expenses	137,499.61	12,000.00		8,000.00	8,350.00		165,849.61
Operating Income/Loss	30,090.74	285,115.56		-8,000.00	-8,350.00	1,455.08	300,311.38
Other Income and Expense							
Unrealized Gain/Loss		21,231.15				2,619.13	23,850.28

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2023 to 30 Jun 2024 (continued)

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Transfers							
Transfers - Budgeted							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	-1,000.00			1,000.00			0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	-15,850.00				15,850.00		0.00
Total Transfers - Budgeted	-16,850.00			1,000.00	15,850.00		0.00
Transfers - Payroll Reserve		-1,175.00	1,175.00				0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	-13,240.74	13,240.74					0.00
Total Transfers	-30,090.74	12,065.74	1,175.00	1,000.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income/Loss	0.00	318,412.45	1,175.00	-7,000.00	7,500.00	4,074.21	324,161.66

Fund Name Oversight Committee | Description

- 1 **General Operating** Finance | Annual budgeted income and expenses
- 2 **Unrestricted Reserves** Finance | Bequests, large unrestricted gifts, special projects
- 4 **Payroll Reserves** Finance | Self-insurance of Illinois Employment Security (unemployment)
- 5 **FWCC World Meetings** Finance | A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC World Gatherings
- 6 **Maintenance Reserve** Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning | Save for and pay for capital asset maintenance, repair and upgrades
- 8 **Property Improvement** Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning with Development | Restricted by donors for new building projects.

The **Financial Review Committee** is a subcommittee of Finance Committee. It is charged with reviewing any items going over budget and determining how to pay any items consistent with our budget.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OPERATING BUDGET 2024-2025

	2024-2025	2023-2024	2023-2024
	Budget	Budget	Actual
Income			
Contributions-Meetings	103,200	100,950	94,375
Gifts-Individuals	40,000	39,750	39,824
Bank & Investment Income	12,000	8,000	10,263
Misc. Income	0	0	910
Gatherings-Retreats	25,000	23,500	22,218
<i>Total Income</i>	180,200	172,200	167,590
Operating Expenses			
1 Personnel & Office	75,600	73,250	66,946
2 Yearly Meeting Travel Support	2,500	2,000	1,943
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	3,000	2,200	2,385
Mowing, Tree Trimming	4,500	6,500	3,520
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	4,000	4,500	4,114
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	0
Insurance	16,500	15,500	16,192
Caretaker Expenses	1,250	1,250	0
Utilities	3,500	3,500	1,913
<i>Total Site & Property</i>	34,750	35,450	28,124
4 Gatherings-Retreats (AS=Annual Sessions)			
AS Event Expenses (oversight: Admin Coor)	9,000	9,500	6,810
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	10,300	10,000	8,661
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	5,000	3,000	4,876
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	2,750	1,250	1,588
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,750	1,750	1,092
Other Gatherings	0	0	0
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	28,800	25,500	23,027
5 Committees			
Miscellaneous Committee	400		94.52
Adult Young Friends	0	150	0
Children's Religious Education	0	200	0
Development	400	400	356
Environmental Concerns	0	50	0
Finance	0	25	0
Handbook	0	25	0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	0	50	0
Ministry & Advancement	0	50	0
Nominating	0	50	0
Peace Resources	0	50	0
Peace Tax Fund	0	25	0
Personnel	0	25	167
Publications & Technology	3,000	3,000	2,078
Youth Oversight	2,400	2,400	2,114
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	6,200	6,500	4,810

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2024-2025
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2024-2025 Budget	2023-2024 Budget	2023-2024 Actual
6 Support to Others			
Quaker organizations that support the yearly meeting			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	5,000	4,400	4,400
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	5,000	3,850	3,850
Quaker organizations that Nurture ILYM Friends			
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	250	100	100
Friends Journal	250	250	250
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	300	350	350
Scattergood School and Farm	300	250	250
Earlham College	300	250	250
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	300	125	125
Olney Friends School	300	125	125
Quaker organizations that support our testimonies			
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	500	500	500
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation (FCNL)	500	500	500
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	350	350	350
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	500	300	300
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	350	350	350
Project Lakota/Ville	350	250	250
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	350	100	100
Organizations that support the work of our committees			
National Relgs Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	100	100	100
Black Lives Matter/Chicago Alliance (CAARPR)	500	500	500
<i>Total Support to Others</i>	15,500	12,650	12,650
Total Operating Expenses	163,350	155,350	137,500
Transfers			
To Maintenance Reserve	15,850	15,850	15,850
To FWCC World Meetings	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Unrestricted Reserves	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,240</u>
<i>Total Transfers</i>	16,850	16,850	30,090
Total Expenses + Total Transfers	180,200	172,200	167,590
Net Income/Deficit	0	0	0

ILYM REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 9)

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (See Minute 51)

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 and 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 and 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 outside 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

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minutes 8, 55)

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

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minute 40)

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/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:
- a. Prepare the printing of the ILYM Directory.
- b. Communicate with other Quaker organizations, providing names of new representatives
- c. Respond to requests for information and engage in correspondence related to the operation of the yearly meeting.
- d. Provide and distribute the official ILYM stationery.
- e. Distributes ILYM epistle to other yearly meetings.
- f. Minute Book:
- Prepares the statistics chart,
 - Additions and Losses by Name page,
 - Appointments and committee lists, and
 - Registration report.
 - Coordinates and collects documents and sees to the preparation of the Minute Book.
- 3 and 4. Records and other office functions throughout the year:
- a. Update address database and yearly meeting events listing
- 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.
- b. Log Books:
- Maintain and distribute ILYM Planning Group Log Books (mainly online)
 - Maintains log books, including Administrative Coordinator Log.
- c. Maintain files of ILYM committee minutes.
- d. Maintain schedule for use of ILYM campus.
- e. Distribute Site Use Brochure and information about use as requested. Keeps record of site use.

f. Website:

- Post information to the website as needed.
- Post most current issue of Handbook on the website and distribute print copies as needed.

g. Prepare and send out annual appeal letter for Development Committee

h. 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.

[2023, Minute 49]

MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND ENVISIONING COMMITTEE & STEWARDS

(See Minute 41)

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

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 19)

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.

CO-FIELD SECRETARIES (See Minute 18)

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 12, 35, 57)

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 convener 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.

New appointments:

Assistant Clerk: Julia Pantoga (assists 2025, clerks 2026,2027, assists 2028)

Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek (2027) (3 year term, renewable as appropriate)

Co-Treasurers: Ted Kuhn (2027)

Among Friends Editor: Ted Kuhn (2027)

2024 Epistle Committee: Pam Kuhn, Sarah Pavlovic, Brandon Harrington

Children's Religious Education : Clerk: Dale Gardner; 2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin

Development: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny (2027)

Environmental Concerns: Clerk: Noel Pavlovic; Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba

Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann (2027)

Finance: Val Lester, Judy Jager (2027)

Handbook: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer (2027)

Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen (2027)

Ministry & Advancement: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom (2027)

Peace Resources: Clerk: Mark McGinnis; Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi (2027)

Publications & Technology: Clerk: Dawn Crimson; Lilith Swygert (Technology) (2025);

Nathan Lasserson (2027)

Racial Equity and Education: Clerk: Daniel Lakemacher; Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner (2027)

Youth Oversight: Mike Dennis, Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher (2027)

AFSC: Frank Young, Beth Burbank (2027)

FCNL: Kevin Brubaker (2027)

Chicago Friends School: Sallyann Garner (2025)

Peace Resources Committee (See Minute 21)

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 cohort 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.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (See Minute 39)

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.

PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (See Minute 38)

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

RACIAL EQUITY AND EDUCATION (See Minutes 22, 44, 58, 59)

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, consider joining this network, and communicate within the yearly meeting their collective actions to dismantle apartheid based on our testimonies.

STEWARDS (See Minute 41)

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

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 28)

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

We had to canceled spring Memorial Day Quake as it was difficult due to graduation timing. We are however looking forward to Annual Session as it looks like we will have at least seven teens in attendance. Some of the plans include:

- Wednesday night: work on question for Quaker schools program.
- Thursday/Friday: Daniel Lakemacher is leading a workshop on understanding what is happening in Gaza and efforts to understand the multiple perspectives; We are also going to encourage teens to attend the three-part workshop Daniel is doing with Steve Chase titled, "To Heal & Repair the World: Tapping the power of nonviolent movements and campaigns."
- Thursday night: ILYM teens will moderate a discussion with representatives from Quaker schools (and getting their teens involved in the Quake that Rocks the Midwest.)
- Friday: Michael Dennis is leading a workshop on the work of AFSC and the process for nominating the World Central Kitchen for a Nobel Peace Prize through AFSC.
- Friday night: dancing on the lawn and watermelon
- Saturday: out trip to upper limits indoor rock climbing gym in Bloomington
- Sunday: Plummer lecture and help cleaning up

This year the teens have also created a "SPICY" t-shirt and will be selling them for \$20/shirt (or \$15/shirt if you buy two or more). Funds will be donated to helping the Adult Young Friends have a place to stay at ILYM.

During the coming year, we will seek permission to hold the following events:

- Fall (9/24) and Spring (4/25) Quake in collaboration with Blue River Quarterly
- Quake that Rocked the Midwest at Evanston Friends Meetinghouse on MLK (1/17-20/2025)

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

AFSC REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute 24)

Excerpts from ILYM Handbook, American Friends Service Committee 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

FGC REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute20)

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 were 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

FPT REPRESENTATIVE (See Minute 37)

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.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute 53)

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, AZ. Additional information about this meeting will be distributed in the ILYM announcements.

