

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

(2025)
(June)
(18-22)



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 2025

Total Registration: 185 (2024 total: 164)

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	49 Adults	
	14 Young Friends Total:	63
Chicago North	44 Adults	
	12 Young Friends Total:	56
Chicago South	38 Adults	
	5 Young Friends Total:	43
Other	19 Adults	
	4 Young Friends Total:	23

Fully Virtual: 9 Mixed Virtual and In-person: 7

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2026 Annual Sessions will be held from June 17 to 21
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 2025-2026

Presiding Clerk: Julia Pantoga

Assistant Clerk: Kevin Brubaker

Recording Clerk: Marie White

Assistant Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

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: Jasmine Dennis

Children's Religious Education Coordinator: Choz Howard-McKinney

Adult Young Friends Clerk: Anya Gardner

Adult Young Friends Co-Clerk: Jasmine Dennis

Adult Young Friends Recording Clerk: Nathan Lasersohn

High School Friends Clerk: Leighton Van Alstine

High School Friends Co-Clerk: Sam Davis

High School Friends Recording Clerk: Morgan Friedlander

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 7/2024-6/2025

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N†	CC	Co	St.L†	SoI	SR†	U-C	
							<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>
							Average Attendance
6	7	22	30	6	3	24	Adults
1	<1	4	4	0	0	2	Under 18 years old
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>
11	22	5	37	2	0	45	Resident Adult Members
5	3	0	4	0	0	0	Resident Young Friends
3	40	18	76	1	0	71	Non-Resident Adult Members
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Non-Resident Young Friends
19	65	23	117	3	0	117	TOTAL
							Total Adult Members
14	62	23	113	3	0	116	Total Young Friends
5	3	0	4	0	0	1	
							NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	By Request
0	2	0	0	0	0	2	By Certificate of Transfer
0	3	0	0	0	0	2	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	0	1	0	0	0	2	Deceased
0	0	0	0	0	2	0	Released or Withdrawn
0	0	0	0	0	4	0	Transferred
0	0	1	0	0	6	2	TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	344
Metro Chicago	469
Wisconsin	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	819

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area											WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Elk**†	Ev	57*	FV†	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh**†	
20	8	6	38	16	5	25	48	11	4	15	6	300
0	0	1	14	<1	0	7	4	0	0	5	0	42
35	11		58	16	7	54	19	18	9	19	6	374
0	0		2	2	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	26
9	0		45	32	10	63	19	3	2	12	0	404
0	0		4	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	15
44	11		109	56	17	124	38	21	11	38	6	819
44	11		103	48	17	117	38	21	11	31	6	778
0	0		6	8	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	41
0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2		0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
0	0		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
0	2		0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	11
0	0		3	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	11
0	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
0	1		5	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	20

*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; attenders may be members of other ILYM monthly meeting.

†Statistics were not received for 7/2024-6/2025: SR laid down a monthly meeting, continues as a worship group; B-N, StL, Elk & FV statistics from 7/2023-6/2024; RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018; Osh statistics are from 2021-2022.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Request

To Clear Creek: Deb Walz (5/18/25)
To Duneland: Daniel Friere
To Duneland: Roxy Jacobs
To 57th Street: Brandon Harrington
To Northside: Marie White (6/25)

By Transfer

To Clear Creek: Erin Taylor from Spoon River (5/18/25)
To Clear Creek: Sean West from Spoon River (5/18/25)
To Northside: Suzanne Ruch from Eggmoggin Reach (NEYM) (12/24)
To Northside: Meredith George from Evanston (06/25)
To Urbana-Champaign: Frank Young from Spoon River (4/27/25)
To Urbana-Champaign: Julie Young from Spoon River (4/27/25)

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Duneland: Faith Badgley
From Evanston: Jeff McNear (2017, updating records from 2017 request)

From Urbana-Champaign: Carolyn Haines (11/26/24)
From Urbana-Champaign: Dorothy Nuemann (12/4/24)

By Death

From Columbia: Carolyn Doll (3/6/25)
From Evanston: Steve Durham (12/15/24)
From Evanston: Phyllis Reynolds (5/1/25)
From Evanston: Dianne Atkinson (5/8/25)
From Lake Forest: Emma Cadbury (7/8/24)
From Lake Forest: Paulette Leonard (1/10/25)
From Northside: Wilmer Rutt (5/25)
From Oak Park: Helen Dickenson (11/29/24)
From South Bend Madelyn Godsey (05/24)

By Transfer:

From Evanston: Meredith George to Northside (5/18/25)
From Spoon River: Erin Taylor to Clear Creek (5/18/25)
From Spoon River: Sean West to Clear Creek (5/18/25)
From Spoon River: Frank Young to Urbana-Champaign (4/27/25)
From Spoon River: Julie Young to Urbana-Champaign (4/27/25)

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 2025 PROGRAM

Theme: *Honoring the Past, Living the Present, Envisioning the Future*

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
 7:30-8:45 Intergenerational Music Program
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks (dining room)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15-4:00 Recreation activities & programs for children
 1:30-2:15 Worship sharing groups
 2:23-3:45 Workshops
 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
 7:30-8:45 Panel of Friends who grew up in ILYM
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15-1:45 pm Help think about next year's Annual Sessions
 2:00-4:30 150th Anniversary Party
 4:45-5:30 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 Thomas Hamm
 8:45-9:15 Registration table open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

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SUNDAY

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY MORNING:
 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. MRW)
 8:45-noon Children's morning program
 9:00-noon Meeting for Business
 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch
 12:30-1:30 Registration table open

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:
 1:15-4:00 Recreation activities & programs for children
 1:30-2:15 Worship sharing groups
 2:23-3:45 Workshops
 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
 9:00-9:45 Snack served outside during dancing

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 Beth Schobernd Carpenter
 11:15-12:15 Meeting for Worship
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

151th Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 18-22, 2025, ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 18, 2025

Minute 1 The meeting opened in waiting worship. With this, our 151st Annual Session, we mark 150 years since the opening of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1875.

Minute 2 Clerk Kevin Brubaker welcomed those in attendance.

Minute 3 A selected portion of the epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting was read.

Minute 4 Visitors were introduced, including Tom Rockwell, Associate Superintendent of Western Yearly Meeting, and Nathan Kleban from Right Sharing of World Resources. First-time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting were also introduced and welcomed.

Minute 5 Val Lester reported for the Naming Committee. The committee proposes Margie Haworth-Davis as clerk of the Nominating Committee, and Alex Lippett as a member, both for one-year terms. Both nominations approved.

Minute 6 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer's report. Income and expenses are expected to be roughly equal at the end of the fiscal year. Insurance expenses are dramatically higher than they have been. Report accepted.

Minute 7 Val Lester presented the Finance Committee report, including the proposed budget. Less is budgeted for insurance than we paid this year; the cost will be brought down by increasing the deductible. It is also hoped that we can bring down insurance costs by making fewer claims. The committee asks meetings and individuals to increase their annual contributions to the yearly meeting by 5%. Report accepted.

Minute 8 The Finance Committee proposed a minute clarifying the uses of the Donor Restricted Property Use Fund. The minute with changes was approved as follows:

The Property Improvement Fund is a Donor Restricted Fund to be used for significant improvements to the ILYM Campus in McNabb, including new buildings and existing buildings. It may not be used for maintenance of the existing campus. Any use of this fund should be approved at Annual Sessions. (Requests should be brought by Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee.) This fund is intended to improve the facilities to better serve ILYM needs.

The project priorities come from ILYM with input from Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee. Donors wishing to underwrite any specific project should work through the Development Committee.

Minute 9 Minutes 1–8 were read and approved.

Minute 10 Marcia Nelson presented the Field Secretaries' report. She recently visited Columbia Meeting, and reports that their new meetinghouse is very nice and that their First Day School is active and healthy. She reported that Northside Meeting is also moving into new space and has a very energetic business meeting. Clear Creek Meeting held a meditation workshop, which brought in a number of people from the larger community. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee proposed a minute of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary Friends:

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends believes there is that of the Light of God in every person. We affirm and celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary members and attenders. Any person who is led to faithfully love whom they love and express in integrity who they are, including through their gender expression, is ministering to the world and showing who God is. When members and attenders do this, their faithfulness blesses us all.

Illinois Yearly Meeting will continue to support all our members and attenders as they live lives of faith and integrity—including respecting, affirming, and celebrating their uniqueness, supporting them in the choice to come out, caring for them as they live and form relationships (including marriages under the care of our meetings), and caring for them in the face of any test or rebuke they are subjected to by the world and society. As with other health care choices, we support the decisions our members and attenders make regarding gender-affirming care.

Minute approve and printed report accepted.

Minute 12 Beth Carpenter reported for Blue River Quarterly Meeting as follows:

At its April 12, 2025 meeting, Blue River Quarterly received a request from Spoon River Quaker Meeting that it be laid down. At that meeting, we approved the following minute:

“Blue River Quarterly Meeting regretfully accepts the proposal of Spoon River to be laid down and passes this on to Yearly Meeting for action. The group wishes to continue as a worship group under the care of Clear Creek Meeting. Blue River Quarterly thanks them for carrying on for all these years and recognizes the difficulty of this decision.”

At that meeting, Grayce Mesner and Beth Carpenter agreed to work with Spoon River Friends to work out the details of laying down the meeting. They have no treasury. Their records have been deposited with the Illinois Yearly Meeting collection at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign library. There are eight members. Three either have been, or are in the process of being, transferred to Clear Creek Monthly. Two have been transferred to Urbana Champaign. The remaining three hope to decide where they would like their memberships transferred within the next week.

At Clear Creek’s May business meeting, we approved taking Spoon River Worship Group under our care.

On behalf of Blue River Quarterly, I would ask that the yearly meeting minute their approval to lay down Spoon River Quaker Meeting.

Also at Clear Creek’s May meeting for business, we approved a request that the Macomb Worship Group officially be laid down. It has been inactive for several years.

Report accepted. With deep sorrow and much regret at the end of one of our oldest meetings, we lay down Spoon River Monthly Meeting as recommended.

Minute 13 Minutes 9–12 were read and approved.

Minute 14 The clerk explained that in order to make time for commemorations of our 150th anniversary, some reports not proposing decisions for action would not be read aloud. Printed reports accepted from Development Committee and Personnel Committee.

Minute 15 Tom Rockwell, Associate Superintendent of Western Yearly Meeting spoke to the Meeting, noting that many meetings are declining in active membership. He hopes greater contact between the divided branches of Friends may strengthen us all. He described several planned programs and activities which Western Yearly Meeting is engaged in, with the hope that Friends, especially young Friends, from Illinois Yearly Meeting and other yearly meetings in the region might become involved. These programs include a gathering of people who work with youth and young adults, a spiritual formation program, Western Yearly Meeting's camp programs at Quaker Haven being reinvented and independent of Indiana Yearly Meeting, and Western Yearly Meeting sessions.

Minute 16 Minutes 13–15 were read and approved.

Minute 17 The meeting closed in waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 19, 2025

Minute 18 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 19 Sections were read from the epistles from New England Yearly Meeting and from Alaska Friends Conference, both dealing with Friends efforts to address the harms done by historic Quaker involvement in Indian Boarding Schools.

Minute 20 Visitors were introduced, including Zoe Jannuzi, representing the American Friends Service Committee; Windy Cooler from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, traveling under minute; and Shahin Samiei of Memphis Friends Meeting. First-time attenders were also introduced and welcomed.

Minute 21 Dawn Crimson reported for the Publications and Technology Committee. They propose the creation of an ad hoc committee to review and gather thoughts on possible revisions to *Faith and Practice* and ask the Nominating Committee to propose members for the ad hoc committee at our next annual sessions. [See Minute 38, 2024]. Approved.

Minute 22 Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee has engaged in various activities over the past year, as outlined in the written report. The committee proposes a revision to the Handbook description of the Peace Resources Committee, which was approved as follows:

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

Membership: Six to twelve members nominated by the Nominating Committee. The Committee's objectives include:

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

Report accepted.

Minute 23 Daniel Lakemacher reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee proposed text for a letter to the State Treasurer of Illinois, urging divestment from Israel Bonds (REEC Minute 1). There was some discussion regarding the content and focus of the letter. Approved Illinois Yearly Meeting sending a letter to Midwest state officials representing meetings in ILYM opposing investment in countries, companies, and policies that violate the conscience of Friends. The Meeting requested that the committee draft a revision to bring back to Meeting for Business later in these sessions.

Minute 24 Minutes 18–23 were read and approved.

Minute 25 The Clerk announced that we are in need of Friends to serve on the Epistles and Exercises Committees. People interested in serving on one of these committees, please speak to him.

Minute 26 Daniel Lakemacher continued the report of the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee seeks approval of a minute repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery.

ILYM is committed to creating right relationship with Native Americans and appreciates the proposed minute brought today. The Meeting thanked the committee for bringing this and requested that the committee revise this minute and bring it back at a later time.

Minute 27 Daniel Lakemacher brought the following proposed minute from the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The following minute was approved:

Illinois Yearly Meeting recognizes the specific role that Quakers played in operating 'Indian Boarding Schools' and commits to supporting the efforts of the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition in their work by applying for an Affiliate membership in NABS and working toward right relationship with Native peoples.

Report from the Racial Equity and Education Committee accepted.

Minute 28 Written reports accepted from American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference, Friends Committee on World Consultation, and Friends Peace Teams.

Minute 29 The meeting then concluded.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 20, 2025

Minute 30 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 31 First-time attenders were introduced and welcomed.

Minute 32 Selections were read from the epistles from Ireland Yearly Meeting, from Oxford Young Adult Friends, and from Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Minute 33 Val Lester reported for the Naming Committee. The committee propose Brendan Harrington for Nominating Committee for a term of two year. Approved.

Minute 34 Brad Laird reported for the Nominating Committee. Several additions had been made to the nominations in the committee's report in the Advance Documents. Some positions still remain open. Report accepted.