QUAKER EARTH CARE WITNESS REPRESENTATIVE (See Minute 52)

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

SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES (See Minute 30)

Chicago Friends

Chicago Friends School is the only Quaker school in Illinois. Located in the Edgewater neighborhood, we serve students from Chicago and Evanston. We serve families of all religions, including Quaker. 33% of our families identify as a race other than white and 33% of students speak a language other than English at home. 14% of our students and 50% of our staff identify as LGBTQIA+. Over 50% of our students and staff are neurodiverse in some way. Our admissions practices specifically build relationships with people in all of these communities so we can continue to build, strengthen, and support a diverse school.

Quaker values and practices inform how we do business, educate students, and engage in community with one another. During community meeting, we spend time in silence together. Queries can help students and staff focus their thoughts. We also serve our community. This year we focused on building relationships with refugee families who were housed mere blocks from the school through ESL classes in cooperation with other community service organizations. Our students hosted a field day for the kids of those migrants to welcome them to the community.

One goal for Chicago Friends School is to expand the reach of Quaker education. We have become an important link in the chain of Quaker high schools and colleges. Our eighth-grade graduates have gone to Quaker high schools. And one of our first eighth-grade graduates is now headed to Earlham College. Additionally, each year we graduate students who have been accepted into the city's most prestigious public schools. One of those students spoke to a gathering about how valuable his learning about simplicity, integrity, and equality have been in their new school. Chicago Friends encourages the light within each of our students to grow and strengthen that they may bring that light out into the world and live purpose-filled lives.

As one 8th-grade put it, "...what I'll take with me... is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, and it is something that we have all learned to value deeply during our time in Chicago friends. Integrity means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. It means being truthful, reliable, and fair."

Chicago Friends School is grateful for the support of the Quaker community. We look forward to continued support and are always looking for people to serve on the board, board committees, or as volunteers for the school. We also encourage anyone who knows a family who would be interested in our school to contact our head or admissions coordinator.

Katherine Young

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, 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

POLICY CONSIDERING GIFTS TO OTHERS (See Minute 8)

Illinois Yearly Meeting 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 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.

MP&E WORKING GROUP (See Minute 43)

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

PROPERTY USE AD-HOC (See Minute 42)

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.

DIFFERENT FUTURE IS POSSIBLE (See Minute 58)

For centuries, Quakers have worked for peace. This mission is a practical expression of the nonviolent message of the gospels and the teaching reflected in the many religions around the world: love your neighbor as yourself.

Quakers believe in the inherent worth of every individual and have a history of supporting both Palestinian and Israeli communities in the region. One of our organizations, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), established the first refugee camps in Gaza in 1949 and continues to work in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel today. Indeed, we have a longstanding presence in what is now Israel and Palestine, dating back to the 1800s. Quakers established the Ramallah Friends Schools over 150 years ago, one of the first institutions to educate Palestinian women. Palestinian Quakers continue to worship at the historic Friends Meeting House in Ramallah.

With these deep roots, we speak with firsthand knowledge. In a context where entrenched inequality, violence, and injustice have persisted for decades, we anticipated that desperation would eventually boil over - and sadly, it has.

The last six months have been marked by constant grief. The devastating attack by Hamas on October 7th in Israel claimed the lives of 1,163 Israelis and resulted in over 250 people being taken hostage. As of early April 2024, Israel's subsequent attacks on Gaza have killed at least 33,000 Palestinians, with thousands missing and presumed dead under the rubble. Since October 7th, over 7,500 Palestinians from the West Bank and thousands more from Gaza, including children, have been imprisoned, many without charge or trial. Shockingly, more than 40 percent of those killed in Gaza have been children, surpassing the global count of child casualties in all other conflicts from 2019 to 2022. Countless children have been orphaned and maimed as a result.

In Gaza, hospitals, schools, universities, aid distribution centers, mosques, and churches have all been bombed and destroyed, leaving no safe space. Over 70% of homes have been damaged or destroyed, with more than 1.9 million people displaced.

Essential systems such as healthcare, water, and sanitation have collapsed, leading to preventable deaths, surgeries without anesthesia, and pregnant women giving birth in tents and without proper care.

AFSC staff in Gaza have shared horrendous accounts of starvation used as a tool of war. Children in Gaza are starving to death. The World Health Organization predicts that up to 80,000 more lives will be lost to disease and starvation if no immediate action is taken. This crisis surpasses anything many of us have witnessed in our decades of responding to disasters worldwide.

The continued restrictions on aid access and Israel's failure to respect and protect humanitarian workers have created an environment where it is nearly impossible for organizations to provide assistance. This dire situation has pushed the Gaza population to the brink of extreme food insecurity and imminent famine. Hundreds of local and foreign aid workers have been targeted and killed, and AFSC's relief staff continue to face extreme insecurity, sharing with us that they are "still alive by chance."

Disturbingly, instead of increasing aid provisions, major actors such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and other members of the international community have cut off or delayed funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Unproven Israeli allegations linking UNRWA employees to the October 7th attack have had severe repercussions on the welfare of the most vulnerable population the agency serves.

Immediate action is needed so that killings and suffering can end. That starts with a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages and prisoners, and unrestricted humanitarian access in Gaza.

In January, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel's actions in Gaza might constitute genocide. Regrettably, Israel has taken no steps to change its behavior since this ruling, ignoring the court's provisional measures. Western governments, especially the United States, the United Kingdom, and key European states, continue to provide arms and support to Israel. Their complicity, along with unilateral vetoes preventing repeated ceasefire resolutions at the UN Security Council, raises concerns about international commitments to multilateralism and respect for international legal frameworks.

Finally, Western leaders must look beyond this moment and work towards achieving a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel. Violence is not limited to Gaza. More than 500 Palestinians, including more than 100 children, have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli soldiers and settlers since October 7. Settler and military violence has resulted in the complete depopulation of 16 Palestinian villages, causing fear and tension to permeate the whole population. Restricting worship and access to mosques and churches further infringes on freedom of worship and exacerbates tensions.

Over the last several years, a growing number of international human rights organizations have recognized Israel's treatment of Palestinians as meeting the legal definition of apartheid. In the face of this pervasive injustice, Quakers stand firm in our witness, as we have throughout history against racial inequality, South African apartheid, and all forms of war.

Even in this time of violence and pain, we hold the belief that a different future, free from injustice and violence, is possible. Lasting peace and reconciliation will be realized when both past and ongoing injustices are acknowledged and addressed, ensuring freedom, dignity, equal rights, and justice for all people living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Let us work together to make this vision a reality.

Now is the time for action. As Quakers and as peacemakers we are called to actively live into our testimonies of equality and peace. To this end, we urgently put forward these calls to action:

To the Israeli government:

1. End attacks on Gaza, commit to a permanent ceasefire, withdraw from reoccupied areas of Gaza, and end the Gaza blockade.
2. Cease settler and military violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
3. Guarantee uninterrupted, unconditional, swift, and adequate humanitarian access in Gaza and open land crossings.
4. Hold accountable those who have violated the law or committed human rights abuses, including settlers.

5. Release Palestinian political prisoners and hostages and provide fair trials following international standards free from coercion, torture, and abuse.

6. Guarantee the self-determination of Palestinians by ending its occupation of all Palestinian territory and ensure Palestinians and Israelis share equal human, political, and civil rights currently denied under Israeli Occupation.

To Hamas and other armed Palestinian groups:

1. Release Israeli hostages.
2. Commit to and maintain a permanent ceasefire as a long-term, just, and sustainable peace is sought.
3. Hold accountable those who have violated the law or committed human rights abuses.

To Western leaders and the US and UK governments in particular:

1. Urgently press for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel.
2. End complicity in Israeli human rights violations and exert levers of power with immediate economic and political pressure on the government of Israel, including imposing an arms embargo.
3. Actively work to ensure uninterrupted humanitarian access in Gaza, especially through ground entry points, and commit to funding and protecting UNRWA.
4. Hold accountable those who have violated the law or committed human rights abuses.
5. Uphold international law, demand equal accountability for State and non-state actors, and enforce the ICJ provisions imposed on Israel.
6. Support an end to Israel's occupation and equal protection and rights for all.
7. Ensure an inclusive political process for peace that incorporates all voices, perspectives, and political factions, especially those marginalized or acting as potential spoilers and those most affected by injustice and violence.

As Friends, we will continue to support the global community of Quakers to:

1. Urgently call and fervently work for a permanent ceasefire and amplify our voices in our communities and at the local, state, and national levels.
2. Encourage decision-makers calling for a ceasefire and working for peace.
3. Organize and participate in teach-ins, actions, and protests until a ceasefire and a just and lasting peace are realized.
4. Actively support an end to Israel's occupation and equal protection and rights for all people living under Israeli control and commit to actions as meetings/churches until this reality is realized.
5. Divest from corporations profiting from militarism, including the occupation of Palestine.
6. Support those in Israel and Palestine who are working for peace.

MEMORIALS

MARIELLEN OWENS GILPIN (1904-2023)

Mariellen Gilpin was a faithful Friend, a storyteller, writer, editor, and mentor. Mariellen was born on October 7, 1940, and died on July 24, 2023. She grew up on a farm near Pendleton, Indiana, with her parents, older brother, and her grandmother. She was actively involved in many farm tasks, including raising vegetables and tending the cows and pigs. In later years, she told memorable stories during meeting for worship, about her experiences on the farm, and she wrote about them in Quaker publications. One of these stories, “Light Enough,” provides insight into her life journey. It recalls a time in Mariellen’s childhood when, on a moonless night, she was asked to help her father reunite a baby calf with its mother. Mariellen wanted to take a flashlight with her, but her father said they would not need it. Indeed, Mariellen recognized each of the cows in the dark, and she and her father carefully and slowly moved the calf through the field and gate to its mother. There was light enough.

Mariellen discovered Friends’ manner of worship in 1958 when she left home to attend Earlham College. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Earlham in 1963. That same summer, she married John Gilpin and moved to Champaign, Illinois, where he was working at the university. Mariellen earned a master’s degree in the teaching of English at the University of Illinois in 1965. She spent most of her career designing instructional materials for the Computer-Based Education Research Laboratory at the university.

On the first Sunday after Mariellen and John were married, they began attending meeting for worship at the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. Mariellen became a member in 1967. She frequently offered ministry during silent worship, using stories from her childhood and reflections on her personal challenges and spiritual experiences. She served on many committees in the meeting throughout the years and was clerk from 2004 to 2007. Mariellen was also active in Illinois Yearly Meeting. She led workshops during Annual Sessions, served on Ministry and Advancement for many years, including a stint as clerk, and regularly attended Women’s Weekend.

Mariellen was well-known for her insightful writing and her editing skills. She wrote a Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *God’s Healing Grace: Reflections of a Journey with Mental and Spiritual Illness*. Her articles appeared in Quaker publications, including *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, and *What Canst Thou Say?* (WCTS). For many years, she was the heart and soul of WCTS. In addition to writing articles, she solicited submissions and developed supportive, encouraging relationships with budding authors. She also recruited most current members to join the WCTS volunteer editorial and production team. Mariellen edited two books, *Discovery of God as Companion* and *Intimacy with God*, which featured stories that were first published in WCTS.

Mariellen was very open about her struggle with mental illness in the 1970s and 1980s, long before most people were. She spoke out frankly in meeting for worship about her symptoms, her prescribed medications and their crippling side effects, and her journey to recovery. In these decades, she was hospitalized several times and given medications, which calmed her symptoms, but made it difficult for her to think clearly. In 1984, she started attending GROW meetings, a self-help group in Champaign-Urbana where she learned new ways of thinking and acting. Eventually she became a group leader in the organization and wrote articles for its quarterly publication. She was able to

develop a strategy for managing her mental illness and reducing her medications. She shared these strategies with others in need of a listening ear.

Many folks at Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting recall that Mariellen was the first person to make them feel welcome. She often invited newcomers to lunch or to meet at the library for conversation. She encouraged those she mentored to share their experiences and she listened without judgment. She helped people to have a fresh perspective on a problem. Occasionally she might offer a bit of advice, but did not insist that they take it. She helped her mentees to process difficult and traumatic events in a loving and careful manner. Being open about her mental illness gave others permission to share troubling experiences. She was gentle, unhurried, and calm.

There is light enough.

ALICE HOWENSTINE (1930-2023)

Alice Howenstine, beloved member of Fox Valley Quaker Meeting (ILYM), died on December 25, 2023, at home, surrounded by family. She was 93 years old. She and her husband Bill were among the founders of the Fox Valley Quaker meeting in McHenry County, Illinois. Their Pioneer Farm home has been the Quaker meeting space for many years.

Alice and Bill were drawn together by a deep appreciation of the natural world. As a child, Alice attended a summer camp near Cleveland, Ohio where Bill was a nature counselor. Eventually, she joined the camp staff and Bill became assistant director. A slow gentle acquaintance grew over many years and they developed a deep mutual appreciation for one another.

Alice and Bill both joined the Cleveland Monthly Meeting and in 1951 were wed in the manner of Friends, outdoors, on the edge of Hiram College. As part of the wedding, they sang to each other the duet “Because.”

Alice completed a bachelor’s degree in Education at nearby Hiram College. She appreciated music and loved to sing, but combining singing with her camping work turned out incompatible with the maintenance of her voice. She turned down the lead role in the Hiram College production of the opera Carmen in order to continue her work in camping.

Alice joined Bill living and working at a school camp operated by the Cleveland Heights public schools. There they had three children. In 1960, they moved to Chicago when Bill took a teaching position at a new Teacher’s College.

Four years later they volunteered with the American Friends Service Committee and took their three young children first to a village in Mexico for a summer and then to Peru for a year, with. In Peru, Alice and Bill worked closely with a new low-income settlement in the desert outside of Lima

A year later, Bill and Alice were asked to lead an innovative residential program for college students based at a farm belonging to Pikeville College in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. There, Alice helped build community among the dozen participating college students from around the country, and with their mountain neighbors up and down Johns Creek.

On returning to Illinois in 1969, Alice and Bill purchased a northern Illinois farm, where Alice started a residential camp in the summer and provided day-long, outdoor educational experiences to scout groups and elementary school classes throughout the year. In a 2020 nomination for the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, it was said “Alice has an amazing ability to make every discussion, hike, and hayride educational. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and through ... hundreds of encounters she was able to instill in others an

appreciation and respect for the natural environment.” Their farm, called Pioneer Farm, continues to be a place for individuals and families to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors.

Alice was instrumental in the early years of the McHenry County Environmental Defenders. Her Outdoor Hall of Fame nomination said, “Alice has been acknowledged for decades as the inspiration, soul, and quiet but powerful, taskmaster behind the continuing success of McHenry County’s recycling efforts...”. In 1979, she completed a Master’s degree from Northeastern Illinois University, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Her thesis on resource recovery in McHenry County helped guide early recycling efforts for the county and region.

Alice and Bill Howenstine were among the founding members of Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature), a North American network of Quakers working towards ecological integrity and environmental justice. They helped establish and support a collective farm in Costa Rica that pioneered ecological land use.

In 2017, Alice gave the Jonathon Plummer Lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, *Life is a Gift and a Responsibility*. It radiates with her humor, her deep respect for the environment, and her activities with family and friends, reflecting love, laughter, and community.

Throughout her extraordinary life Alice Howenstine was consistently a loving, encouraging, attentive, and exemplary mother. She is dearly missed.

CHRIS JOCIUS (1943-2023)

Chris Jocius was born in Chicago on September 2, 1943, and died on June 27, 2023. He first encountered Quakers when he sought Conscientious Objector status in 1968 during the Vietnam War. He was helped and supported during this process by the Chicago office of the American Friends Service Committee. He considered himself a Friend ever after, but did not seek membership immediately, not wanting to take any shortcuts to becoming a conscientious objector.

Chris dropped out of his Master’s degree program in Russian history at Northern Illinois University (where he would have had a student deferment) when he felt a calling to seek conscientious objector status. After several appeals to his local and state draft boards over a ten month period, he was finally granted this status in December 1968. He found alternative service in a Church of the Brethren Volunteer in Service project in Poland. There he taught English in the Foreign Language Department of the Agricultural University of Warsaw for two years. He unfolds his arduous, moving ordeal: both in a 2003 Plummer Lecture at Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions and in a 2017 series of presentations by five conscientious objectors in the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting: one to World War II, three to the Vietnam War, and one to the Iraq war.

Chris’s life-long passion was to connect people with books and articles that suited their interests and to provide them with information that they needed. To further this goal, he completed his Master’s degree in Library Science at the University of Illinois, training to become the ideal reference librarian. There he began attending the U-C Friends Meeting, where he was active on various committees and served as clerk in 1983-84. A Friend who, as a relatively new member became the next clerk, remembers Chris’s patient thoughtful mentorship.

Chris first attended Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in 1980 when assigned to drive Rebecca Ayars there from Urbana for her Plummer Lecture. Thereafter he proved indispensable to ILYM. As an ILYM representative to the Friends General Conference, he was on the Publications Committee and later became its clerk. Because of his work with

prison libraries, he became a consultant to a national AFSC Committee on Prisons. Chris also served on numerous ILYM committees including Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning, Nominating, Publications, Religious Education, and Ministry and Advancement. A Friend remembers Chris at the ILYM site on prep work days as the go-fer, the person who crisscrossed the campus, asking people if they needed anything, making lists, and doing the shopping.

In 1989, Chris moved to Aurora, Illinois, to become the Reference Librarian at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. During his fourteen years in the Chicago area, he was a much-loved member of the Downers Grove Friends Meeting. Chris served on Worship and Ministry and many clearness committees where his discernment and groundedness were much appreciated. He also created a program in Adult Religious Education where passages from books were read aloud; folks freely shared their deep personal experiences connected to the readings in an atmosphere of complete trust. His research on lesser-known but vital Quakers led to workshops at ILYM Annual Sessions. In 2003, Chris moved to become Head of Library Reference at the Missouri Institute of Science and Technology in Rolla and participated in the small Friends meeting there.

When he retired in 2014, Chris moved back to Urbana and rejoined the U-C Friends Meeting. He will be remembered as a cheerful greeter before Meetings for Worship. He regularly served on the Library Committee, buying many books for the meeting library with the funds available from a bequest. He regularly shared his book recommendations at the end of Meeting for Worship. He always had spot-on recommendations for individual members and often loaned them books from his private collection. He listened deeply with nurturing responsiveness. He modeled our Adult Education sessions on those at Downers Grove; attenders especially appreciated being introduced to Margaret Hope Bacon's *Mothers of Feminism: The Story of Quaker Women in America*.

His principled conscience, his sensitivity to the needs of others, and his quiet accomplishments are testimony to his spiritual gifts.