Minute 35 Chris Goode reported for the Stewards, and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. At last year's sessions, the Property Use Ad Hoc Committee stated in its report that firearms should be prohibited on our campus and in our buildings. To legally enforce this prohibition, signs of a specific state-approved design would need to be posted at specific locations. The Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee now asks the Meeting whether to proceed with a plan to post such signs, or if instead we should maintain an informal but probably unenforceable prohibition without posted signs. In free and full discussion, no unity emerged that the Meeting should post the signs at this time as required for a legal prohibition. However, the Meeting feels that some way of communicating that weapons are not welcome on the ILYM campus would be desirable. The matter is referred to the Peace Resources Committee for further discernment and investigation as to the details of the relevant laws.

Minute 36 The Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee notes that the High School Bunkhouse is in badly deteriorating condition. The bunkhouse was constructed in 1885 as a dining hall at a cost of less than \$200. The committee recommends replacing the building, and has done some initial investigation into possible options for new construction, including a prebuilt structure to be transported to the site. The cost might be in the vicinity of \$90,000, of which it is hoped that approximately half would be gathered in a dedicated fundraising effort. The committee now asks the Meeting for approval to continue investigations, make decisions, and proceed with replacing the building as way opens. Report accepted and the committee authorized to proceed, with the understanding that specific plans will be proposed to the Continuing Committee for final approval. The Development Committee is asked to begin fundraising efforts.

Minute 37 The Racial Equity and Education Committee proposed revised text for a minute on the Doctrine of Discovery as follows:

Illinois Yearly Meeting repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery which led to genocide, forced displacement, theft of land and resources, loss of identity, and economic hardship

to Indigenous People. ILYM commits to engage in spiritual discernment about how the Doctrine of Discovery has benefited and harmed us. To do this we need to seek right relationship with Indigenous Peoples who live(d) in the areas of our affiliated meetings.

ILYM in keeping with Friends testimonies commits to the following:

- Acknowledge that this doctrine has had and continues to have devastating consequences for Indigenous People.
- Recognize the role ILYM has had in the consequences resulting from the Doctrine of Discovery.
- Learn about treaties in our region (ILYM) so we understand their impact on the indigenous nations that occupied these lands.
- Seek relationships with Native People in our areas and follow their lead toward reconciliation and support.
- Recognize our need to approach these relationships as learners willing to restore our own health and that of our planet.
- Support Tribal sovereignty
- Join the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. This organization, founded by Mennonites and other Anabaptists, is an organization that "invites anyone to join us who seeks to support Indigenous self-determination and efforts to protect the earth from ongoing colonization". Here is the link to their website: dismantlediscovery.org/get-involved/repair-network/.

Revised minute approved.

Minute 38 Minutes 30–37 were read and approved.

Minute 39 Report accepted of the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM.

Minute 40 Mike Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. There have been several well-attended teen gatherings during the year. The teens have been selling T-shirts to raise funds for Gaza relief. More gatherings are planned for the coming year. Report accepted.

Minute 41 The written reports from the following committees and representatives were accepted: Children’s Religious Education, Olney School, Scattergood School, and Chicago Friends School.

Minute 42 Barry Crossno, General Secretary of Friends General Conference, was introduced and welcomed.

Minute 43 Minutes 38–42 were read and approved.

Minute 44 The meeting then concluded.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 21, 2025

Minute 45 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 46 Larissa Gil Sanhueza, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation, was introduced and welcomed.

Minute 47 Selected portions were read of the epistles from Intermountain Yearly Meeting and from Western Yearly Meeting.

Minute 48 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee proposes an addition to the Handbook dealing with called meetings of the Continuing Committee. Addition approved.

The committee proposes additions to the description of the Nominating Committee, clarifying the timing of its nominations, and dealing with the possibility of individuals acting as committee members pending approval of their appointments. Additions approved.

The committee proposes an addition outlining the duties of committee clerks and conveners, and clarifying the difference. Addition approved

The committee proposes an addition dealing with epistles from our children, youth, and Adult Young Friends. Addition approved.

Report of the Handbook Committee approve. The Meeting expressed its sincere appreciation for Pam Kuhn's long ministry working on the Handbook.

Minute 49 Daniel Lakemacher reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. They propose revised text for a letter to the state treasurer of Illinois, calling for adoption of an investment policy barring state investment in countries or companies which knowingly facilitate apartheid, genocide or other war crimes or crimes against humanity, and calling specifically for divestment from Israel Bonds. A modified version of the letter would be sent to the appropriate state officials in other states where ILYM has meetings. Letter approved as revised (revised letter follows in additional documents section below).

Minute 50 Minutes 45–49 were read and approved.

Minute 51 Kira Smith of New York Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference was introduced and welcomed.

Minute 52 Val Lester reported for the Finance Committee, presenting a revised proposal for a budget for the coming fiscal year. The committee recommends a 5% increase in the contribution requested from meetings, bringing the total request to \$305 per adult resident member. New contributions from ILYM to others include one to the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Budget approved as revised.

The Finance Committee reports that a check to Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (fiscal agent for Black Lives Matter) representing funds from this year's budget was returned. At the request of the Racial Equity and Education Committee, Finance Committee proposes redirecting the funds as a donation to the Chi-Nations Youth Council. Approved.

The Finance Committee also announced a workshop for monthly meeting treasurers. Report accepted.

Minute 53 Minutes 50–52 were read and approved.

Minute 54 Brad Laird gave a second presentation of the Nominating Committee report. Report accepted, and appointments approved.

Minute 55 The written reports from the Environmental Concerns Committee, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Friends Committee on National Legislation were accepted.

Minute 56 Minutes 53–55 were read and approved.

Minute 57 The meeting then concluded.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 22, 2025

Minute 58 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 59 The epistle from the early elementary schoolers was read and accepted.

Minute 60 A video of ILYM Friends singing “The George Fox Song” was presented, much to our satisfaction.

Minute 61 The epistle from the upper elementary schoolers was read and accepted.

Minute 62 The epistle from the preschoolers was read and accepted.

Minute 63 The epistle from the middle schoolers was read and accepted.

Minute 64 The epistle from the High School Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 65 The epistle from the Adult Young Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 66 The Meeting gave heartfelt thanks to the Children’s Religious Education Committee and the Youth Oversight Committee for their very meaningful and valuable work at these sessions.

Minute 67 The Illinois Yearly Meeting epistle to Friends around the world was read and approved.

Minute 68 The report of exercises was read and approved. Friends are encouraged to use this report to communicate the tone and activities of the yearly meeting gathering to their local meetings.

Minute 69 The next session of the Continuing Committee was announced to be at Clear Creek, October 11.

Minute 70 The Meeting expressed its deep gratitude to Kevin Brubaker for his service as clerk.

Minute 71 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

Our sesquicentennial year radiated with excitement and joy as we celebrated our meeting and our meetinghouse, built in 1875. As we entered this quiet space with soybean fields stretching out on either side, we prepared to receive the Spirit covering our annual sessions. Our theme was in three parts.

Honoring the Past

Two historians gave us a history of the 150 years of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Our own Peter Lasersohn gave a popular workshop and Tom Hamm, a retired history professor and archivist from Earlham College, gave the keynote address. We learned of our early evolving theology as what was then called a Hicksite meeting, and the influence of our first clerk, Jonathan Plummer, on establishing the areas of social action that led to the founding of Friends General Conference (FGC). With the shifting of the monthly and quarterly meeting that finally formed the yearly meeting we learned that it was not a straight-forward path, and that the difficulty of travel to the yearly meetings in Indiana and Baltimore helped to push the formation forward. Our roots and journey had its ups and downs. Tom Hamm noted that we are now considerably larger than we were 100 years ago, so we must be doing something right.

On Thursday night, a panel of seven ILYM Friends talked about the experiences of growing up in Illinois Yearly Meeting. Starting with the remembrances of a member who first attended in 1943 and proceeding to one who first attended in the early 21st century, we laughed at the fun recollections of Friends. Many stories were shared. Some recurring themes emerged, affirming our sense of community and spirituality. Several talked of the yearly meeting campus as being a safe place where one could be one's authentic self, as there was a lot of freedom for those growing up here. Some who had suffered a loss found solace and healing. In addition to making lifelong Friends in one's peer group, the Friends on the panel remember being children who interacted with adults who were not their parents or their teachers. Those experiences were deeply meaningful and formative for them. Many of us resonated with what some Friends noted, "This is where I felt I really became a Quaker." The building was buzzing with energy afterwards.

On Saturday afternoon we celebrated our birthday with horse and buggy rides, old-timey games, and, of course, cake. Despite the hot weather and strong winds, Friends had great fun reenacting the feel of 1875.

Living the Present

On Wednesday evening we were treated to an amazing concert featuring many talented yearly meeting Friends. They included a Baroque recorder quintet, a Friend playing Bach's French Suite #5 on the keyboard, another Friend singing the musical setting of four Emily Dickinson poems with piano accompaniment, and a duo singing folksongs from the songbook *Rise up Singing*. For the first time we had an art exhibit with a variety of projects created by Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends. And, as always, our annual variety show featured all kinds of performances from Friends of all ages.

However, we did not just live within our cocoon of yearly meeting. Recognizing the turmoil in the world we live in, over the course of our meeting for business, we updated our statement on our support and affirmation on the LGBTQ+ community. We approved recommendations from the Racial Equity and Education Committee, including joining the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, sending a letter to the State

Treasurer of Illinois and other officials from states within the boundaries of ILYM concerning divestment from Israel and other nations that engage in war crimes and other atrocities, and a statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery.

Envisioning the Future

Last year we created an ad hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. Through workshops held at ILYM last year and interactions with monthly meetings during the year, the committee discerned some possible ways in which we could encourage more ILYM Friends to attend yearly meeting. The committee also recognized that the yearly meeting is only as strong as the constituent monthly meetings. In the coming year, the committee is planning to visit monthly meetings in order to support them and encourage them to become more involved with ILYM. At this year's sessions, the committee led us in a series of exercises where we talked about our spiritual experiences at our monthly meeting and how we are centering in these turbulent times.

The Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee has started working on plans for a new bunkhouse and meeting center for the teens. Friends will continue to discern about this, with the possibility of Continuing Committee approving updated plans during the coming year.

Final Reflections

As we conclude this report, we are looking forward to the reading of the Epistles and the Plummer Lecture, which will be given by Beth Carpenter from Clear Creek Meeting.

During meeting for worship one morning, a Friend exhorted us to search for the Kingdom of God within and around us in all our activities. This message spoke to our condition. We remembered the turbulent times that early Friends lived in and the joy that they felt when recognizing the Light Within. As we leave here to face today's perilous times, we will have our renewed Quaker faith and our memories of the experience of our time together to give us strength, courage, and hope.

EPISTLES

2025 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Everywhere,

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Illinois Yearly Meeting. We convened for this historic meeting June 18-22, 2025, on our rural campus in customary Midwestern heat. Our organizing theme was Honoring the Past, Living the Present, Envisioning the Future.

In honoring the past, we examined our history. How do we learn from the past? To facilitate our examination, we used a book chronicling our history that was written by a member. We learned that a lot of the struggles our meeting faced in the past parallel the struggles we face as a meeting today. The joys and the consequences of where we stood then both nourish us and call us to connect with greater integrity our reflections to our actions.

The experience of different generations in Illinois Yearly Meeting demonstrate remarkable similarity. In hearing from generations past and from those who have grown up in the yearly meeting, we note common threads of belonging and safety, nourishment and refuge.

In living the present, we felt repeatedly a desire to be more public as Quakers. Quakerism was born in turmoil and offers practices that meet the moment. What are the

best ways that we can be a home and refuge for seekers in tumultuous times? While Quakers across the country have noted declining numbers, our annual sessions are slightly increasing in attendance. Some of our monthly meetings are also welcoming newcomers.

In envisioning the future, we found many opportunities to cross-pollinate practices among meetings. We see a future in which Friends collaborate with more groups, overcoming our differences. We hope to move toward a future informed by a better understanding of our past.

We rejoiced in our celebration of our 150th anniversary, complete with cake and melted ice cream. We look forward to more milestones for Illinois Yearly Meeting in the years and work ahead.

We close with gratitude to those who went before us and encouragement to those who read this.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sixth Month 22, 2025

Adult Young Friends Epistle

We had a few realizations about Adult Young Friends (AYF) this week. The first realization came on Friday, on the graveyard walk. There were a ton of AYFers, more than we have seen in recent memory, a whole swarm of 18 to 30-something year olds. It felt like a true AYF event in a way that previous walks had not quite felt like. Despite the walk being well over a mile, we were all happy and in high spirits.

The next day, we had our first business meeting in a while, and realized during it that we are adults and have the ability to chart our own course. We discussed how to remain engaged with the meeting and with Friends both slightly older and slightly younger than us. We also appointed new clerks: Anya as clerk, Jasmine as co-clerk, and Nathan as recording clerk.

After the long but necessary business meeting, we had fun playing wink. A note for older Friends: wrestling with each other on the ground in this room is a good way to blow off steam.

Also special thanks to other childcare workers and children who kept a lot of us occupied for much of this week. So to get an idea of what many of us did this week, take the final ten seconds of this epistle to flash back to the past few epistles of the younger children.

High School Epistle

Hello ILYM, we are the teens. Over the course of the past few days we have shared many different experiences and done a variety of things. On Wednesday (the day we arrived) everyone but Morgan showed up. We pretty much stayed at the bunkhouse getting used to the environment around us again.

On Thursday, we started the day by building a bench for the 150 year anniversary. We finished the bench, and then Morgan showed up. We hung out as a group most of the night to get to know each other and went on a walk to do that.

Friday was the chilliest day of all. We woke up at “reasonable hours” and started working on the tree mural.

Saturday was the most productive day of all. We started our day by going to this camp where we did all sorts of stuff. We started with team building activities and got to do rope climbing after. After eating lunch there, we came back and waited for the 150th

anniversary party to start. During the party we walked around enjoying ourselves and internally dying because of the immense heat. After the party we watched the talent show and had dinner and waited for wink to start. During wink we had a great time and went to bed early. Sadly we did no graveyard walk because we were so exhausted.

And how has this affected us as people, our personalities, or maybe just new information we can now utilize in the future? We have learned that community is a very important thing. Being here around Quakers teaches us a lot about how to solve things with words and protest about wrong things. Those aren't just the things we learned, because we learn new things everyday as a Quaker community. We have enjoyed our time here and can't wait to see everyone again next year.

Middle School Epistle

Dear Friends everywhere,

We learned about spirit animals in other cultures and their ways of peace. We chose a spirit animal. We learned about the cardinal directions and the medicine wheels.

We met Dr. Hettie Painter, a Quaker from the past and Juliet Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts. Dr. Painter was an abolitionist and she and her husband opened their home to the Underground Railroad. Dr. Painter got one of the first medical degrees earned by a woman, in 1860. During the Civil War, she was a nurse because women could not be doctors. Hettie was for woman suffrage, which is women's right to vote.

Daniel Lakemacher took our group on a walk, while describing the events that slowly took away the land that was roamed by the Ojibwa.

Thank you, Friends, for patiently listening to what the Middle Schoolers did throughout the week.

Upper Elementary School Epistle

Hello, we are the upper elementary group. Our names are Jon, Pippa, Eliza, Green, Tony, Christian, Nathan, Brittany, and Choz.

We had many adventures during our time. We played and learned with the 6 and 7 year-olds about the lady who started the Girl Scouts. Then we got to see a play about her. Her name was Daisy Low.

We walked around outside and stumbled upon a labyrinth. Thank you, Kathy Smith for making it. We made cards to say happy birthday to Bill Howenstein. He is 100 years old!

We had a great time when Jeanne taught us a new song then we added our own lyrics: I've got... Love like a river; Strength like an elephant; Hops like a rabbit; Happiness like a pond; Gratefulness like nature; I'm cool like an owl. Badges on my vest.

Preschool Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere:

We love making ice cream, nature at ILYM, playing with friends, and bubbles. We dream of peace, sharing, and kindness. We know this little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.

From Alexander, Xyla, Beckett, Ren, and Katherine.

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - BALANCE SHEET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

	6/30/2025		6/30/2024
Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	92,784.08		114,247.28
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restret Property Imp	40,481.47		38,033.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unresreticted Designated	<u>610,606.55</u>		<u>558,415.55</u>
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	743,872.10		710,696.65
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	6,659.14		698.55
Total Current Assets	6,659.14		698.55
Total Assets	<u>750,531.24</u>		<u>711,386.20</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	12,871.28		14,208.44
Payroll Taxes	<u>(36.66)</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	12,834.62		14,208.44
Net Assets		FY25 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	489,346.23	55,574.96	433,771.27
3 Campus Accessible	1,300.00		1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	38,850.00	1,050.00	37,800.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs	1,000.00		1,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	<u>97,065.28</u>	(21,502.94)	<u>118,568.22</u>
Total Unrestricted Designated	627,561.51		592,439.49
Temporary Restrictred			
8 Property Impr.	<u>50,135.11</u>	5,396.84	<u>44,738.27</u>
Total Temporary Restricted	50,135.11		44,738.27
Total Net Assets	<u>737,696.62</u>	<u>40,518.86</u>	<u>697,177.76</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>750,531.24</u>		<u>711,386.20</u>

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 specific purposes. The business meeting can approve a change in the designation at any time, move the funds, or revert the funds to general operating purposes.

Temporarily Restricted funds are restricted by donors to be used for a specific purpose. Temporarily Restricted means that both the principal and the interest can be used for that purpose.

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.

Ilym Income Statement 1 July 2024 to 30 Jun 2025

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Income							
Support from Meetings	98,182.50						98,182.50
Support from Individuals	39,221.17	20,000.00					59,221.17
Support from Ind. Restricted PIF						1,500.00	1,500.00
Interest & Investment Income	16,413.05					1,449.19	17,862.24
Misc Income	691.00						691.00
Gatherings-Retreats							
Annual Sessions Registrations	22,846.00						22,846.00
Gifts-Annual Sessions	4,371.00						4,371.00
Total AS Income	27,217.00						27,217.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	27,217.00						27,217.00
Total Income	181,724.72	20,000.00				2,949.19	204,673.91
Operating Expenses							
Personnel & Office							
Employee Direct-Indirect	61,537.01						61,537.01
Staff Travel	5,455.72						5,455.72
Office Expenses	1,252.25						1,252.25
Total Personnel & Office	68,244.98						68,244.98
YM Travel Support					468.64		6,126.72
Site & Property Expenses							
Ann. Services-Propy Taxes	1,998.87						1,998.87
Mowing, Tree Trimming	3,960.00				10,700.00		14,660.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,594.45				9,767.49		13,361.94
Urgent Maintenance	1,040.00				(12,476.55)		(11,436.55)
Site Insurance Expense	25,000.00				22,182.00		47,182.00
Caretaker Expenses	625.00						625.00

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2024 to 30 Jun 2025 (continued)

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Appliances-Equipment							7,180.00
Utilities	2,785.80				7,180.00		2,785.80
Total Site & Property	39,004.12				37,352.94		76,357.06
Gatherings-Retreats Expenses							
Annual Sessions (AS) Expenses							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,568.25						1,568.25
AS Admin Coor	7,566.92						7,566.92
AS Program Expenses	1,746.66	3,832.40					5,579.06
AS Cooking & Food	9,691.02						9,691.02
Children's Sessions Expenses	2,848.11						2,848.11
Transaction Fees on Registration	587.86						587.86
Total Annual Sessions	24,008.82	3,832.40					27,841.22
Total Gatherings-Retreats	24,008.82	3,832.40					27,841.22
Committee Expenses							
Committees-General	120.16						120.16
Development	518.82						518.82
Publications & Technology	2,066.15						2,066.15
Youth Oversight	1,031.99						1,031.99
Total Committee Expenses	3,737.12						3,737.12
Support to Others	15,500.00			531.36			16,031.36
Total Operating Expenses	156,153.12	3,832.40		1,000.00	37,352.94		198,338.46
Operating Income/Loss	25,571.60	16,167.60		(1,000.00)	(37,352.94)	2,949.19	6,335.45

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2024 to 30 Jun 2025 (continued)

Other Income and Expense	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Unrealized Gain/Loss		31,735.76				2,447.65	34,183.41
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		(1,050.00)	1,050.00				0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	(8,721.60)	8,721.60					0.00
Total Transfers	(25,571.60)	7,671.60	1,050.00	1,000.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income/Loss	0.00	55,574.96	1,050.00	0.00	(21,502.94)	5,396.84	40,518.86

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Oversight Committee</u>	<u>Description</u>
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 2025-2026

	2025-2026 Budget	2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Actual
Income			
Contributions-Meetings	107,850	103,200	98,183
Gifts-Individuals	42,000	40,000	39,221
Bank & Investment Income	15,000	12,000	16,413
Misc. Income	0	0	691
Gatherings-Retreats	<u>26,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>27,217</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	190,850	180,200	181,725
Operating Expenses			
1 Personnel & Office	77,700	75,600	68,245
2 Yearly Meeting Travel Support	5,500	2,500	5,658
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	3,000	3,000	1,999
Mowing, Tree Trimming	4,500	4,500	3,960
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	4,000	4,000	3,594
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	1,040
Insurance	21,000	16,500	25,000
Caretaker Expenses	1,300	1,250	625
Utilities	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,786</u>
<i>Total Site & Property</i>	39,300	34,750	39,004
4 Gatherings-Retreats (AS=Annual Sessions)			
AS Event Expenses (oversight: Admin Coor)	9,000	9,000	7,567
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	10,600	10,300	9,691
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	5,000	5,000	1,747
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	2,750	2,750	2,848
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,750	1,750	1,568
Transaction Fees on AS Registration			588
Other Gatherings	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	29,100	28,800	24,009
5 Committees			
Miscellaneous Committee	400	400	120
Development	400	400	519
Publications & Technology	2,500	3,000	2,066
Youth Oversight	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>1,032</u>
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	5,700	6,200	3,737
6 Support to Others			
Quaker organizations that support the yearly meeting			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	5,400	5,000	5,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	5,400	5,000	5,000
Quaker organizations that Nurture ILYM Friends			
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	275	250	250
<i>Friends Journal</i>	275	250	250
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	325	300	300
Scattergood School and Farm	325	300	300
Earlham College	325	300	300

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2025-2026
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2025-2026	2024-2025	2024-2025
	Budget	Budget	Actual
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	325	300	300
Olney Friends School	325	300	300
Quaker organizations that support our testimonies			
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	525	500	500
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation (FCNL)	525	500	500
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	375	350	350
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	525	500	500
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	375	350	350
Project Lakota/Ville	375	350	350
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	375	350	350
Organizations that support the work of our committees			
National Relgs Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	100	100	100
Chi-Nations Youth Council	400		500
NABS Healing Coalition	100		
Chicago Alliance (CAARPR)		500	
<i>Total Support to Others</i>	16,650	15,500	15,500
Total Operating Expenses	173,950	163,350	156,153
Transfers			
To Maintenance Reserve	15,900	15,850	15,850
To FWCC World Meetings	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Unrestricted Reserves			<u>8,722</u>
<i>Total Transfers</i>	16,900	16,850	25,572
Total Expenses + Total Transfers	190,850	180,200	181,724
Net Income/Deficit	0	0	0

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

Bloomington-Normal MM	2,175.00	Northside FM	5,510.00
Clear Creek MM	5,500.00	Oak Park FM	6,000.00
Columbia FM	2,000.00	St. Louis MM	9,225.00
Downers Grove FM	7,000.00	South Bend FM	6,090.00
Duneland FM	2,610.00	Southern Illinois QM	580.00
Evanston MMoF	16,912.50	Spoon River QM	540.00
57th Street MoF	4,640.00	Urbana-Champaign FM	10,000.00
Lake Forest FM	19,400.00		
		Total	<u>98,182.50</u>

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

ILYM REPORTS

CHILDRENS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minute 41)

Members: Dale Gardner (chair), Alexandra Colin, Kathryn Young, Quinn Parks, Anna Watson, Bobbi Trist, Charles “Choz” Howard-McKinney (ex-officio)

Choz attended the Spring session Blue River Quarterly in April 2025. Eight children ranging in ages from two to middle school age. Dianne Dennis planned and delivered the lessons and activities. The children's favorite activity was bleaching and creating their own designs mostly around nature on t-shirts. Parents did not raise any concerns and did not offer any notes for the next BRQ.

In regards to the upcoming Annual Sessions, Choz has located three people to fill the babysitter positions. For childcare for the children ranging from 4-13 years, there are four lead and four supporting positions. Choz has secured volunteers for the supporting roles, and one person to be a lead. There are several people who he has asked and is waiting to hear back from regarding the open positions.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 14)

The final financial report for fiscal year 2023-2024 (7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024) indicated that the contributions from individuals needed to balance the budget for the fiscal year was successfully raised.

Preliminary information regarding contributions from individuals for the fiscal year 2004-2025 indicates that adequate funds have been (or shortly will be) received. Urbana-Champaign Meeting has shared a portion of a bequest from Linda Lorenz with the yearly meeting. In addition, income from certain restricted accounts is applied to the Annual Budget.

Preliminary budgeting for the fiscal year 2025-2026 has indicated that individual contributions needed to cover regular budget items will not need to be significantly increased. Final details are in the report of the Finance Committee.

The Development Committee’s annual appeal letter for fiscal year 2024-2025 was sent to members and monthly meetings. Unfortunately, the committee did not get that letter sent as early as originally intended. The committee will again try to get this year’s appeal letter delivered in Eighth or Ninth Month.

The 2024 annual appeal letter included a summary of the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget. It was felt that this was an excellent way to ensure that all yearly meeting members were fully informed about important financial matters. Also included was information about the amounts held in the various reserve funds and simple descriptions of the procedures used for authorizing expenditures from these funds. This was done with the support and cooperation of the Finance Committee.

Discussions with Finance Committee are continuing in order to determine what financial information should be included in the annual appeal letter.

The Support section of the ILYM web site gets reviewed each year to ensure that the information stays current, correct, understandable, and always available to yearly meeting members. Suggestions of additions and ideas for improvement are always welcome. Note that individuals can print their own copies of this information as a brochure.

Cathy Garra, Alex Lippitt, Peter Poshepny, and Frank Young, Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (See Minute 55)

Friends met on May 1 via Zoom to discuss issues relevant to the Environmental Concerns Committee. Members: Nancy Halliday, David Wixom, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray, Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, and Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann.

Nature Trail: Noel and Sarah Pavlovic will resurrect the nature trail around the meetinghouse for Annual Sessions. Brochures and maps about the trail will be displayed at the ECC table. This is a new version of the contemplative nature trail that was presented about 15 years ago.

Quaker Earthcare Witness QuakerEarth Action Map: ECC will be contacting meetings to encourage sharing their environmental projects into this worldwide mapping project that highlights environmental projects that yearly meetings and monthly meetings have taken. Several ILYM monthly meetings have already entered information into this portal.

ECC Meeting at ILYM Annual Sessions: ECC will meet during dinner on Friday June at 6:00 p.m. We will setup a meeting schedule for the summer and fall.

Meeting ended with expectant worship.

Noel Pavlovic, Clerk of ECC

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minutes 7, 8, 52)

The Fiscal Year closes at the end of June, and so much of the activity of the yearly meeting comes in these final months. We expect both more income and expense and are comfortable that the funds are available to meet our obligations.

The yearly meeting is grateful for the sharing by Champaign-Urbana Friends of the bequest from Linda Lorenz; the funds were added to our unrestricted reserves.