JACK OSTERGAARD (1953-2023)

Jack Ostergaard passed away in his home in Naperville, Illinois on June 3, 2023, after a multi-year battle with prostate cancer. He was born on February 24, 1953, in Chicago and grew up in nearby Wilmet. He graduated from architecture school at the University of New Mexico where he met his future wife, Jane, also an architect. They then moved to Naperville to work and raise their family.

Jack was an avid woodworker and every year he hand-carved personal Christmas ornaments for family members. He was active in the community, serving as Scout Pack Leader and Assistant Scout Master, and assisting with Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby Cars. He was a soccer referee and chair of his homeowner's association Architecture Committee. Jack was a lover of history which he shared with his oldest child, Tyler.

When their three children were young, Jack and Jane joined Downers Grove Friends Meeting. Jack served on the Building Committee where his skills were first critical to keeping the old meetinghouse building functioning, and then in the planning and construction of the new meetinghouse. Jack generously evaluated the plans as well as the contractors, scrutinizing the smallest details to help make the meetinghouse fit both the meeting's needs and budget. For 30 years, Jack also helped keep meeting members connected by printing, mailing, and filing the monthly meeting for business minutes and newsletters. Even in the digital age, the meeting needed the print copies that Jack steadfastly provided.

Jack is survived by his wife Jane, his children Tyler (Sarah), Emily (Daniel), and Sam (Madeline), his grandchildren William, Abigail, Theodore, Quinn, and Sophia, and his siblings Jill and Jerry.

MARY REBECCA “BECKY” SIEGMAN (1943-2024)

Becky was born October 21, 1943 to Maurice and Mary (Smith) McGhiey. She graduated from the Magnolia-Swaney High School, then worked in Chicago for United Airlines as a key-punch operator. In 1961, she married Gene Richard and they both joined Clear Creek Meeting in February 1971. They raised their two children, Kerry and Rex, in the local community. They later were divorced.

Becky struggled with Multiple Sclerosis for decades, but always showed grace in every struggle and shared her faith with everyone near her. She began raising and showing Arabian horses in 1968. When she could no longer do that, she worked as a bookkeeper for her father at the Priscilla Grain Co. in rural Lostant. Her last employment was as a bookkeeper for Rice Electric. Later in life she married a childhood friend, Dale Siegman in April 1998. They were active in the horse riding community.

She joined the Clear Creek Cemetery Committee in 1996 and in 2001 she took the position of secretary, which she held for about ten years, until it was too hard for her to get to the meetings on a regular basis. Though still a member, she had been attending different churches in Putnam and Marshall Counties.

Becky died January 12, 2024 at the age of 80, at The Loft in Eureka, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale, her parents and two brothers, Mickey (at age 10) and Ted (at age 27). Surviving are her children, Kerry (Bob) Fisher and Rex (Amy) Richard, sister-in-law, Sue McGhiey Campbell and grandchildren, Rachel, Anna and Kerra Fisher and Caleb and Ava Richard. Services were held January 31, at the Dysart Funeral Home in Granville followed by burial at the Cumberland Cemetery in rural Wenona.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

We continue to rebuild the spiritual life of our meeting community after some major disruptions of the past few years. During 2023-24, a few core members have also been frequently absent from our presence due to family needs out of state, leaving fewer Friends in Bloomington-Normal to give the meeting stability, vitality and leadership.

We have a shared concern within the meeting that it will be very difficult to grow a group that may not appear well-supported or vibrant to a new attendee. Our core of members and attendees present at weekly worship is often less than five. We have been unsure what to do regarding a loss of participation by some former members and by adult children who grew up as part of the meeting and still live in the area. We have several individuals involved in justice actions around our area, but no ongoing sustained volunteering as a whole group in one endeavor. We have some generous donations from attendees that we will consider with care how to put to the best use to further shared goals.

One way of continued connection with area Friends has been the Women’s Meeting for Eating, a monthly potluck dinner hosted at Friends’ homes. The participants include local

Friends who are not regular worship attenders, Clear Creek Friends who live in the Bloomington-Normal area, and a few Urbana-Champaign Friends able and willing to travel.

In the past year, our meeting has fostered a revival of First Day School. It is a joy that we have been able to offer two First Day School program days per month starting in 2024. We have a solid group of regularly-attending students who are active participants, and adults to volunteer. This is an area of spiritual nurturance that has been a long-time concern for us, and we have struggled for several years to make First Day School a living, active part of our local meeting. Children from our meeting have also been participating in activities at Blue River Quarterly and Illinois Yearly Meeting sessions.

We are grateful for the service of attender Peter Roth in leading monthly Adult Education hour. Over the past year, we have been reading and discussing sections of Illinois Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. Newcomers and long-time Friends alike are finding passages that inspire new ways of conceiving of our faith and how we enact Quaker process.

With the donation of books and shelves from Chris Jocius of Urbana-Champaign Friends, our meeting was able to start the Bloomington-Normal Friends Jocius Library, which resides in our meeting space at Normandy Village in Normal. We have also added resources from B-N Friends' personal libraries to share them with each other more freely. The most-used sections so far have been children's books and religious education resources. The library is also available to non-Friends who work in and visit the building during the week, raising the visibility of the Friends meeting that shares their space and letting Friends share our materials with a slightly wider community.

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

The Burlington Worship Group is seeking to reconnect with previous participants that stepped aside throughout the pandemic. With the guidance of Field Secretary Mark McGinnis, we are starting a several sessions Zoom meeting, "Exploring Quakerism."

We hope to build our sense of this faith experience, Quakerism. We, also, seek to strengthen our relationships with each other in this process.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Clear Creek continues to be a loving and deeply spiritual community. While our worship is largely silent, there is a strong sense of connectedness with each other and the Divine. Our numbers are small, particularly during the winter months, so we are always happy when Friends visit.

We mark the beginning of our year with our annual Easter celebration. That includes worship, a potluck lunch, and an egg hunt for children. We are glad to see extended families of our regular attenders and other Friends and friends we do not see often.

Spring saw the return of our snowbirds and yearly meeting activities, starting with workday in May. The work done this day helped clean up the grounds after the winter and to begin work on preparing the campus for Annual Sessions. Much of the work needed this past year had to do with tree damage sustained in various storms. One of our contributions to the effort of preparing for Annual Sessions was to wash or replace all the curtains in Clear Creek House.

In June, we welcomed back Friends from throughout the yearly meeting and enjoyed catching up with them as well as seeing and hearing children swarm across the grounds. It gets pretty quiet once they all leave. We are excited to see the planning going forward to celebrate the 150th anniversary of ILYM in 2025.

This year we continued our support of our affiliated students by providing scholarships for their college and training school educations. We are grateful to have a memorial fund designated for this purpose.

We were glad to host a Writer's Retreat in August. This experiment was led by the Property Use ad hoc committee of ILYM. It was wonderful to see the grounds being used beyond Annual Sessions and hope to see more such retreats when all the logistics are settled.

When former caretaker Judy Reese left, she was unable to take with her a number of her possessions. When our cleaning lady had a yard sale in August, she offered to sell those items for Judy which pleased Judy exceedingly.

The October workday brought more Friends to campus and more work was accomplished. At the recommendation of a tree expert, the two large maples east of Clear Creek House were removed later in the Fall. While we miss the trees, we understand that their removal was necessary and look forward to seeing what Environmental Concerns selects to replace them.

During the winter our long-serving treasurer, Kay Drake, decided to step down. We are grateful for her many years of faithful service. Mike Murphy will assume those duties when Kay returns from Arizona in April.

We look forward to the spring and the return of activities to the campus.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

With the transition from "red flag" mandatory mask wearing to "green flag" no mask wearing required, the smiles at Downers Grove Friends Meeting were finally visible. Now we are working to rebuild and strengthen community within our meeting. We continue with options for how we hold Meeting for Worship: two Sundays that do not include technology during which some Friends also meet online for a virtual-only meeting, and two Sundays are a hybrid meeting which includes both remote and in-person worship. Yet it is with sadness that all Friends still do not worship together; some unable to worship in the presence of a computer and others wanting to support those who can only meet online. We are holding each other in the Light to find a way for everyone to worship together.

An unexpected benefit of the pandemic was an increase in the numbers of Friends attending Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business when it moved to our Virtual Meetinghouse on Zoom. However, some Friends find this platform less spiritual and communal as our former in-person meeting. We are exploring a hybrid format to accommodate our needs so that we will continue to build connections with each other.

We nurtured our spiritual life and community with several activities in the past year. In November, we held an on-site retreat led by Marcia Nelson. The topic of "Mysticism" brought together thirteen people, who became so involved in the discussion with each other that not all topics could be covered, and are anticipating another session. We are gratified that we are regularly offering Q101, and that new attenders are also eager to delve into Q102.

We build fellowship by coming together in common activities. In addition to our Aging and Saging, Friday Sewing, and Online Fellowship groups, we resumed fourth Sunday potlucks last April. We enjoyed time with each other so much during a spring landscape workday that we decided to call our summer landscape workday a "Fellowship Retreat" and after working, we ate together and enjoyed conversation. We hold an in-person Meeting for Worship on Thursday evening, and Worship Sharing once a month. Quaker 101/102, potluck and the other activities are good ways to introduce new people

to the Quaker community. Also, spouses and significant others who do not attend worship feel comfortable participating.

We had many transitions this year that have affected our community. We mourned the loss of Friend Jack Ostergaard as well as attender Robert L. Eisen. Many of us also mourned for Chris Jocius, a beloved former member of our meeting. We said a bittersweet goodbye to members Pam and Bruce Wolfe who moved to Urbana this year, leaving many holes to be filled by others. With joy we celebrated four new members this year: the transfer of Cathy Smith from York (PA) Meeting, Judy Wolicki from 57th Street Meeting, and new members Alix Gomez and Rachel Bauer.