We are pleased that the yearly meeting is fully staffed. Different than in recent years, ILYM will spend the entire Personnel budget (the largest portion of the yearly meeting's budget).

The biggest surprise was the large increase in insurance cost—Church Mutual did not renew our policy due to the number of claims, and the broker we found had difficulty finding another option. We funded much of the increase from Maintenance Reserves (as that is where we put funds from claims). Cynthia Harris, a member of the committee, will support the Stewards in a search for more affordable insurance for next year.

The Treasurer's report includes a proposed budget for next fiscal year to be seasoned, adjusted, and approved during Annual Sessions.

To clarify the uses of the Donor Restricted Property Use Fund, we offer the following minute:

The Property Improvement Fund is a Donor Restricted Fund to be used for significant improvements to the ILYM Campus in McNabb, including new buildings and existing buildings. It is not intended to be used for maintenance of the existing campus. Any use of this fund should be approved at Annual Sessions (requests should be brought by Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee). This fund is intended to improve the facilities to better serve ILYM needs.

The project priorities come from ILYM with input from MP&E Committee. Donors wishing to underwrite any specific project should work through the Development Committee.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minute 48)

Called Meetings

Several months ago, Friends General Conference was bringing a law suit against the Department of Homeland Security and informed their constituent yearly meetings. While approval of the yearly meeting was not necessary, it raised the question of how the yearly meeting can respond to pressing issues where a decision is required between our scheduled gatherings. The Handbook Committee discerned how we could address the need to make decisions that affect the yearly meeting on short notice. It seems very important that Friends are aware of a decision being made.

Continuing Committee already meets and considers business between annual sessions. According to the current description, (page 8 in the Handbook) “the committee generally meets once each fall and once each spring...” There is nothing to say that it could not meet more often than that. Continuing Committee membership includes a representatives from each monthly meeting as well as any Friend who is part of the yearly meeting. Although it is not our practice to make decisions at Continuing Committee except as directed by the Yearly Meeting at Annual Sessions, the description does say that “Responsibilities of the Continuing Committee include...acting officially for the yearly meeting between sessions reflecting the established Illinois Yearly Meeting practices, procedures, and statements of faith.”

Proposed addition to the Continuing Committee Description

Called Continuing Committee Meeting. In very rare situations, the Yearly Meeting may need to call an additional Continuing Committee session. This may occur if there is a high-priority, time-sensitive issue that cannot be addressed in another way such as if there is a threat to our worship, an issue with legal implications, or an issue with our campus that requires immediate discernment by the Yearly Meeting.

The presiding clerk determines the date, place, and format of the meeting. The clerk along with the Administrative Coordinator will directly inform all monthly meeting clerks and representatives as well as sending an email announcement to those on the ILYM email list, giving as much time as possible under the circumstances. Friends may not bring up topics at that meeting other than the one(s) for which the meeting has been called. The meeting then proceeds as any Continuing Committee. The representatives report back to their individual meetings.

Nominating Committee

The Handbook Committee recommends the following additions to the Nominating Committee description. In order for the body to have some time to discern the slate, we are recommending that the Nominating Committee’s most complete slate be presented to the session prior to the session where it is brought for action.

“The Nominating Committee will make every effort to bring a complete list of committees, officers, etc. to the third session (Friday) of Annual Sessions. This will then be held over until the fourth session (Saturday) when there will be a call for action. If there are names added at the fourth session, the presiding clerk will ask the body if they should be acted on at that time or held over until later that session, the next morning, or Continuing Committee.”

The Handbook Committee notes that sometimes there are resignations from committees that need to be replaced before the next Annual Sessions or Continuing Committee.

“If the Nominating Committee or Naming Committee needs to add someone to a committee before that person could be approved by the Yearly Meeting, that person may participate on the committee in an acting capacity until Annual Sessions or Continuing Committee. If a clerk of a committee resigns, the committee can either find a clerk from those on the committee or ask Nominating Committee or Naming Committee to find someone to serve. In some cases, the presiding clerk or assistant clerk may be asked to step in *ex-officio*.”

Committee Clerk and Committee Conveners

At this time, the Nominating Committee chooses a clerk for each committee. Friends at the 2024 Annual Sessions were wondering: Should the ILYM Nominating Committee choose committee clerks or should the Nominating Committee choose a convener and the committee decides on their own clerk? The Handbook Committee is attempting to consider what the duties of the clerk of a committee are.

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

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

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

Epistles

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

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

MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND ENVISIONING COMMITTEE & STEWARDS

(See Minute 35, 36)

Prepared May 16, 2025 for Annual Sessions on June 18-22. The committee members are Carol Bartles, Mark Robinson, Marie White, Dennis McQueen, Margie Haworth, Christina Schulz, Noel Pavlovic, Sam Davis, Diane Clark Dennis, Dick Ashdown, and the Stewards: Chip Rorem, Grayce Haworth, Beth Carpenter, and Chris Goode. Our committee met three times this year via Zoom and organized two workdays.

Spring Workday, was held on May 3 and had around 27 people attending and helping with tasks including air conditioner installation at Clear Creek House (CCH) and extensive front porch cleanup, fallen branch and tree removal and stick pickup, ramp handrails finished, meetinghouse (MH) kitchen, bathhouse, HS Bunkhouse and cabins cleaned, and privacy curtains installed at cabins, and more. We had a potluck lunch with speakers from Western Yearly Meeting and FWCC and finished our work earlier than expected. Fall Workday will be on October 4. We are preparing tasks, including chipping the stick piles difficult to burn due to winds, resealing the cabin steps and the MH ramp.

Caretaker: As reported at Spring Continuing Committee, we have a local caretaker helping to keep an eye on our buildings in our absence since November 1. She is Shirley Maubach, a farmer from Henry who is also Dick Ashdown's long-time secretary. She visits the site, usually weekly, keeps the radios running, and has made minor repairs to door latches, etc., helped source local contractors, and alerted us to other concerns. She will be the local person to call, if required, for any outside group using our campus. She will work about 1 hour per week or about 52 hours per year. This seems to be working so far, but we will continue to monitor the time required and adjust if needed.

Insurance: We were notified in late January by Church Mutual, our former insurance provider, that they would not be renewing our policy when it came due in March. We reached out to an insurance broker, Lynn Crittenden of Snyder Insurance and Financial Services, that works with 57th Street Meeting, in order to find a new company for our property and liability insurance. They were only able to find one company that they work with, CRC Group, that was willing to insure us due to our roof and wind damage losses. They seemed to have difficulty with understanding us as a religious institution and sorting out our coverage. The coverage for one year will cost \$47,183, which was much higher than the \$16,000 we projected, but since our coverage had already lapsed, we felt compelled to accept it. The broker said that the cost of coverage should go down if we have a claims-free year next year. But the Stewards plan to investigate other options during the year ahead and will be assisted by Cynthia Harris of the Finance Committee.

Firearms Prohibition: The Property Use Ad-Hoc Committee that gave its final report at last year's Annual Sessions stated that firearms should be prohibited on our campus and in our buildings. In order to officially enforce it, signs approved by the state need to be posted on the grounds and buildings. These signs need to be of a certain size and depict a gun in a circle border with a diagonal line through it.

Action Item: Do we wish to publicly post these signs at CCH, MH, and campground as required for enforcement? Or do we prefer to not post the signs, but continue to privately prohibit firearms but limiting our ability to enforce it.

Children's Playground Equipment: We plan to replace the existing swing set with a new play structure (~\$1,400) with swings, slides and climbing tower for the kids below 10, and are purchasing a moveable 20' diameter gaga ball pit (~\$1,600) for kids of all ages prior to Annual Sessions. Our contractor Dean Tieman will be assembling this for us

and installing a new wood MH sign (\$?, but expected less than \$2,000). New play equipment was encouraged and these items were recommended by an advisory committee of ILYM children aged ~4 thru ~12. We may add to this equipment in coming years. We would like continued input from the children, and others attending Annual Sessions this year.

Maintenance Items: Electrical work at the campground (\$2,700), and new electrical work for additional circuits to improve the MH basement and extending service to the northeast corner of the meeting room to help support our online broadcast control station (\$2,200) has been completed. We also replaced the existing furnace and air conditioning equipment at CCH (\$7,100) and installed window a/c units at the CCH second floor bedrooms (\$~550). We also completed some minor roof and flashing work at the MH side corridor roof (\$200), and purchased privacy curtains for the cabins (~\$450). We are contemplating the purchase of 60 new mattresses (48 for the cabins, and 12 for the HS Bunkhouse), more cleanable and rodent resistant, to replace the old cloth covered mattresses (~\$6,000). These may, or may not be delivered in time for Annual Sessions.

Future Year's Maintenance Projects: May include completing the repair and repainting of the meetinghouse windows, painting the meetinghouse interior, more insulation at the Clear Creek House attic.

High School Bunkhouse Replacement: Due to the deteriorating condition of the existing bunkhouse there has been more urgency this spring to plan a replacement structure. Jasmine Dennis, the Youth Coordinator, the Youth Oversight Committee, and the High School Friends are aiming to have a new bunkhouse in place by the 2026 Annual Sessions, with the help of this committee. It could also be used for additional accommodations for Women's Weekend, meeting retreats, and possible rental to outside groups in three-plus seasons if conditioned. The existing bunkhouse is about 24'x60', but the south room (dubbed the holy room because of the animal holes in the floor) is not used, and they do not have a need for all of that space. A pre-built portable structure is being considered and some initial estimates have been obtained for a 14'x32' Amish made structure sold by Boondocks Barns in Granville. Those estimates are about \$17,500 for a simple structure with unfinished interior and no electrical or mechanical systems, and about \$31,000 for the same with finished interior, some insulation, and electrical and mini-split a/c & heat unit, but do not include demolition and removal of the existing building, or preparation of the site with a new concrete slab, etc. In brief discussions in our committee meeting we recommend getting the largest building that they can deliver to the site, which is about 16'x40'. This makes a real difference in ability to accommodate the space needs with some room for a hopeful increase in numbers of users, from a tight 16, to a more roomy 20 to 24 persons. This is still about a third less area than the usable portion of the existing bunkhouse, but can be made more functional with planning. This committee will work with the Youth Oversight Committee and the High School Friends to help plan these functions and the structure, and have already made some schematic layouts and pricing for a larger building. We intend to have more complete plans and estimates for our report at Annual Sessions, and believe that it might be funded largely from the Property Improvement Fund, and additional specific fundraising by the Development Committee.

Action Item: Consideration for approval of, and spending for construction of a new High School Bunkhouse to be made ready by June 2026.

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

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 11)

The Ministry and Advancement Committee provided a monthly meeting for worship for all ILYM and two workshop opportunities: “Final Thoughts: End of Life Considerations” in November, 2024 and “Beauty will Save the World” in February, 2025.

We visited monthly meetings and worship groups. We assisted Friends who needed to move their memberships from Spoon River Meeting since it is requesting to be laid down as a monthly meeting and become a worship group under the care of Clear Creek Meeting.

Committee members along with the Co-Field Secretaries share our experiences of worshiping with monthly meetings. We learn about struggles within meetings and about the joys meetings are experiencing. We know some feel we only see the difficulties of meetings but sometimes what we see is a meeting that is doing well and could assist others. Meetings go through cycles, having several members die can create a deep sense of loss, having new people attend and babies born to members can lead to a celebration. The ups and downs are part of life and the yearly meeting Co-Field Secretaries, yearly meeting members, and committees are here to walk with monthly meetings and worship groups through these changes. It is part of being together in community. We encourage you to read other meetings’ State of Society reports where they express the particulars of their conditions.

CO-FIELD SECRETARIES (See Minute 10)

As our second year of service to Illinois Yearly Meeting draws to a close, we share the following observations based on our in-person and online visits and conversations:

- We hear a consistent hunger for spiritual deepening. This convinces us that Spirit is always speaking and drawing Friends to fuller relationship with the Divine and their guidance.
- We see much evidence of community engagement and particular passion for standing up for marginalized groups as those communities face attacks from those who would disregard civil liberties and the law.
- We see joy in regular gatherings of Friends, taking the form of meetings for worship, for eating, for learning, for business, and for fun together.
- We see the future in several small and lively First Day Schools, with young Friends learning Quaker ways through the service of dedicated teachers and committed parents.
- We see the future also in those who have begun to worship with us in the past year, who are stepping up to learn, engage, and serve.
- We see with sadness seasoned and faithful elders and their loved ones leave us, and we recognize that this will continue.

We recognize that not all meetings and worship groups will continue indefinitely into the future. In looking at the past, as we have special reason to do in our sesquicentennial year, we can see that this is not unique, that meetings have a life cycle, that change is natural and inevitable. We also know that small meetings can contain considerable energy from committed, active Friends and that Friends routinely come to our Society as adults, not children. We celebrate meetings that are growing, and invite Friends to reflect on the best ways to welcome and engage newcomers of any age.

We also acknowledge that meetings have their struggles. Conflict is an inevitable feature of life in community. For such circumstances we offer the following queries:

- The openness that Friends maintain welcomes into community those who may require extra care. Do Friends have the energy and resources to take on these additional challenges?
- How do Friends distinguish between a divine leading and an individual's will?
- What are ways in which Quaker testimonies and processes can be used in handling conflicts?
- In situations of conflict, how can Friends maintain a loving attitude and forthright speech?

Lovingly submitted, Mark "Nemo" McGinnis & Marcia Nelson

NAMING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 3, 33)

With gratitude for their willingness to serve, the Naming Committee proposes Margie Haworth-Davis as the clerk and Alex Lippitt as a member of the Nominating Committee; each will be serving a one-year term.

Erin Taylor, Val Lester

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 34, 54)

Following are those being nominated and their terms:

Co-Treasurers: Dawn Crimson (2028)

Stewards: Chris Goode (2028)

Children's Religious Education: Quinn Parks, Katherine Young (2028);: Choz Howard-McKinney (Ex officio)

Development: Frank Young (2028) & clerk

Environmental Concerns: Charlotte Raasch (2028)

Finance: Cynthia Harris, Frank Young (2028)

Handbook: Julia Pantoga (2028)

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning: Mark Robinson (2028)

Ministry & Advancement: Steve Tamari, Sarah Pavolic, Virginia Schelbert (2028)

Peace Resources: Janet Fair (2028)

Publications & Technology Lilith Swygert (2026)

Racial Equity and Education: Beth Burbank, Janet Fair (2028)

Youth Oversight: Rose Johnson, Erica Cheng (2028)

FCNL: Fariba Murray (2028)

FGC Central Committee: Lilith Swygert (2028)

Olney: Grayce Mesner (2028)

Scattergood: Alex Lippitt (2028)

Chicago Friends School: Mary Ellen Isaacs (2028)

FWCC: Julia Pantoga (2028)

QEW: Chip Rorem (2028)

Thank you for all the work that has gone into the Nominating Committee work over the last couple of years with lean resources.

I have been impressed at how many of the people who were asked to consider a position in one of our communities or offices took seriously discernment, taking time to see how the Spirit is moving them. So, know that even those who discerned that now is not the time, thank you all for taking the process of discernment seriously. It really matters.

We have made some progress in having some persons join committees who are new to that role, even some of whom have undyed hair that is not grey or white. We honor our elders with grey or no hair, people who still find spirit-filled service as a call and who are lovingly nurturing those new to our committee work. Know that if, well, let me say instead, when you discern that it is time to care for our yearly meeting by serving on a committee that you will be gently guided. Most find that it is a joy to work with other Friends from your own and from other meetings, and this joyful work deepens our spiritual paths in ways that sometimes are unexpected.

We encourage monthly meetings and worship groups to put on their announcements and agendas to invite members and attenders to engage yearly meeting in a number of ways including by considering a committee engagement.

Our nominating committee has gained strength this year by having Margie Haworth-Davis as our new clerk, Brandon Harrington, Alex Lippitt, and me.

Brad Laird

Peace Resources Committee (See Minute 22)

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

- We have changed the Meeting for Healing we host once a month from the Israel/Palestine conflict in Gaza to a Meeting for Healing for the Future of America. We have extended invitations to other yearly meetings. Attendance which had been in a state of decline has become healthy once more.
- Due to the change in Administration in Washington, D.C; we are exploring appropriate ways to respond.
- In February, we, together with the REEC, ran a workshop for young Friends concerning military recruitment and what to expect if joining the armed forces. It was well received.
- We hope to follow up that workshop with another for young Friends. This time on bullying.
- We intend to write a letter of support to the Westminster Friends Meeting after their meeting was disrupted by the local authorities.
- We have a proposed change in our Handbook Description in response to our changing world.

Proposed Handbook Description

Peace Resources Committee

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

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

The Committee's objectives include:

- a. At the request of ILYM youth leaders, providing information to young Friends

regarding conscientious objection, the draft system, and military recruitment.

Assisting young people in developing their own Peace Testimony.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (See Minute 15)

The Personnel Committee has focused its work this year on continuing to ensure our practices and policies remain consistent with state and federal guidelines and are aligned with the priorities and vision of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

In keeping with these priorities, the Personnel Committee worked with the Religious Education Committee and the Youth Oversight Committee on job descriptions for their respective coordinators as they embarked on job searches. The Personnel Committee worked with Maintenance and Planning in determining that the new caretaking position as it is currently envisioned can legally be considered an independent contractor position. Once the Children's Religious Education Committee and Youth Oversight Committee put forth their respective recommendations for new staff, the Personnel Committee worked with them to ensure these new staff had completed background checks, state mandated reporter training and state mandated sexual harassment training. Any new part-time seasonal staff will have passed background checks and completed trainings prior to the commencement of Annual Sessions.

The State of Illinois requires that all employees, part-time and full-time, complete sexual harassment training on an annual basis. To further support those employees and other Friends who wish to complete this training for roles they play in their monthly meetings or communities, the Personnel Committee is offering space for those who wish to complete the sexual harassment training at Annual Sessions. The training can be completed within an hour. Those who participate can download a certificate of completion. Employees are required to submit the certificate to the Personnel Committee.

Staff performance reviews which had in previous years been conducted in spring, have been moved to summer. This decision reflects the fact that for some staff, a larger portion of their work is concentrated on preparation for Annual Sessions and occurs during Annual Sessions. To facilitate these annual reviews, the personnel committee will send an email in late June requesting feedback or suggestions from the broader ILYM community to those committees who supervise staff. Evaluations will then be complete over the summer.

Personnel records and other documents used by the Personnel Committee have been uploaded or reorganized in Box, a cloud-based platform. This work will continue as it provides a way to securely store confidential documents and provides the committee with access to other documents needed to carry out its responsibilities. This system will also

help ensure that information is accessible in an organized manner when there are changes in membership of the Personnel Committee.

The committee is currently focusing on clarifying the wording of the “Paid Sick Leave” portion of the Employee Manual. As these revisions are not likely to be completed prior to Annual Sessions, the committee asks that revisions be considered for approval at Fall 2025 Continuing Committee so any approved changes can be incorporated in the Employee Manual in a timely manner.

PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (See Minute 21)

Publications

2024 Minute Books, Plummer Lectures, Meeting Directories, and 2025 Annual Sessions documents were published on schedule.

Among Friends: There have been sufficient writing submissions to produce an issue of *Among Friends* this spring.

Technology

The 2025 hybrid sessions have been improved with fiber internet, electrical outlets to relocate the audio/video control table to the back of the meetingroom, considerable cabling from the front to the back, and a screen projection on the dais to display the remote participants.

Friends are reminded that the Administrative Coordinator can create hosted Zoom meetings for ILYM meetings and programs. Please send your request 1 week in advance if possible. To schedule a meeting, send a date and time request to Wil Brant at admincoor@ilym.org. With confirmation of the scheduling you will get the meeting ID and passcode to share with attenders. You will also get a host key code and instructions, which will be only for the person hosting/facilitating the meeting. The host key code allows you to claim the host function of the meeting without needing to log into the Zoom account.

Timeline for review/revision of ILYM Faith and Practice

The committee requests that in the 2025 Annual Sessions, Illinois Yearly Meeting creates the ad-hoc committee for the review and revision of the ILYM Book of Faith and Practice. This would provide Nominating Committee the forthcoming year to identify membership for approval at Annual Sessions in 2026. For reference, the time line accepted at 2024 Annual Sessions is included in the Additional Documents section.

Dawn Crimson, clerk

RACIAL EQUITY AND EDUCATION (See Minutes 23, 26, 27, 37, 49)

The Racial Equity and Education Committee (REEC) has offered multiple opportunities each month for those in the yearly meeting to learn and take action toward racial justice whether through the Anti-Racism Café or other events. Since ILYM’s approval at the Fall Continuing Committee, we have participated as a committee in the Apartheid Free Communities coalition and an opportunity from that for the yearly meeting to live into the commitment ILYM made at the 2024 Annual Sessions to work toward a permanent ceasefire in Palestine and an end to the Israeli occupation. See REEC Minute 1 Divestment in additional documents section.

Additionally, REEC members have done extensive research and networking with other Friends across the country to learn more about Quaker involvement in the genocide of Indigenous People on Turtle Island (North America). After receiving feedback on a

draft apology and land acknowledgment at Spring Continuing Committee, we are bringing a different proposed minute addressing the Doctrine of Discovery together with historical information highlighting its relevance to Friends. See the Background information and the REEC Minute 2 in additional documents section.

Relatedly, we are proposing that the Yearly Meeting take action in response to what we have already learned and are sharing by joining the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). See REEC Minute 3 in the additional documents section.

STEWARDS (See Minute 35, 36)

Combined with the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee report (p. 28).

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 40)

Committee Members: Allison Boyaris, Erica Cheng, Michael Dennis (Clerk), Jasmine Dennis (Youth Coordinator), Dale Gardner, Choz Howard-Mckinney, Rose Johnson, Brad Laird, Daniel Lakemacher, and Hannah Laird (HSF Clerk).

It has been an eventful year for High School Friends. Recall that after their workshop on Gaza the teens joined with statements by ecumenical Apartheid-free Communities and a second statement put forward by Quaker organizations. They also donated money raised through t-shirt sales to food relief in Gaza and sent in a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination through AFSC for Gaza Relief Organizations.

We were able to meet in person four times during the year:

- Six of our High School Friends (HSF), Hannah, Leighton, Matt, Milo, Sam, and Zara, participated in the Fall Blue River Quarterly meeting at Camp Du Buois in 9/2024. This included workshops on truth and reconciliation, canoeing, campfire with smores, and long hikes.
- Twelve teens, including five HSFs from ILYM (Hannah, Ilyse, Jack, Leighton, Milo, and Zara) met at Quake that Rocked the Midwest (1/17-20/2025) held at Evanston Friends Meetinghouse. There was worship sharing on SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship), sharing warm and fuzzy, workshops on countering military recruiting efforts by Mark McGinnis & Daniel Lakemacher, and a Russian Art project to understand the neuro plasticity of the brain by Charlotta Koppanyi. There were out trips to Curt Café (to talk with Ashor Jajou), the McGaw YMCA to swim, the Sky Zone indoor trampoline park to burn off steam, and to participate in the Interfaith Action's Walk for Warmth with Joey Rodger and several people from Evanston Friends Meeting. We want to collectively thank Evanston Friends Meeting and all the people who helped make it happen as it was great to see the high school Friends back together.
- Three HSFs (Hannah, Leighton, and Zara) participated in the Spring Blue River Quarterly meeting at Camp Silica (4/11-13/2025). This included participating in the intergenerational workshop on, "Supporting social responsibility in trying times", a flea market shopping trip, and listening to Priscilla Stuckey's 2025 *The Knowing Inside* podcast.
- Six HSFs (Hannah, Leighton, Milo, Morton, Sam, and one more joining from Lake Forest Meeting) are participating this week in Annual Sessions (6/18-22/2025) where

they have built another Leopold bench with hand tools under the direction of Noel Pavlovic, swimming at the beach; updates on the situation in Gaza, business meeting, low and high ropes course at Camp Oak in Lacon, the 150 birthday party for Annual Session, long walks and playing wink.

During the coming year we anticipate holding a Fall Quake, the Quake to Rock the Midwest (QRM) at Evanston Friends Meeting on MLK weekend (1/17-20/2025), and Spring Quake at Blue River Quarterly in Normal next April. We will be planning QRM in collaboration with Scattergood and Western Yearly Meeting. Thomas Rockwall from WYM has also invited our teens to explore the opportunity to meet with their teens in Indiana. If you know of any interested teens that would like to participate in the HSF program, please have them or their parents contact Mike Dennis.

This year the ILYM High School Friends are conducting a fund raiser to both celebrate the annual meeting's 150 anniversary and to raise money to support relief efforts in Gaza through the American Friends Service Committee. This year we have shirts, hats, and two types of bags using color designs on the front and back by Milo Johnson and HSFs to celebrate the meetinghouse, its lawn and trees that are so important to all. Pre-orders and additional products are available outside at the northwest corner of the meetinghouse.

The current mattresses in the HSF meeting house are more than 30 years old, full of dust, and many are damaged by animal nesting. The HSF would like to bring a request to purchase 12 or more new camp mattresses wrapped in vinal like those used in the cabins at Camp DuBois. The cost is \$98-112/mattress, and we have approached Chris Goode to seek a bulk discount if we buy more for cabins as part of the previously approved request from Maintenance and Planning.

In October, Rose Johnson stepped down as Youth Coordinator. In January, Jasmine Dennis started as Youth Coordinator in time for the Quake thanks to some quick work by a Youth Oversight led by Daniel, Personnel led by Colleen Reardon, and by Dawn, Jasmine was able to complete the process in time to join the Quake.

The committee asks that you support the HSF through purchasing new or older materials and that you support the nomination of Rose Johnson and Erica Cheng to Youth Oversight tomorrow.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

AFSC REPRESENTATIVES

ILYM selects four representatives to the AFSC Corporation. This year three representatives were able to attend the annual meeting in late April (two in person and one virtually). All four ILYM representatives have significant previous and current involvement with AFSC. One has previously been a member of the AFSC Board of Directors. One serves as clerk of the Nobel Peace Prize nominating committee. Another (with his wife) has served on the Moment of Truth Campaign Committee since the beginning of this current major AFSC campaign. In recent years representatives have assisted in making AFSC literature and information available at Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions.

This year the Annual Corporation meeting (in the words of one representative) stressed that all Corporation members are liaisons to their monthly and yearly meetings. It is hoped that representatives can help generate interest in the many programs of the AFSC and educate local meetings about the wide variety of both actions and people involved in AFSC programs.

There were presentations about the AFSC efforts in Gaza (which have lasted for many years and now are helping to feed the grandchildren of earlier victims of this seemingly perpetual conflict). There was also a presentation from an AFSC worker who worked at the Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Hospital and had stayed in Viet Nam after the cease-fire in 1975. One of the representatives was able to talk with the speaker about a former colleague who had also worked at that hospital.

Should a monthly meeting or another organization seek a speaker to talk about AFSC's programs and how they are related to Quaker testimonies, the representatives would be willing to help facilitate this, using our experience and contacts with AFSC staff to find appropriate information and possible presenters.

Beth Burbank, Michael Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin, and Frank Young

FCNL REPRESENTATIVES

One week after the election, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) came together for its Annual Meeting in a state of dread. People cherished the time together as they started making plans for the incoming administration.

It all began with the Quaker Public Policy Institute where FCNL representatives and others came together to lobby Congress face to face. We (those attending) had the ask for Congress to discontinue transfer of offensive weapons to Israel. We asked Senators to cosponsor and vote in favor of Joint Resolutions of Disapproval to block the sale of offensive weapons to Israel. For the Representatives we asked for them to publicly speak out against the transfer of offensive weaponry to Israel since there would not be a vote in the House. Friends have been appalled by the civilian catastrophes and human rights failures of the conflict and desire the US government to take a stand against this. Illinois Congresspeople and Senators were friendly but non-committal to our ask.