In addition to building connections within our meeting, the query from PYM, “How does our meeting communicate Friends' presence and principles to the wider community?”, reminds us of the importance of building connections outside of our meeting.

As a result of the ILYM-sponsored presentation by Paula Palmer, DGFm joined the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. A new transfer member found that we are open to various viewpoints, such as abortion. Before DGFm, the Friend had never heard of a dual meeting—a connection to both Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting. Being invited by DGFm members to lunch with FUM's Western Yearly Meeting General Superintendent Shawn McConaughy and his wife Katrina led to hearing different viewpoints. We are connecting with the United Society of Friends Women and hope to publicize their Reading List books.

The war in the Mideast sits heavy with us. We minuted our support of a cease-fire between Palestine and Israel, with two Friends from our meeting and a Friend from Northside delivered a copy to our state senators' offices. Several of us also participate in the ILYM Meeting for Healing between Palestine and Israel, encouraging other Friends in ILYM to join us once a month, hosted in our Virtual Meetinghouse.

With the Light in our midst, we will continue to find ways to be present with each other and with the wider Quaker community.

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

This year's state of society from Duneland Friends Meeting was composed by asking Friends for individual reflections on the spiritual health of our meeting. This report is a result of the combining of and further discernment of the written gifts offered.

In 2023, we continued to deepen our fellowship, love, and care for each other. 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. We are one when sharing our joys and sorrows and despite the relatively high average age of our meeting, we remain young in our spirits, our desire to learn, and our commitment to justice and environmental causes as prerequisites for peace.

Growth and change can be an indicator of health. Our meeting grew in numbers by adding a member in 2023; but we also grew in depth and strength when we started regular Wednesday evening adult education sessions. Our meeting places high value on including adult education as part of our weekly Wednesday evening Zoom connection. This year we decided to learn more about the past lives and influence of historical Quakers. Members volunteered to select an individual and lead the discussion. Friends agree that we have each grown spiritually and as a group through this sharing.

We currently have no families with young children in the meeting, though we desire to. We have recently prepared for visitors with children by collecting books and materials that any one of us could use to let visiting children know they are welcome.

Singing hymns from *Worship in Song* has long been an important part of our worship at Duneland Friends. Our recent practice is to open our meetings for worship with Friends choosing hymns, often ones that speak to their conditions. Some hymns remind us of our Quaker forebears like George Fox and Lucretia Mott. Whether or not the words of a particular hymn reflect the language we would choose to use, we raise our voices together. We understand that we all have different paths and accept the diversity of one another's spiritual journeys. Joining together in song often leads us into a sense of coming together in a powerful spiritual dynamic, harmonizing our hearts as we enter into worship.

We close meeting for worship at Duneland Friends by inviting those in attendance to share any "joys, prayers, or spiritual concerns" that they may have. Ours is a community where joys, prayers, and spiritual concerns are shared and offered into the space of Spirit. It is one way we care for one another through family births, deaths, illness and more—by hearing and responding to one another's joys and concerns.

We have remained engaged with the work of ILYM—with members serving on or participating in Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) committees (Environmental Concerns, Ministry and Advancement, Racial Equity and Education) and annual sessions planning. Some of us participate in ILYM events such as monthly ILYM worship, workshops, and special worship sessions. Some members are also active in Friends General Conference anti-racism work and in Quaker Earthcare Witness.

In summary, 2023 found Duneland Friends in good spiritual health—supporting one another, engaging with the wider Quaker world, learning together, and open to change and new ways forward.

ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING

How is the life of the Spirit faring in our Meeting?

Friends have experienced an openness with the worship group: 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. For a number of us, the worship group feels like home—a place that allows us to be part of a spiritual group. We are grateful for the breadth of ways that Spirit is allowed to be present, and that we do not have to compare ourselves to how others experience Spirit.

We feel the significance of being able to bring heavy or unresolved things here, such as addiction and depression. We are able to be together through difficult things. We feel movement from isolation to connection. Friends have also found alignment with one another through following leadings to serve the greater good in our communities.

One Friend recently spoke to our condition about the powerful experience of becoming present to ourselves and one another:

"I'm thankful to be on this ride, in this body/avatar. Whether high or low. Learning these lessons. Even the bad is still good because we can take that and transmute it. Turn it into medicine. The deeper I go within, the more I can see the oneness in all things. Yes, on the outside we look, think, and act differently, but on the inside we're the same divine essence. And no matter how much we/they try to separate each other, we're still one, and there's nothing they can do about it. Everything that lives and breathes is a part of that same essence, good or bad."

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

Our Meeting continues to rebound from the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had no marriages, births or deaths, but joyfully welcomed five new members to our community who have become a vital spiritual presence among us. We were saddened by the departure of longtime, faithful member Phyllis Reynolds who moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to live nearby one of her daughters.

Over the months, Trustees had been discussing how to best utilize the vacant former caretaker's apartment. A member felt led to suggest offering it to a refugee family. A representative from Faith Community Initiative spoke to us about the responsibilities involved and the financial commitment required to host a family for a year. After a period of discernment addressing our questions and concerns, the Meeting decided to invite a family to live in the upstairs apartment. We were so grateful to receive additional material and financial support from neighboring Lake Forest Meeting and from members of Northside Friends Meeting. Due to the time and energy of many involved with the preparatory efforts, we were able to warmly welcome a Venezuelan family of five, a couple with their 16, 11, and 8-year-old children to a shared meal and their newly furnished home.

We are also mindful of our international Quaker community and how our witness is realized through education. Through the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, EFM has supported a university student for the past three years. He sent us a note expressing his gratitude to be able to complete his nursing degree. EFM agreed to again sponsor another student to pursue college education. The meeting also contributes to Chicago Friends School (CFS), and individuals from EFM contribute to the Bayard Rustin Scholarship fund to assist traditionally underrepresented students to be able to attend CFS. We also continue to financially support several local and national organizations whose work in peace and social justice causes align with our Quaker values.

Our First Day School continues to grow, with 26 children registered. Their day starts with a 15-minute Meeting for Worship for children and families before classes begin. While childcare staff provide care of our infants and young children, the primary teachers use Godly Play and Faith and Play curricula. The Head of First Day School invites adults or a guest speaker to help the intermediate students learn about the world's religions and Quaker history, belief and practice. Every fifth Sunday, the children join the adults upstairs for the last 15 minutes of Meeting. This year, First Day School participated in collecting warm coats and gathering mittens during the holiday season to be distributed to a shelter. The summer months are spent outside in nature, gardening, running around and reading several of the What is.... children's book series with difficult topics like God, death, and friendship, which they then discuss among themselves.

Our community has benefited from a recent change in committee structure. The former Ministry and Council Committee was divided into Ministry and Worship, which is concerned with the spiritual life of the meeting as a whole, while Pastoral Care focuses on individuals and individual needs. Ministry and Worship Committee arranged the annual Silent Retreat held at Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort, Illinois, which provided an opportunity to replenish our spiritual life in a beautiful, serene setting. The committee also arranged for a listening session and then later a threshing session, each facilitated by Marcia Nelson, ILYM's co-Field Secretary, to address EFM's masking policy. There was hope that with patience and spirit-led Quaker process a way forward would transpire, and that occurred at our April business meeting.

Pastoral Care has recently developed a Connecting Friend program, where several attenders have requested contact and have been meeting with a member of the committee.

They also reach out to persons who are suffering and those with other individual needs to provide services or confidential spiritual support as needed.

With our aging population, there has been increased interest in issues facing older persons in our community, so a new support group has recently evolved. It meets monthly.

The Library Committee has been actively increasing the spiritual growth of our community with acquisitions of literature relevant to Quaker interests.

We continue to cherish our resumed customs of pancake breakfasts, potluck meals and hymn singing each month. Those events help bring together our entire community, including our young families, beyond worship and First Day School. A monthly newsletter keeps us informed with the minutes from Meeting for Business, the quarterly treasurer's report and announcements of pending events.

We are so grateful to a member of meeting who has diligently worked to improve the technical quality of our hybrid worship.

When many of us feel overwhelmed in these times of human suffering, we are grateful for our caring community, where meeting together nurtures our spiritual growth.

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

We are a small meeting with regular involvement of seven resident active members. We continue to meet at the Howenstine home at Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. Worship is sustaining to us, and we care deeply for one another. Contact is maintained with those who have moved away. We grieve the loss of Alice Howenstine from our physical presence but she remains in our hearts. Due to age and health concerns, we all mask when indoors. Our social action is individual rather than corporate (two volunteer with McHenry Environmental Defenders recycling activities, one coordinates a township community garden, one works for ILYM as co-Field Secretary). Everyone pitches in for the Annual Corn Roast. Once we move outside to worship on the 'Quaker slope', we will post a sign along Pioneer Road to welcome newcomers.

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

Lake Forest Friends Meeting has had a quiet year of settling in the Spirit after the upheaval of the pandemic. Our Meeting for Worship continues to be the center point of the meeting. We have a welcome depth in our silence. Messages, when they come, are heartfelt and from a variety of Friends. We are delighted to have some newcomers at the meeting and welcome their presence in our worship.

An important part of our meeting for worship is the last bit when the children and youth enter with a burst of energy. Jay Marshall once described a blessing as affirmation, courage, and hope. No matter what we have been struggling with during meeting, when the children enter, and during their reports after meeting, smiles break out. They are truly a blessing to our community.