We started the session with FCNL Indigenous Land Acknowledgement:

As we bear witness and lobby in solidarity with Native Americans, we also honor the Nacotchtank tribe on whose ancestral land the FCNL, FCNL Education Fund, and Friends Place on Capitol Hill buildings stand. They are also known as the Anacostans, the Indigenous people who lived along the banks of the Anacostia River, including in several villages on Capitol Hill and what is now Washington, D.C. By the 1700s, the Nacotchtank tribe had merged with other tribes like the Pamunkey and the Piscataway, both of which still exist today.

In the past year, there have been budget shortfalls, a hiring freeze, and a need for savings. This has led FCNL to change in-person Annual Meeting to only once every two years. This will also reduce our carbon footprint. Other year's business will be conducted through Zoom. Also the Quaker Public Policy Institute with its in person lobbying, will be moved to the spring to combine with Spring Lobby Week where young people lobby congress. Committee structures are being consolidated to modestly reduce the numbers of General Committee members needed to staff them.

We reviewed and set the Legislative Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress. We modestly adapted some of the draft priorities in anticipation of the incoming administration, but the priorities remained true to the original discernment process that involved hundreds of Quaker Meetings and organizations last year.

We are encouraged to adhere to the community agreement that was introduced a few years ago. (FCNL Community Agreement). This might be an excellent model for a Community Agreement that ILYM could adopt.

We are happy to note that we currently have two FCNL advocacy teams lobbying our congresspeople for FCNL and would like to see more. Similarly the FCNL representatives would like to see young people from ILYM attend the Spring Lobby Weekend. Perhaps the yearly meeting, in collaboration with High School Friends could rent a van and drive a group to DC in the Spring.

We are very thankful for the tireless work of FCNL staff to create a world we seek, a world free of war and free of threat of war, and hope they will continue the good work for years to come.

FGC REPRESENTATIVES

In the annual impact report Barry Crossno, General Secretary, and Marvin Barnes, Clerk, wrote “We have traveled uncharted waters together—through a global pandemic and now we are plunged into enormous political and economic change.” FGC has still accomplished much the past year. There was an in-person summer gathering at Haverford College with 1,000 people. The Spiritual Deepening program offered the first un-conference in February with plenary speakers, workshops, Bible study, and informal community time. In addition, Spiritual Deepening offered e-retreats and a Spiritual Deepening library. Youth and Adult Young Friends is offering a YAY conference this summer, established a Youth Advisory Committee, worked with Pendle Hill to provide Dreaming Sanctuary for LGBTQ+ people of faith last summer. Ministry on Racism Program (MORP) provides Friends of Color worship times, regular virtual and hybrid events for Friends of Color, regular weekly worship for white friends confronting racism, and pre-gatherings for Friends of Color. MORP supported 30 Friends’ participation in the second Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR) training. Central committee decided to expand support of outreach. The Connecting and Communications team has placed resources online to support newcomers and works to connect yearly and monthly meetings. Quakerbooks provides books for purchase and QuakerPress publishes books and materials to help introduce newcomers to Quakerism.

Friends General Conference made two significant changes at the central committee annual meeting in October. They united in a change to governance and a plan for evaluation of programs. The changes require significant discernment by implementation working groups before they can be enacted. The change in governance will result in a smaller board making decisions. This board will meet more frequently than the annual central committee meeting. There will still be committees whose clerks and members focus on their specific work. Committee clerks will not attend as many meetings and will be able to facilitate the committee work while submitting reports of progress and new visions. Each committee will participate in their program evaluation based on more than just numbers.

At the spring executive committee meeting we agreed to move forward with the YAY gathering this summer even with low numbers of registrations. Members agreed to promote the event with the hope that we have enough registrations to cover the number of beds we guaranteed to use. FGC has been losing money on the gatherings for several years. This is due to the increasing charges by colleges, making the costs too high for many. FGC had a virtual un-conference in February and people felt it was too expensive. There is an assumption that doing it on Zoom does not cost much. Virtual events require more Zoom accounts, many tech hosts, and lots of behind the scenes work by staff and volunteers. There is the usual cost for plenary speakers and stipends for volunteers who offer hours of assistance during the event. As FGC continues to offer gatherings and

virtual un-conferences, they will need to find ways to make these opportunities more affordable. This will mean considering ways to rethink what is included. This is an opportunity for FGC to reimagine its offerings.

Janice Domanik

FPT REPRESENTATIVE

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization that develops long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world to work for justice and healing, and to create enduring cultures of peace. There are teams in the African Great Lakes area (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Kenya), in Asia/West Pacific (Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines), Europe and the Middle East (Caucasus, Ukraine, Kurdistan/Iraq, and Palestine), North America (United States), and las Americas (Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and other regions).

FPT's office manager reports: FPT is going strong. All regions are working hard to teach peace and reconciliation. The website (friendspeaceteams.org) is full of information on all regions, how individuals can get involved, events, stories and current and past copies of the Spring Epistle and PeaceWays; it also has link to donate online. Share the website with others to spread the word of the good work being doing around the world.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES

Last summer, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) held a World Plenary Meeting, from August 5-12, 2024, near Johannesburg, South Africa and online. There were 95 yearly meetings, worship groups, and Friends organizations in attendance. Julia Pantoga attended in person, and several other Friends attended over Zoom from the Lake Forest Friends Meeting meetinghouse.

The theme of the World Plenary was "Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another." According to the Epistle, "Ubuntu is a Zulu word that speaks to the power and ceaseless work of the Holy Spirit between us, enabling us to go beyond our individual selves and grasp that 'I am because we are.'" We urge you to take time to read the entire epistle.

We participated in moving worship from different branches of Friends. We discussed environmental issues with small groups. From Illinois, we participated in home groups with Friends from New Zealand and Australia. We also sang a lot using the *FWCC Songbook* which was assembled for the Plenary.

With great sadness, we heard of the passing of Simon Lamb, longtime Presiding Clerk of FWCC, a few months after the plenary.

The FWCC Section of the Americas held a Section Meeting on March 20-23, 2025 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our new Section of the Americas Executive Secretary, Evan Welkin, welcomed us all on opening night. Julia Pantoga coordinated help for dietary restrictions and accessibility needs. This was new, but needed, for FWCC. Two groups met early in the week, a group of Young Adult Friends and an orientation group for Quaker Connect. The enthusiasm from these gatherings carried into the section meeting.

The theme was "Building the Future as Way Opens," which was inspired by the Bible verse, "Look, I am doing something new! Now it emerges: can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the desert and rivers in the wasteland" (Isaiah 4:19). The theme ran through the weekend in the worship times, home groups, workshops, and singing.

Please note that there have been some office changes for the Section of the Americas. Traditionally FWCC Section of the Americas had an office in Friends Center in Philadelphia. However, with the staff spread across the country, in particular the Pacific

northwest, it seemed wiser to have a virtual office. Donations should be either made through the website or checks can be sent directly to the bookkeeper at Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, PO Box 925, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

The World Quaker Day theme for October 5, 2025 is “Love your neighbor.” Suggestions for activities can be found at fwcc.world/worldquakerday.

QUAKER EARTH CARE WITNESS REPRESENTATIVE (See Minute 52)

Quaker Earthcare Witness continues to be a Quaker voice for the earth. An ongoing action campaign has been to defend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) and the clean energy tax credits in it that are critical to projects that would significantly reduce carbon emissions. In the spring of this year, QEW held three “Action Hours” that brought people together virtually to get background information and suggested scripts, and then to make phone calls to their legislators to urge them to save the clean energy tax credits.

QEW continues work on the Quaker Earth Action Map that aims to highlight actions that Friends meetings, churches, and organizations around the world are taking to live sustainably on the earth. With the help of the Environmental Concerns Committee, we hope to get ILYM meetings on the map this year.

An ongoing goal of QEW is to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community. In light of that goal, there has been increasing awareness around lifting up voices from the Global South. One of the speakers at the online Spring Gathering in early April was Lesmore Ezekiel from the All Africa Conference of Churches who reminded us that the welfare of the earth is our welfare and challenged us to confront “the forces of destruction that undermine the fullness of life for all”. The QEW Mini-grants working group, of which I am serving as co-clerk, has had direct contact with a wide variety of Friends through funding projects with Quaker meetings and organizations around the world. Recently, we have funded projects for environmental education in Bolivia, a school garden in Kenya, solar panels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and tree planting in Uganda, to name a few.

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, weekly fellowship hours, and occasional speaker presentations
- 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 (CFS) has a lot of news to share this year. They learned this winter that their current home (Trinity Church building) will be turned into condos by the landlord, beginning in summer 2026. This led them to form an Ad Hoc Search Committee, and has resulted in CFS finding a new home starting this coming school year 2025-26 at the North Shore Baptist Church in the Lakewood-Balmoral neighborhood, just a mile south of our current location. They are thrilled to begin this new partnership with North Shore Baptist, a progressive Baptist congregation that is excited to welcome

CFS to their education building, which has been vacant for several years. This move provides a wonderful home, with room to grow in the coming years.

Chicago Friends School has also been given a \$50,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor. They are confident they will meet this match, but donations can still be accepted until June 30, 2025. They welcome all contributions.

CFS believes that Chicago Friends School, and Quaker schools in general, have much to offer children and families in our current political climate. CFS is an inclusive, welcoming, and safe space for all students. Their curriculum is robust and they are unafraid to confront our history and current events through the lens of our Quaker values.

Olney

“We are in the business of transforming students’ lives for the betterment of our World. Letters affirming this come from many alumni across the generations and cultures,” Christian Acemah, Head of Olney School in the *Olney Current*, Summer 2024. Regrettably Christian was unable to take part in our panel of Friends’ Schools at our 2024 yearly meeting session. Instead, Dave Wixom, one of our representatives and an alumnus of Olney, joined the panel.

A new tradition at Olney is a Meeting for Worship with attention to baby goats in the Kirk barn. In April, students signed up for Goat Watch, where they spent time in the barn monitoring 12 pregnant does for signs of imminent birth. The first kid arrived April 5 with 20 to follow. When the kids were older the students held a Meeting for Worship for Goats in the barn. Many of those attending held baby goats on their laps. The meeting was a practice of gratitude for the farm animals, their farmers, the cuteness of young goat kids, and God’s good earth that nourishes them all.

Included in the summer 2024 edition of the *Olney Current*, I found reference to “funds from an oil lease.” About 10 years ago, Olney refused to sign a lease for mineral rights on the school land. I and others gave increased donations because of the stand Olney took. When I read “funds from an oil lease” I immediately sent an email to the school asking for an update.

The following was their reply: “I certainly understand that this is a troubling question in many minds. I can share a little about how and why this difficult decision was made. In 2023, we learned that the state of Ohio changed the way that laws were interpreted regarding “utilization” of mineral rights. This meant that because all the owners of properties surrounding Olney had signed leases, that the oil company could go ahead and drill for oil and gas under Olney’s property whether we signed a lease or not.

“The Board’s primary responsibility is to ensure Olney’s financial sustainability. The Board made the very difficult decision to accept the lease agreement because the funds were needed to sustain the school financially. Not accepting the funds would not have changed the oil company’s right to drill through unitization.

“The funds were placed in our Friends Fiduciary investment account, which consists of socially responsible investments. We have used some of these funds to contract with a digital marketing firm which has greatly enhanced our outreach for enrollment. With our increasing enrollment levels, we are now on the path to financial sustainability for the future. Without these funds, the future was extremely uncertain.”

To learn more about Olney Friends School, go to olneyfriends.org, call 740-425-3655 or send mail to 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713.

Grayce Haworth Mesner

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 a transformative experience to build resilience, self-confidence and life skills, from making large meals to using tools to fix equipment. This is all on the way to becoming a global citizen and steward of the earth.

Scattergood provides a safe and nurturing environment embracing all from LBTGQIA students to students of color to neurodivergent students (example, those on the autism spectrum). In this school year (2024-25) SFS has implemented the Focus Program to highlight Scattergood's great strengths. Built on a solid college preparatory foundation, each student had the opportunity to dig deeply into one of the following: Arts and Craftsmanship, Sustainable Agriculture, Peace and Social Transformation.

Six students participated and each completed a capstone project from producing a sustainable mushroom farm, to an art project that was showcased at Space 1 in Iowa City; the artist received a full-ride college scholarship.

In its 134th year, SFS life remained rich and vibrant with thirty high school students (2/3rds boarding) and eleven students in the Middle School Day Program. Students came from across the United States and included students from France, Germany, and Afghanistan. Graduating seniors have been accepted into respected colleges, some going on into enriching gap years before attending college. There are five seniors graduating, including the first 2 middle school students from 2020.

The Roots and Wings capital campaign is doing well. SFS has \$2.6 million in pledges toward a goal of \$3.5 million. John Zimmerman (Head of School) and Ethan Huelskamp (Development Director) have been traveling the country meeting with alumni and other friends of Scattergood to get Scattergood closer to the goal. Solar and a new well are now implemented, including the Federal rebate received just in time as the administrations changed. Geothermal and dorm water sprinklers are next.

2024-2025 activities included:

- The high school performed a the *Amélie* musical.
- The middle school performed the *Worst Most Vegetal* murder mystery.
- Great field trips were undertaken including one to Colombia in the spring .
- SFS was awarded a successful renewal of its membership in the Friends Council on Education (the national association of Quaker schools).
- There were a lot of interactions between Scattergood students and Northern Yearly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting which will hopefully be ongoing and growing: Rock the Midwest (ILYM); Quaker Youth Retreat (NYM); Welcoming 40 Quaker students to Scattergood.