Our hybrid system is working well and those on Zoom feel that they are in the room during meeting for worship and meeting for business. Most Friends choose to attend in person; though one icy morning that was reversed. Our committee meetings are generally on Zoom only. We are still trying to figure how to better include the Friends on Zoom in some of the activities after meeting. We are starting to realize what we had imagined when putting in the system, that we have other uses for a hybrid format. In the past year, we have had a forum with Rob Thompson, a performance/fund-raiser by Betsey Means Wills, and a discussion of a Bayard Rustin biopic linked with Pendle Hill.

Spirituality is present in many areas of the meeting life. The most popular opportunities are for fellowship such as singing together, potlucks, and game nights. We have a group for those who identify as men and one for those who identify as women. We continue to meet at midweek meeting for worship and Saturday night adult discussion on Zoom though with much smaller numbers than a few years ago. We have found ministry in working together to maintain the meetinghouse and trying to solve some water issues that come with owning a building. In these ways we are strengthening our home meeting community. We have more ideas for fellowship and scholarship, yet, sometimes it feels like long time to get something on the calendar.

The meeting continues to have strong involvement with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Friends General Conference (FGC), and especially with Illinois Yearly Meeting. In addition to participating in programs, we also have Lake Forest Friends in leadership positions at the yearly meeting and FGC. Being a part of this larger community of Friends has enriched our meeting over many years.

We continue to financially support many Quaker organizations and a couple of other organizations that share our vision of a witness to the world. However, we used to have three witness committees. With fewer members and busy lives, we decided to combine these into one. For many years we provided dinner once-a-month for those people without permanent shelter but a change in direction in the PADS organization has eliminated the need for that service. We were able to come together as a meeting to write a statement concerning the issue of women's health including abortion as requested by Friends Committee on National Legislation.

It feels that we are gathering strength. We continue to feel gratitude of just being together with the pandemic fresh in our minds. We endeavor to be a loving and supportive community. The lull that we have been in is starting to lift. A new generation of leadership is rising. We are poised to hear new leadings from God.

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

2024 brings transformation to Northside Friends, relocating to a new worship space after 20+ years with the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC). This transition has been wrenching, both for the grief of losing our longtime and historically significant relationship with Chicago's Japanese American community, and from the intense discernment process that was necessary to find clearness on our new home. Just three weeks after coming to unity on a move to Chicago Friends School (CFS), we held our first Meeting for Worship in the new space on April 7.

Overall, this experience has reinforced our sense of Northside as a place where we can "do hard things together" with joy. Northside's strength as a community is based in the loving relationships that we have cultivated with each other, rather than in any given physical space; what is important is how the space facilitates our community. Our worship is deep and fulfilling; it is a joy to report that the concern for our Ministry of Worship Committee is not how to create a space for covered worship, but how to deepen and enrich it. Our Tech Committee continues to be our backbone, supporting both our worship and community life. Throughout all the variations of remote, in-person, and hybrid, Northside has been able to create a gathered and covered meeting as we discern how Spirit moves and how to increase accessibility.

New attenders experience Northside as exceptionally welcoming. As one Friend observed, "Spirit is love embodied in our care for each other; people sense that and want to be brought into it." In the past year, we had the joy of taking a marriage under our care,

and are in the midst of clearness with another couple; we were also brought a providential opportunity to host a baby welcoming for a couple whose family encompassed both Quaker and Japanese American members. We regularly provide care during worship for three families with small children.

Northside dedicates extended time after worship to introductions and check-ins for everyone present, which keeps us connected and gives newcomers points of contact and common ground. Northside continues to serve as an urban “gateway meeting” for new Friends, and we have seen recent arrivals stepping up to take active roles in the community. We are welcoming a generational shift in meeting leadership—our Clerk, Treasurer, and Clerk of Ministry of Worship Committee are Friends who were newcomers to Quakerism fewer than ten years ago, and who are all under the age of 40. We have dedicated time and effort to building our capacity around gender identity, sexual orientation, and race; based on our encounters with Friends from other meetings while hosting Continuing Committee sessions in Fall 2023, we urge others in ILYM to pursue greater understanding and sensitivity around these issues.

Much of our focus now is on an “inward vs. outward” perspective. Finding ourselves on solid ground internally, we experience a “spirit of energy and opportunity.” The move brings an opportunity to stand with CFS as two Quaker organizations in a challenging world, supporting the education of Chicago’s children in Quaker testimonies. How can Northside be a supportive presence as a “meeting in residence” at Chicago Friends School? What will the school community teach us? How can we build a shared social ministry in the meeting as a whole? How can we bring Crossroads’ Principles for a Transforming Community—which we read prior to each monthly Meeting for Business—into our partnerships?

One Friend shared the concept of “lagniappe” or “a little extra,” which they identified with the way in which Northside approaches its ministry and community, always willing to give and bring a little extra to share. Northside continues into the coming year carrying that spirit, welcoming and joyfully undertaking the work that is required to deepen and engage with community, and discerning the way forward as we enter a new year.

Milestones: Greg Gundlach membership transfer to Hanover (NH) Friends Meeting; Viv Woodland membership transfer to Putney (VT) Friends Meeting; Approval of clearness process for marriage of Adrian Nelson and Erika Kerr; Marriage of Tim Swast and Johamary Peña under the care of the meeting

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

At a recent Meeting for Worship, a Friend posed this query: in times of difficulty, where do you turn for hope, persistence and joy?

The difficulties of the world press on us this year. The wars in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza with their cruelties and dangers of expansion to the rest of the world, as well as the political situation in our own country, leave us feeling helpless and sometimes at odds with family and friends.

We continue to meet weekly for worship, and to work together on other projects such as preparing food for Housing Forward, the local homeless shelter, and buying gifts for selected families for the Community Holiday Gift Basket.

Two of our members have become very involved with Care Children’s Academy, a Friends school in Uganda, helping financially, trying to raise interest in it, creating a website, and acting as a sounding board for the principal of the school. Others in our

meeting have helped as well, and the meeting has given a donation. Unfortunately, the school has recently had to close, hopefully temporarily, due to finances. The meeting is exploring other ways to be of assistance.

For the last two years, five members of our meeting have been gathering at each other's homes for "Quaker Share". They have a written reflection and discuss their lives and concerns. This has been a bonding experience, and a lesson in listening.

Another member is involved with FCNL and brings information to us regarding their activities. FCNL requested input from Friends on what should be their highest priorities in the next year. We worked together as a meeting to decide what priorities to submit to them.

Our meeting is small, and currently without children attending. As we age, we have engaged in pastoral care activities to help each other as needed. We have been pleased to welcome several visitors recently who participated in Meeting for Worship. We have recently created and printed a new brochure and were excited to finally hang our newly produced banner in the window of our meeting place, which is the Oak Park String Academy, a small music school. We remain grateful to have found a home here after looking for a new space for many years.

So we find ourselves hoping for resolution for current problems, persistent in the activities we have taken on, and experiencing the joy of being in community with each other under the guidance of the Spirit.

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

South Bend Friends Meeting continues to navigate rebuilding a sense of community that was diminished during the pandemic. Many Friends expressed a sense of burnout and fatigue from navigating life during and coming out of the pandemic. While we did not formally minute a year of rest, it occurred naturally throughout this past year. This was evident in a couple of ways. We had a smaller number of Friends on committees, and meeting did not produce a Clerk of Meeting. Instead, Ministry and Counsel distributed those duties among its members for the year. As we move further into 2024, we have noticed a growing movement from a period of rest into engagement.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee hosted a worship sharing hour in which Friends could express grief from experiences during the pandemic and held the suffering of the world in the Light. One thing that rose from that sharing was a sense to continue to rebuild community within the monthly meeting.

Ministry and Counsel resumed sending Friendly Midweek Moments. This is a midweek email in which we offer short readings selected from various yearly meeting's volumes of Faith and Practice as well as other Quaker writings to provide Friends with a weekly opportunity for personal reflection and renewal in Quaker faith and worship. Ministry and Counsel also offered a second hour on Nonviolent Communication. Participants felt a deeper dive into this topic would be of great benefit for our community. Ministry and Counsel and Peace and Social Concerns will look at options for an expanded course on this topic.

After decades of spirit-led work, Finance and Long Range Planning brought forth bylaws and articles of incorporation for Meeting to consider. Friends approved this and are grateful to the many Friends over the years who have contributed to this process.

Community building was seen in a variety of activities that included fourth Sunday brown bag lunches, Friends meeting to do needlework and art projects together, Friends going to the South Bend symphony as a group, and Friends walking together at Fernwood Botanical Garden. Young Friends accompanied by parents led the way to

watching a Better Homes of South Bend play. The latter is an illustration of the role of systemic racial injustice and the legacy of housing discrimination in South Bend, Indiana.

Our meeting has expressed a desire for a deeper relationship with our yearly meeting. This led us to agree to the request to host Spring Continuing Committee. It was a joy to host and meet with other Friends. We were heartened to learn that other monthly meetings share our concerns about the accessibility of the yearly meeting property and concerns that the costs (both time and money) of maintaining the property may be a barrier to ILYM offering other community building activities. We will work to continue to strengthen our relationship with ILYM.

We continue to meet in person and via Zoom, which allows those who cannot attend in person to engage in the life of meeting. All these endeavors continue to strengthen our community of South Bend Friends and deepen our worship together.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

When affirming the spiritual gifts given to and brought forth by Friends to the Quaker community, Maurine Pyle noted that there comes a time when the Elders' best contribution is to stay home and hold the meeting (or Creation as a whole) in deep prayer and love. They have a lifetime of practice centering in worship. Friends with spiritual leadings and energy can spring forth knowing they are grounded from this center. Our meeting has a long history of supporting our individual Friends' ministry and service projects. In recent years these have included fundraising for assisting a local Afghan refugee family, organizing a speaker series on Southern Illinois racial history, and arranging community presentations of the film *Gratitude Revealed*.

Yet this year we have been more focused on holding the center. We faithfully meet for weekly worship, and we hold our business sessions regularly; we share a potluck after worship each month; we have our traditional family potlucks at least quarterly; and we spend time with one another socially. We welcomed the ILYM Co-Field Secretaries (Marcia Nelson and Mark McGinnis) in March and were gratified when Marcia confirmed that the core of the meeting is community, and that Friends like to have fun together.

As we practice holding the spiritual center of the meeting, we have benefited from the attendance of several visitors this year, and we are warm and welcoming with them. Even with visitors and irregular attenders, our worship circle rarely exceeds ten participants and often numbers three or four. Nurturing the peaceful heart of the meeting is our calling in this tumultuous year.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

With pandemic protocols no longer in place, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting has experienced rebirth. We decided at the June 2023 Business Meeting that masks were not required and food permitted in the meetinghouse. The "Ad Hoc Committee to Reopen the Meeting House" laid down its charge two years and eight months after being created by Business Meeting. Many attending immediately flung off our masks and our meeting began a steady process of regeneration. At Meeting for Worship we are blessed with rich ministry from a variety of voices, often emerging from the monthly queries. Although we mourn the loss of valued Friends through death and relocation, we have also welcomed new members and attenders and Friends who have moved from other meetings as active participants in Urbana-Champaign Friends activities. We have renewed our fellowship as we gather before and after meeting to sing, share in a potluck, or attend a book discussion or presentation.

On multiple occasions this year, we have welcomed members from near and far into our meetinghouse and onto our grounds. Celebrations of Life for longtime Friends Mariellen Gilpin and Christopher Jocius drew crowds overflowing our worship space: from our meeting, from Urbana-Champaign, from other Illinois monthly meetings, and from Illinois Yearly Meeting. These included many relatives from far-flung states. We will miss Mariellen for healing those in need and for her spoken and written ministry. We will miss Chris for his spot-on book recommendations for individuals and for his long service on the Library Committee.

Last year we received a grant from Faith in Place which allowed us to plant 27 native shrubs and trees. In September we held “A Celebration of Trees” that included thanks to all who helped to secure and execute the grant, much catered food, and a tour of the new plantings by the expert who designed the landscape plantings. The event drew many locals. In November, a longtime member of the Peace and Service Committee celebrated her 80th birthday at the meetinghouse with a potluck and a fundraiser for three local and international organizations. She invited many members of Champaign-Urbana organizations who fight for social justice. On another occasion a group went out into the community to sing Christmas carols at the County Jail. It was such a success, with detainees and guards singing carols along with us, that we sang at the jail again this spring.

Our events calendar is once more full to bursting. This winter we joined together after worship to read and discuss excerpts from Thomas Kelly’s *A Testament of Devotion*. We listened to talks after meeting by the Eco-Justice Collaborative and by Dawn Blackman, steward of Randolph Street Community Gardens. This year our Stone Soup Supper and Talent Show, a fundraiser sponsored by the Peace and Service Committee, took place inside the meetinghouse after two years on Zoom and last year’s outdoors. In late April, we listened to a QuakerSpeak video, using it to spark discussion.

We are challenged to offer youth religious education for 8-9 children ranging in age from 3 to 16; we suffered a hiatus of almost six months. When a member felt a calling, First Day School for younger children resumed in October, using the FGC curriculum, *Sparkling Still*, as a model. So far, the children’s favorite lesson has been “God Created.” They crayoned the Genesis story on poster board which has become the backdrop for other Bible stories. The children have gained in articulateness and poise weekly when they report back to meeting on what happened in class. This winter, First Day School for older children has resumed; they too are reading Kelly’s *A Testament of Devotion* during Meeting for Worship.

We are eager to maintain our connections to Friends who are distant or have not returned to the meetinghouse. Members of the Ministry and Care Committee sent comic valentines to those whom we have not seen recently in meeting. During Meeting for Worship and Business Meeting, we continue to share a Zoom connection with distant and local Friends. Our problems with the audio on the Zoom connection have greatly diminished. Attendance on Zoom has dwindled to a few, but worship in person has burgeoned.

FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Tenth Month 21, 2023

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

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

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

Minute 3 Those in attendance introduced themselves.

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

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

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

Minute 7 Minutes 1–6 were approved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 14 Minutes 8–13 were approved.

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 20 Minutes 15–19 were approved.

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 26 Minutes 21–25 were approved.

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

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

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

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

Minute 31 Minutes 27–30 were approved.

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

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

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

Minute 35 Minutes 32–34 were approved.

Minute 36 Friends thank Northside Friends for their hospitality.

Minute 37 The meeting closed in worship.

Kevin Brubaker, Clerk

Peter Lasersohn, Recording Clerk

SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 23, 2024
South Bend Friends Meeting, South Bend, Indiana

Attending in-person: Wil Brant, Kevin Brubaker, Kent Busse, Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Toni Edgar Fein, Dale Gardner, Chris Goode, Marsha Heck, Judy Jager, Ted Kuhn, Peter Lasersohn, Holly McCune, Mark McGuinness, Marcia Nelson, Adrien Niyongabo, Julia Pantoga, Colleen Reardon, Virginia Shelbert, David Shiner, Marie White.

Attending on-line: Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Pam Kuhn, Val Lester, Sue Styer, Gwen Weaver, Frank Young.

Minute 1 The meeting opened in silent worship.

Minute 2 Val Lester reported for the Finance Committee. The meeting has received a substantial bequest from the estate of Chris Jocius, to “strengthen the future of the yearly meeting.” The Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Working Group is undertaking discernment as to how this money might be used. The Finance Committee has developed a set of recommendations for policy regarding gifts by the yearly meeting to others. The proposal includes an aspirational target of 10% of the total yearly meeting budget for gifts, guidance for amounts to particular Quaker and other organizations, and a procedure of committee discernment for capital campaign and other one-time gifts. Friends are asked to provide feedback on these recommendations; the committee plans to propose them for adoption at the yearly meeting business sessions this summer. Val noted that volunteer time is not tax-deductible, and the Finance Committee cannot provide receipts for it, in contrast to travel and other expenses.

Minute 3 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer’s report. Aside from the large bequest from Chris Jocius, income and expenses have been largely as expected.

Minute 4 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. The annual appeal letter went out near the end of last year. The committee is down to three members, one of whom will soon need to step down. It may be helpful to arrange for joint memberships in the Development Committee and other committees such as Maintenance and Planning or Finance. Frank noted that donors may find that there are tax advantages to making donations directly from Individual Retirement Accounts.

Minute 5 At the request of the clerk, Friends present introduced themselves.

Minute 6 Minutes 1–5 were read and approved.

Minute 7 Mark McGuinness and Marcia Nelson presented the Field Secretaries’ report. In addition to the visits recounted in their written report, they had a very worthwhile visit to Southern Illinois Meeting in Carbondale. The meeting is small but vibrant. Marcia reported on a conference entitled “Changing Times” organized by Friends General Conference. An important conclusion drawn from this conference is that the social life of a Friends meeting is important to its success. It may also be helpful to have paid staff for certain purposes, rather than relying entirely on volunteer work.

Minute 8 Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. She emphasized that the committee exists to serve local meetings. She attended several sessions in which Northside Meeting considered a necessary change in location; she described them as deeply spirit-led and as bringing out clearly the value of a sense of community. Friends are encouraged to read the committee’s written report, available in the Advance Documents and on the yearly meeting website.

Minute 9 Dale Gardner reported for the Children’s Religious Education Committee. The committee is planning a similar program this summer to last year’s. Volunteer teachers and paid babysitters have mostly been identified, and a budget has been developed.

Minute 10 Dale also reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. The teen program has been rather slow this year. The annual Quake That Rocked the Midwest did not occur. A quake is planned at which the teens hope to make improvements to the high school bunkhouse.

Minute 11 Minutes 7–10 were read and approved.

Minute 12 Chris Goode reported for the Stewards and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. A workday is planned for 5/4/2024 at the McNabb campus. Plans for this include painting in the dining room. Work has been done this year cleaning up downed trees and dangerous trees with dead branches. Plans have been made to install handrails at several staircases. Work continues to discern how to deal with accessibility concerns, whether to preserve the high school bunkhouse, and other issues.

Minute 13 David Shiner reported for the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Working Group charged with discernment as to the future of the yearly meeting. David emphasized the importance of monthly meeting involvement in this process, and asked us to strongly encourage attendance at yearly meeting sessions so that more Friends are invested in the work of discerning the future of the yearly meeting.

Minute 14 In responses to David’s report, several Friends reported on the obstacles which prevent some Friends from participating in the yearly meeting, including limited time off from work, transportation difficulties, physical difficulties faced by aging Friends, and alienation due to a feeling that gender identities are not consistently respected, or a sense that the yearly meeting places too high a priority on its campus rather than programs that might better serve Friends across the region.

Minute 15 Minutes 12–14 were read and approved

Minute 16 Beth Carpenter reported for the Property Use Working Group. The group has been developing a packet of materials to be used in renting the yearly meeting campus to outside groups, including documents for the renters as well as documents for yearly meeting Friends involved in the rental process.