Alex Lippitt

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting began as a subcommittee of Maintenance Planning & Envisioning as a result of discernment at Continuing Committee in October 2023. At that time, our main concern was the sustainability of the Yearly Meeting in light of several factors: the maintenance and need for decisions about the physical plant, the decline in attendance at annual sessions, and the decreasing ability of Clear Creek Friends to provide physical support for campus upkeep. Chris Jocius's generous bequest was regarded as potentially helpful in considering solutions to these problems, so proposals about how to spend those funds were added to our responsibilities.

During Yearly Meeting last year, the committee hosted workshops designed to help us address those issues. Attendance at those workshops was excellent. Speaking generally, the main things we heard from Friends during those sessions were as follows:

- 1) Love for the ILYM campus;
- 2) Consideration of the degree to which the ILYM campus is a separate entity from ILYM itself;
- 3) Concern about steady declines in attendance and participation in both the yearly meeting and monthly meetings;
- 4) Curiosity about how other yearly meetings are faring;
- 5) Longing for more spiritual opportunities and sustenance.

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

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

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

During the summer and fall of 2024, it became increasingly clear to us that the sustainability of the yearly meeting depends in large measure on the strength of its constituent meetings. ILYM is a bottom-up organization, one in which local meetings are regarded as primary. So our local meetings, almost all of which are in numerical decline, need assistance from the yearly meeting, both for the sake of their futures and so they will come to care enough about the yearly meeting to participate in efforts to sustain it. The committee therefore drafted a document detailing a possible approach to visiting as many ILYM meetings as possible, preferably in person and preferably more than once, in order to learn more about each meeting and consider whether there are resources that might be useful for them which ILYM can help to provide.

In considering this new approach to our work, which we continue to regard as a work in progress, the committee recognized that the process of outreach, research, and discernment would take longer than the projected year (2024-2025) that was indicated when the ad hoc committee was designated an independent committee in Minute #43 of the 2024 Annual Sessions. As a consequence, we reported at Spring Continuing Committee that we now plan to complete our work by the 2026 Annual Sessions, at which time our committee will request to be laid down.

The viability of annual sessions continued to be an important focus for our committee. To that end, we have spent much of our recent attention on this 150th anniversary celebration, realizing that this event provided an excellent opportunity to increase attendance at annual sessions across all demographics. Accordingly, we asked each meeting to make space in their business agendas to consider what would encourage members and attenders to attend this year's event. We are grateful that most meetings considered that question at length and sent us detailed responses. As a result, we undertook a number of initiatives, including the following:

- 1) Creation and dissemination of a poster promoting the 150th anniversary celebration;
- 2) Regular email blasts promoting the annual sessions and its events and opportunities;
- 3) Augmented processes for welcoming newcomers;
- 4) Extensive outreach to Adult Young Friends;
- 5) Negotiation of a significant discount at a local hotel;
- 6) News articles in the local press;
- 7) Creation and promotion of an art exhibit at annual sessions;
- 8) Encouragement of an online worship-sharing opportunity during the sessions and hosting of an online workshop the following weekend;
- 9) Preparation and dissemination of an extensive document explaining all aspects of annual sessions;
- 10) Plans and provisions for additional opportunities for spiritual nurture during the sessions.

The committee is monitoring how these initiatives are faring so as to decide which of them should be continued in the future.

REEC Revised, Approved Minute 1 - Divestment

To Illinois State Treasurer Frerichs,

We write to you as the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). As Quakers, we are guided by the belief that there is that of God, or the Light, in everyone. This concept forms the foundation of our values, especially those of peace and equality. Although we do not seek to impose the religious foundation of our beliefs on others, Quakers have long advocated against war and violence and for economic, social, and political equality. It is in this tradition of advocacy and conscientious objection to our participation in war that we urge you to amend Section 7 of the Illinois Investment Policy Statement to include the following: "Illinois commits to divest from companies and countries that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity."

One urgent need that this investment policy statement addresses is to make clear that Illinois must divest from Israel Bonds. Multiple international¹, Palestinian², and Israeli³

human rights organizations have concluded that Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians meets the legal definition of apartheid, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an opinion on July 19, 2024¹ that Israel’s continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories is unlawful. Additionally, the ICJ issued provisional measures against Israel to halt its military offensive in Gaza due to the Court’s May 2024 opinion² that it is plausible that Israel is committing a genocide against the Palestinians. It is unconscionable to us that despite these well-documented and ongoing violations of human rights and international law, you recently renewed \$15 million in Israel Bonds³ and purchased an additional \$10 million in Israel Bonds⁴, bringing Illinois’s total holdings to \$95 million as of May 1, 2025.

We believe that our public funds should be invested in life-promoting ventures that will benefit the people of Illinois without harming others around the world. This is why we must ensure that our public investments are governed by a policy that prevents investment in companies and countries that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Signed on behalf of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

_____, Clerk

¹ hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution

² adalah.org/en/content/view/9569

³ btselem.org/apartheid

⁴ icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-pre-01-00-en.pdf

⁵ icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf

⁶ illinoistreasurergovprod.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/twocms/media/doc/feb2025%20treasurer-frerichs-investfinal.pdf

⁷ illinoistreasurergovprod.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/twocms/media/doc/march2025_treasurer-frerichs-investwebsite_et-1.pdf

REEC Minute 2 - Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery

Background information for Minute on Doctrine of Discovery

In the 1400’s, a wave of European “discovery” claims and colonization of “non-Christian” lands began that still has ramifications today. It was based on principles that became known as the Doctrine of Discovery, which justified the removal, forced assimilation, and genocide (based on the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide) of Indigenous People by colonizers who were doing so in the name of Christianity and cultural superiority.

The Doctrine of Discovery was based on three Papal Bulls (official documents- Dum diversas (1452); Romanus Pontifex (1455); and Inter caetera (1493)) which became Canon Law in the Catholic Church directed at the Catholic monarchies of Portugal and Spain. They granted Portugal the right to Africa and Spain the right to the “New World”, to seize non-Christian lands outside of Europe and convert to Christianity or control and dominate the people Indigenous to those lands. Later, other European monarchies took up the right to seize and colonize non-Christian lands as well. These Papal Bulls became the “law” known as the Doctrine of Discovery.

William Penn was given a charter by King Charles II in repayment of the crown's debts to his father. The charter's purpose was to enlarge the English Empire, to extract useful goods, and to civilize and Christianize the "Savage Natives". William Penn did not pay the Indigenous People for their land because the Doctrine of Discovery was English law. Thus, in his eyes he already owned it. His "purchase" was actually the offering of gifts to make peace with the Lenape Nation. William Penn's son expanded the territory through the "Walking Purchase" by tricking the Indigenous People into giving a larger portion of territory than originally agreed upon with the Lenape Nation.

In 1792, Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson claimed that the Doctrine of Discovery was international law and therefore applied to the United States. It was the inspiration in the 1800's for the Monroe Doctrine, which declared U.S. domination over the Western Hemisphere. Manifest Destiny justified American expansion westward by spreading the belief that the U.S. was destined to control all land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. In 1823, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Johnson vs M'Intosh* held that since the Doctrine of Discovery was an established principle of English law, and since the North American colonies were British, it was the law of the United States. Indigenous People could still live on the land but the land did not belong to them. This became the justification for the abuse, erasure and genocide of Indigenous People.

At the same time Quakers were both pacifists and settler colonizers. Friends on the East coast became concerned about the inhumane treatment and conditions of Indigenous People in the United States. This led to the establishment of the Indian Affairs Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) in 1795, a committee which continues today. The committee was set up to address the "condition of the distressed Indian natives...to promote their welfare, their religious instruction, knowledge of agriculture, and the useful mechanical arts." (Hopkins cited by Catlin, p. 3)

When Ulysses S. Grant was elected president in 1868, Orthodox and Hicksite Quakers were led to begin discussions with him about improving conditions of Indigenous People. They lobbied to make the Department of the Interior's Office of Indian Affairs independent of the War Office and to appoint "religious men" to run the agency. When Grant took office the following year, he developed the Quakers' suggestions into his "Peace Policy" (sometimes referred to as the "Quaker Peace Policy") to remove corrupt Indian agents and replace them with Christian missionaries who will be morally superior. Hicksite Friends proposed a structure, including taking responsibility for 'an entire superintendency,' exclusive right to hire agency staff, and formal Quaker oversight and reporting. This was done through annual visitation from Friends selected by the newly formed Executive Committee on Indian Affairs who were chosen by six Hicksite Yearly Meetings (Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Genesee, Ohio and Indiana—later joined in 1875 by Illinois Yearly Meeting after it was established).

In the meantime, Friends moved west into Illinois in the early to mid-1800s. Discussions about the formation of a new yearly meeting in Illinois began in 1869-73. Friends needed to request permission of their current yearly meetings to be released to form the new yearly meeting (Iowa Friends from BYM and Illinois Friends from Indiana Yearly Meeting - IYM). The new yearly meeting, named Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM), was approved by BYM and IYM in 1874.

In 1875, the newly formed Illinois Yearly Meeting established representatives, Clerks, a discipline and a group to "bring forward suitable Friends to constitute a Committee on Indian Affairs." (Minute 10) They reported back on the following day with 32 Friends for the committee. A proposition was made for the Committee of Indian

Affairs to aid the Committee of BYM in the care of the Pawnees. The subject was referred to the committee for such action as they thought best. (Minute 25) In the following years, ILYM participated in the Executive Committee on Indian Affairs. They weighed in on related concerns before the Office of Indian Affairs and in matters before Congress, selecting Indian Agents, supporting the Executive Committee's work financially, and by providing material goods to Indigenous people.

- 1876 From ILYM Exercises: “The condition of our fellow men of the Indian race was feelingly brought before us by the report of the Indian Committee, and a deep concern for their protection, education and encouragement was expressed. Our committee on Indian affairs was directed to extend all possible relief, and in conjunction with the Committees of other Yearly meetings, to endeavor to procure from Government a proper relief for those unfortunate and deeply oppressed sons of the forest.”
- 1877 President Rutherford B. Hayes initiates the ending of former President Grant's Peace Policy for Indian Affairs. He wanted to transfer Indian Affairs to the War Department.
- 1877 Isaiah Lightner (a member of BYM who later became a member of Prairie Grove Quarterly meeting of ILYM) is appointed an Indian agent to the Santee Sioux agency in Nebraska. The Santee Sioux agency is then combined with the Flandreau Sioux agency. The Hicksite and Orthodox yearly meetings withdraw, in stages, from Indian Affairs due to the hostile relationship with the Hayes administration.
- 1878 the Hicksite Quakers Testimony of the Society of Friends on Indian Civilization was submitted to the Commission appointed to consider the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department. In this report Friends articulate what actions they specifically did to promote ‘civilization’ of native peoples:
 - 1) the establishment of schools or improvement of existing ones to employ teachers “whose moral influence would promote the growth of virtue”. Sabbath schools were held in which Scripture lessons, blended with religious instruction were given to the children;
 - 2) The allotment of lands in severalty to the tribes willing to accept of them; It has “proved to be a great stimulus to industry, and a large number of cultivated farms supply a comfortable subsistence to their owners;
 - 3) the distribution of agricultural implements, livestock and seeds and instruction in the use of tools and methods of farming;
 - 4) the instruction of Indians in mechanical employments. Many have learned to be carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, and millers;
 - 5) the building of houses on their allotments;
 - 6) the employment of matrons to instruct the Indian women in household duties and care of the sick. “The peculiar adaptation of women for this work has been too much overlooked in the efforts to civilize the Indians. It has been found by experience that an enlightened and good woman, who will go among the Indian women, and manifest an interest in them and their children, can soon gain their confidence. She may instruct them in proper care of their children, and in other household duties, and she will often find opportunities of imparting religious knowledge, which associated with deeds of love, will make a lasting impression.”

They also report that “no murders of white people by Indians have happened since 1871 under our care, although several instances of Indian members of those tribes have been wantonly killed by white men, but they have sought no retaliation”

- 1878 Friends argued for homesteads in fee simple on the reservations (irrevocable ownership of the land and buildings on it). This was still trying to be accomplished in the 1880's.
- 1879 The proposal is brought up for a General Conference of several Yearly Meetings for “consideration of such subjects as lie outside of our own membership” (such as Indian Policy and Prison Reform)--philanthropic endeavors.
- 1879 “YM asks its delegates to inform the General Executive Committee that we desire to pay our proportion of expenses for the coming year ...and if the withdrawal of Friends from this service (Indian Agencies) becomes necessary, we desire that it may be made to plainly rest upon the embarrassing action of the Administration, and not upon any action on our part.”(Minute 25) BYM withdraws from care of the Pawnee Agency causing reapportionment of the Santee Sioux and Flandreau Indians into the joint care of BYM, Genesee, Ohio and Illinois Yearly Meetings.
- 1880 The report of the executive committee shows the level of discouragement that the Friends Agents are experiencing in relation to the Government and their ability to function effectively. Agent Howard White resigns from Otoe lands and the seven YM's decline to nominate a new Quaker agent following a frank conversation with Secretary of Interior Carl Shurz.
- 1882 The Indian Affairs Committee's focus became Industrial Boarding Schools for Indian Youth at places distanced from the influence of their families and communities. These were financed by the government or tribal funds. Quakers believed their support of the boarding schools was going to benefit the Indigenous People. They believed assimilation was necessary for survival with the colonial expansion occurring. Isaiah Lightner is renominated and confirmed by the Senate for the combined Santee Sioux, Flandreau and Ponca Agency.
- 1883 ILYM considered starting its own boarding school in Illinois but deferred it for further seasoning (Minute 47). Isaiah Lightner, last remaining Quaker Indian Agent, reports significant progress in applications for land patents and the building of homes and a functioning Gov. run Industrial Indian Boarding school in the Santee Sioux/Flandreau/Ponca Agency. The Dept. of Interior is looking for placements in Industrial Schools for Indian children and asks Friends institutions how many students they might take and if they have facilities to receive them. The government will pay \$167 per year per student which would require significant investment by Friends. The Indian Committee is downsized to 15 members.
- 1884 Agent Lightner, now in service for 7 years, tendered his resignation to the dept in Washington. He has recommended that Friends try to secure the appointment of Charles Hill. Should this fail, YM's work in connection with the government will close. “Many Friends, however, think we should now turn our attention to the education of children—in that way we could accomplish much good, without the annoyance of government spies and secret agents, as is now too frequently the case.”[General Executive Committee report]

- 1884 “A Bill has been prepared providing for the opening up of the ‘Great Sioux Reservation’ in Dakota for white settlers, which we approved and met Agent Lightner’s approval. It has passed the Senate and we are encouraged to see that it will likely pass the House.” [General Executive Committee report]
- 1886 The Indian Committee formally reports that Friends’ connection with the government has ceased. Barclay White, formerly Superintendent of Indian Agents in Nebraska was asked by the Commissioner of Education to write a report on the condition of several tribes when Friends assumed charge when invited by President Grant and their progress in civilization under the care of Friends. The secretary asked that 2,000 copies be printed for distribution. Visits to the agencies by Friends offer first hand accounts from Natives about the abuses of white settlers, government removals from lands, and Natives discovering they really don’t have ownership of lands on which they live and are now farming.
- 2005 The Doctrine of Discovery is still embedded in our legal system. The Supreme Court decision authored by Ruth Bader Ginsberg cited the 1823 M’Intosh court decision regarding the Doctrine of Discovery to say the repurchase of traditional tribal lands by the Oneida Nation did not restore tribal sovereignty to the land.
- 2006 The Delaware Nation of Oklahoma, in Anadarko, filed a lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Delaware Nation wanted the return of the land taken through fraudulent means in the “Walking Purchase” by Penn’s son. It was denied by the Court of Appeals in 2006 because the lack of right to land ownership referred directly to the Doctrine of Discovery.