Minute 17 Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee has developed recommendations for revisions to the Employee Manual. The proposed revisions are given in the written report, and include changes to policies regarding sexual harassment training, mandated reporter training, and background checks, to bring them into conformity with state law. Revisions approved as proposed.

Minute 18 Meredith George reported for the Nominating Committee. Chicago Friends School has requested that Illinois Yearly Meeting appoint a representative. The Continuing Committee recommends to the yearly meeting the establishment of such a position, and authorizes the Nominating Committee to identify a Friend who might fill it.

Minute 19 Marcia Nelson reported for the Naming Committee. They are seeking a Friend to fill a slot on the Nominating Committee vacated by Amal Tamari.

Minute 20 Wil Brant reported for the Publications and Technology Committee. The committee suggests a timeline for deciding when to review Faith and Practice for possible

revisions. Work has begun on a Spanish translation of the current edition. Efforts are underway to continue publication of *Among Friends* online. Several improvements to the internet and audiovisual equipment at the yearly meetinghouse are planned.

Minute 21 Minutes 16–20 were read and approved.

Minute 22 Chris Goode called attention to the written report of the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Minute 23 Mark McGuinness reported for the Peace Resources Committee. With the Racial Equity and Education Committee, Peace Resource has been hosting regular meetings for healing on the situation in Palestine/Israel. The committee has also been researching what monthly meetings have been doing with respect to migrant concerns.

Minute 24 Janice Domanik called attention to the written report of the Racial Equity and Education Committee.

Minute 25 Beth Carpenter reported for the Blue River Quarterly Meeting Planning Group, responsible for food at the yearly meeting sessions this year. Zach Schobernd will return as cook. All positions have been filled.

Minute 26 Janice Domanik reported for the Chicago North Planning Group, responsible for site preparation. She emphasized that Site Prep is a spiritual experience, and produces a strong sense of connectedness among participants. She encourages everyone to come.

Minute 27 Marcia Nelson reported for the Chicago South Planning Group, responsible for programming. The Wednesday speaker is Joann Neuroth, from the School of the Spirit. Steve Chase will give the Saturday plenary talk.

Minute 28 A suggestion was made that high schoolers and young adults be paid for work they do for site preparation. They might also be paid for other tasks they might perform during the annual gathering. Friends responded positively; the Chicago North Planning Group is authorized to arrange for payment. Money may come from the site preparation budget, the Youth Oversight Committee budget, and if necessary, from money released by the Finance Review Committee through its normal process for extraordinary expenses.

Minute 29 Minutes 22–28 were read and approved.

Minute 30 Beth Carpenter reported for the group planning celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 2025. Blue River Quarterly Meeting has discussed potential ideas for these celebrations, with help from other Friends. Plans include musical performances, a panel discussion and video presentations by Friends who grew up in the yearly meeting, and a talk by Tom Hamm, emeritus professor of history at Earlham College.

Minute 31 The clerk asked for worship-sharing on the query “What is the heart of Illinois Yearly Meeting?” from the Field Secretaries’ report. Heartfelt responses emphasized the Divine presence, people, community, faith, practice, love, and spiritual growth of Friends, over physical space and facilities.

Minute 32 Minutes 30–31 were read and approved.

Minute 33 Friends expressed their gratitude to our hosts in South Bend Meeting.

Minute 34 Minute 33 was read and approved.

Minute 35 The meeting closed in silent worship.

Kevin Brubaker, Clerk

Peter Lasersohn, Recording Clerk

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2024-2025 APPOINTMENTS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Childrens Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Dale Gardner
2025: Anna Watson, Katherine Young,
Quinn Parks
2026: Bobbi Trist
2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin

Development Committee

Clerk: Frank Young
2025: Fran Young
2026: Alex Lippitt
2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny

Environmental Concerns Committee

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

Finance Committee

Clerk: Val Lester
2025: Cynthia Harris
2027: Judy Jager, Val Lester
ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, MP&E Clerk

Handbook Committee

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

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee

Clerk: Chris Goode
2025: Christiana Schulz, Trevor Brandt,
Margie Haworth-Davis
2026: Carol Bartles, Diane Clark-
Dennis, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White
2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen
ex-officio: all Stewards

Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Janice Domanik
2025: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert,
Steve Tamari
2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor
2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom
ex officio: Field Secretaries

Nominating Committee

Clerk: _____
2025: Julia Pantoga, Lilith Swygert
2026: Brad Laird, Kent Busse

Peace Resources Committee

Clerk: Mark McGinnis
2025: Jan Mullen, Don Moorman
2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman
2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi

Personnel Committee

Clerk: Colleen Reardon
2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth,
Colleen Reardon
Designated members of YO, Finance,
CREC, Pub&Tech, MP&E, M&A

Publications & Technology

Clerk: Dawn Crimson
2025: Lilith Swygert
2026: Dawn Crimson
2027: Nathan Lasersohn
ex-officio: Admin. Coord., Editor of
Among Friends

Racial Equity and Education Committee

Clerk: Daniel Lakemacher
2025: Beth Burbank, Steven David
Flowers
2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel
Lakemacher
2024: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner

Youth Oversight Committee

Clerk: Mike Dennis
2026: Charles Howard-McKinney, Brad
Laird
2024: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis,
Daniel Lakemacher

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation
2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin
2027: Beth Burbank, Frank Young

Friends Committee on National Legislation
2025: Fariba Murray
2026: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David
Wixom
2027: Kevin Brubaker

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

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

Friends Peace Teams
2026: Andrea Kintree

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

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

Quaker Earthcare Witness
2026: Sarah Pavlovic

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Blue River Quarterly Clerk: Beth Carpenter

YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS COMMITTEES

2024 Exercises Committee: Richard
Graef, Virginia Schelbert
2024 Epistle Committee: Pam Kuhn,
Sarah Pavlovic, Brandon Harrington

<h3>2024 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES</h3>

Program: Blue River Quarterly Site Services: Chicago South Food: Chicago North
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MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

with meeting locations and times

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

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

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

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb, IL 61335
11:00 am 815-882-2214
clearcreek.ilym.org
Business: 3rd First Day, 10:00am

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

505 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203
10:00 am
comoquakers.org
Business: 1st First Day, 11:30am

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516
 10:30 am 630-968-3861
www.dgquakers.org
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:15 pm

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

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

ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING

(under the care of M&A Committee)
 413 South 7th St., Goshen, IN 46526
 1st & 3rd First Days, 3:00 pm

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston, IL 60202
 10:00 am 847-864-8511
EvanstonQuakers.org
 Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, IL 60637
 10:30 am 773-288-3066
57thstreetmeeting.org
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:45 pm

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Pioneer Tree Farm,
 4614 Pioneer Road, McHenry, IL 60051
 10:00 am 815-385-8512
 Business: 1st First Day, 11:00 am

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old Elm Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
 10:30 am First Day, 8:00 am Fifth Day
 847-234-8410 ilym.org/lakeforest
 Business: 1st First Day, 9:00 am

MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

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

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Chicago Friends School
 5944 N. Magnolia Ave, Chicago, IL 60660
 10:00 am 773-980-6734
northsidefriends.org
 Business: 1st First Day, 12:30 pm

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park String Academy,
 350 Harrison St., Oak Park, IL 60302
 10:00 am 708-445-8201
ilym.org/opfm
 Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
 4:00 pm
 Business: 2nd First Day after meeting

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

201 Seventh St., Rockford, IL 61107
 Worship: 1st First Days, 11:00 am
 Business: as needed

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

1st Presbyterian Church Campus,
 333 W. Colfax Ave South Bend, IN 46601
 10:30 a.m. 574-232-8258
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Gaia House Interfaith Center,
 913 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901
 10:00 am 618-303-1040
siquaker.org
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 am

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

902 N Brown, Galesburg, IL 61401
 10:00 am 309-7351-2264
 Business: Second First Days, 11:30 am

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Urbana-Champaign)
 10:30 am in homes

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

1001 Park Ave., St. Louis MO 63104
 10:00 am 314-588-1122
stlouisfriends.org
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:15 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIEND MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
 10:30 am 217-328-5853
ilym.org/urbana
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

The Continuing Committee, a subset of the Yearly Meeting, generally meets once each fall and once each spring to prayerfully consider and review the activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting between sessions. The Committee speaks officially for the Meeting during the year within the established practices, procedures, and statements of faith of the Yearly Meeting. The Presiding Clerk presides over the Committee and the Recording Clerk takes minutes.

MEMBERS OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

- Any Friend who is part of Illinois Yearly Meeting
- A representative of High School Young Friends and the Adult Young Friends
- The Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk, Stewards, Treasurers, and the Administrative Coordinator
- The clerks of all Illinois Yearly Meeting standing and ad hoc committees
- The Clerk of Blue River Quarterly
- ILYM Planning Group Coordinators
- The following appointed representatives* from each meeting:

Bloomington-Normal	Fariba Murray
Clear Creek	Beth Carpenter & Mike Dennis
Columbia	
Downers Grove	Chris Goode
Duneland	Sarah Pavlovic
Evanston	David Shiner
57th Street	
Fox Valley	Mark McGinnis
Lake Forest	Ted Kuhn
Northside	Marie White
Oak Park	Valerie Lester
Oshkosh	Nan MacDonald
Rock Valley	Ann & Brent Eckert
St. Louis	Anna Kintree
South Bend	Marsha Heck
Southern Illinois	Dawn Crimson
Spoon River	
Urbana-Champaign	Bobbi Trist & Dale Gardner

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

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

Cover Painting of ILYM Meetinghouse: M. Richie