Resources for Friends

- Martha Claire Catlin, *As They Were Led: Quakerly Steps and Missteps Toward Native Justice*, Chronicles and History Highlights of Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee, Quaker Heron Press, 2021.
- Frances G. Hutchings, “Neighbors or Tenants? How George Fox, William Penn, and Benjamin Franklin Approached North America’s Indigenous Tribes”, *Friends Journal*, October 1, 2021. <https://www.friendsjournal.org/neighbors-or-tenants/>
- tom kunesh, “Decolonizing Quaker Moves to Innocence: What Would it Take to Decolonize the “Quaker Peace Testimony?”” *Quaker Religious Thought*, Volume 139, 2022.
- Marianne O. Nielson and Barbara M. Heather, “Finding Right Relations: Quakers, Native Americans, and Settler Colonialism” (excerpt), *Canadian Friend*, Winter 2024.
- David Raymond, “Origins and Purposes of Quaker Exceptionalism”, *Canadian Friend*, Winter 2024.
- Testimony of the Society of Friends on Indian Civilization; Submitted to the Commission Appointed to Consider the Transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, Washington D.C., Twelfth Mo. 12th, 1878 (Philadelphia: Friends’ Book Association. 1878).
- U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition.
- Minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, Mt. Palatine, Putnam CO., ILL., 1875, 1876, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1886.

See Minute 37 for approved minute

REEC Minute 3 - Joining NABS

Introduction to Joining the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition as Affiliate Members

A January, 2023 *Friends Journal* article by Sharlee DiMenichi, “How Friends Can Make Reparations for Quaker-Run Indigenous Boarding Schools,” offers several ways that Friends can commit to learning, understanding and taking responsibility for actions that harmed and continue to harm Indigenous People. Though other religious bodies began missionary schools for Indigenous children, Friends developed the archetype for establishing day and boarding schools on and off reservation lands with the purpose of assimilating Native children into white colonial “American” society. They lobbied President-elect Ulysses S Grant to allow people of faith to partner with the US Government as Superintendents and Agents of reservation lands to combat government corruption in the agencies and assimilate Indigenous Peoples into our way of life. President Grant accepted their proposals as a “peace policy” of his administration and so began the experiment with faith-based government boarding schools.

The Journal article describes the abuse done by Quaker boarding school staff by “physically dragging children to have their hair forcibly cut off—an act that stripped Indigenous children of dignity, as short hair suggests cowardice in Native American cultures. Teachers forbidding students to speak their languages, sing traditional songs, or participate in ceremonial dances...[They] lost the daily experience of loving care from their parents and grandparents.” Descendants suffer from having been severed from their songs, dances and languages and “struggle with ‘diseases of despair’ including suicide, interpersonal violence, alcoholism, and substance abuse.” The article offers several ways for Quakers to make reparations for these harmful policies: 1) Do archival research on Quaker support for the boarding schools; 2) Support legislation to form a Truth and Healing Commission; 3) Donate money to Native-run Indigenous language schools; and 4) Seek relationships and guidance from Indigenous People.

One of the ways to do this is to follow the lead of the Native led organization National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS): boardingschoolhealing.org/

“NABS is a coalition of people who support the healing of boarding school survivors and descendants. We use our coalition voice to educate others about the truth of the boarding school policies, experiences, and legacies. We call for action towards justice and healing. We use our network to share research, healing resources, and advocacy. We learn from one another, and we grow and heal together.”

Illinois Yearly Meeting could apply to become an affiliate member and partner with NABS in these or other ways: 1) Commit to researching Quaker involvement at a boarding school and provide the findings for NABS Digital Archive. Friends could do this as part of the Quakers and ‘Indian Boarding Schools’ Research Network (QIBS); 2) Engage in Congressional advocacy with NABS to establish a Truth and Healing Commission, repatriate children’s remains from Carlisle and other schools, and account for the fate and whereabouts of children whose families have no record of what happened after the government took them; 3) Support NABS education and healing efforts.

There are no fees for becoming an Affiliate Member as a community in NABS, though financial contributions in support of their work are gratefully received. Our hope is that ILYM will make a commitment to learning more of our Quaker history with Indigenous Peoples, and go beyond learning to prioritize the needs of those we have harmed. This work begins with building relationships. For more ideas see *Friends Journal*

Article “Learning Our True History”, February 1, 2025. Toward Right Relationship also has a recorded program on reparations work by Alaska, NEYM and BYM whose most recent presentation was offered at Beacon Hill Friends Meeting: [youtube.com/watch?v=XpAtN6mcP9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpAtN6mcP9A).

See Minute 27 for approved minute.

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

**MONTHLY MEETING
RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER
IS \$305.**

MEMORIALS

DIANNE ATKINSON (2025)

Dianne Atkinson grew up in Indiana and attended Purdue University, where she earned a Ph.D. in the English department. She was Director of Global Studies and Experience in the Mechanical Engineering department at Purdue. Dianne enjoyed traveling, sailing, gardening and learning languages. She raised two daughters, Carina and Maura.

After her cancer diagnosis, Dianne moved to Chicago for treatment and was warmly welcomed by the community at Evanston Friends Meeting (EFM). She was an active member of the Library Committee and often reviewed books for EFM's newsletter. Sometimes she researched well-known historical Quaker figures, and wrote about them, again published in the EFM newsletter.

Dianne enjoyed walking in the Botanic Gardens, planting flowers on her balcony, and being part of the EFM community. She felt joining EFM was “coming home.” We were blessed by her participation, and her spirit will live on.

EMMA CADBURY (1920-2024)

Emma Cadbury was born in Canton (now Guangzhou) China, the middle daughter of medical missionary William Cadbury and teacher Catharine Cadbury. Her parents requested that Emma and her sisters, Jane and Catharine (Kit), be listed as birthright members of Twelfth Street Meeting in Philadelphia (now Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting). At age 15, Emma left China to attend Westtown School in Westchester, PA. In 1941, she graduated from Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania with a psychology major. She worked for a year at the Hartford Retreat for the Insane, then deciding to switch careers, enrolled in the Shady Hill School Teacher Training Course in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Emma taught kindergarten at Buckingham School, also in Cambridge, and lodged with her Uncle Henry and Aunt Lydia Cadbury. They invited Harvard students who were conscientious objectors to dinners at their home. On Thanksgiving Day 1945, Emma met Lindley Burton, a graduate student in mathematics at Harvard and a member of Minneapolis Friends Meeting. Emma and Lindley were married at Cambridge Friends Meeting on June 16, 1947.

In 1948, Emma and Lindley moved to Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where Lindley taught math at Bryn Mawr College. Their daughters, Jane and Ann, were born there. Three years later, they settled in Lake Forest, Illinois, where Lindley became an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Lake Forest College. Emma devoted herself to raising her family, and the couple added two sons, James and Ward.

Emma and Lindley were among the nine organizing members of Lake Forest Friends Meeting. A quietly strong group of Quakers and others interested in Quakerism began worshipping in a log cabin on the Ragdale property, Lake Forest. In 1952, the Lake Forest Friends Meeting was officially formed. Emma and Lindley both transferred their membership to Lake Forest in 1952. They were consistently present and contributing spiritually to the meeting. Later on, son Ward and daughter Jane with her family became important members of the meeting.

The Burton family temporarily moved to Kew, near Melbourne, Australia, during Lindley's sabbatical year of 1967-68. Tragically, Lindley died in May 1968 while attending a mathematics conference in Brisbane. Emma showed perseverance and courage in organizing the return trip from Australia.

Back in the United States, Emma worked for the Head Start program in Waukegan, Ill., and enrolled in education courses at Lake Forest College. She and her first cousin Lloyd Cadbury renewed their friendship and on May 17, 1971, they married in Bel Air, Maryland. Lake Forest Meeting was a central focus of their lives until 1976, when they relocated to Gualala, California. They lived in a beautiful home on the Pacific coast and enjoyed watching whales from their deck. They did much traveling, including many visits to Lake Forest Friends. Sadly, Lloyd passed away in 1990. Two years later, Emma moved to Friends House Retirement Community in Sandy Spring, Maryland.

While at Sandy Spring, Emma, with a cheerful heart, volunteered in the Elephant (thrift) Shop, organized trips to the Baltimore Symphony, fed residents in the Health Center, and even sold Christmas trees when Friends House had a Christmas tree lot. Emma's kind disposition was appreciated and loved no matter what the activity.

Emma was active in both Sandy Spring Meeting and the Miller Center Worship Group on Friends House campus. For years, she served on Sandy Spring Meeting's Committee on Aging which oversaw the Miller Center Worship Group. She wheeled residents from the Health Center to the Miller Center on Sunday mornings. However, she kept her membership at Lake Forest Friends Meeting, which remained her spiritual home.

Emma's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, many whom we know from Quaker Meeting, are Jane (Joe) Rockey, Ann (Henry) Trentman, James Burton, and Ward Burton; 5 grandchildren, Emma Trentman (Rashad Mahmood), Jonathan (Meghan) Rockey, Thomas (Allison) Trentman, William (Alexandria) Rockey, Peter (Sarah) Trentman; and 11 great-grandchildren.

HELEN ROSE DICKINSON (1945-2024)

Helen Rose Dickinson was born in Skowhegan, Maine on February 6, 1945, the daughter of George and Ruth Brown Dickinson of Norridgewock. Helen grew up in Norridgewock, Maine, on a dairy farm. She was the fourth of seven children—two boys and five girls. She liked to note that although there was no pony, the family farm had lots of cows, working cats, dogs, sheep, and pigs.

Helen attended Skowhegan High School and went on to college at the University of Maine, where she majored in biochemistry, graduating in 1967. She then pursued graduate studies at Oregon State University, where she graduated with a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1972. Following that, she did post-doctorate work on complex carbohydrates at the Illinois Institute of Technology and on biological polymers at the Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. Helen worked in the chemistry field in Maine, northern New York, St. Louis, and the Chicago area.

Helen was an active member of The Oak Park Friends Meeting. She first attended a Friends Meeting when she was living in St. Louis. She was attracted by the style of worship, as she had a long-standing interest in meditation.

Helen's interests were varied. She was a member of Toastmasters International and also liked to paint and do photography. A number of years ago, Helen decided to take flute lessons and she subsequently joined the Triton College Community Band. While in the band, Helen met her good friend Louise. Louise was the Triton bird watching instructor and introduced Helen to birdwatching through Triton's yearly 6-week bird watching course. Helen attended the course for over 10 years.

After retirement in 2019, Helen kept fit by going on daily walks, often with a friend, around her Elmwood Park neighborhood. She particularly enjoyed seeing the birds and the enormous trees.

Helen died November 30, 2024 at Sancta Maria Nursing Facility in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was predeceased by her parents and is survived by her brothers, Richard Dickinson of Smithfield and Frank Dickinson of Norridgewock, and her sisters, Trudy Tremblay of Orono; Colleen Dillon and her husband William of Arlington, Texas; Lorna Bradbury and her husband Gordon of Ottertail, Minnesota; and Elizabeth Eggleston and her husband James of Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition, she leaves twelve nieces and nephews, and fourteen grand-nieces and nephews.

STEVE DURHAM (1947)

Steve Durham was born in Tulsa on April 7, 1947, Steve Durham lived a full and faithful life. Evanston Friends Meeting was gifted with some of his later years. Steve was drawn to ministry in many forms. He graduated from the University of Missouri, McCormick Theological Seminary, and received his PhD from Chicago Theological Union in 1985. Along the way he studied journalism at the University of Missouri, married his cherished wife, Jan, and loved the three children they raised and the grandchildren as they came along. For a while, they lived at Reba Place, the Mennonite community in Evanston.

Steve was ordained by the Presbyterian Church and served several parishes, including Northminster in Evanston. As a pastor, he enjoyed preaching and teaching. He also followed a calling to minister to Salvadorans, founding Centro Romero, a social services organization in Chicago that continues to offer legal services, women's programs, and youth services. The center was named for Archbishop Oscar Romero, a priest in El Salvador who was assassinated while celebrating mass by one who couldn't abide his ministries of peace and standing injustice. Steve took groups of concerned persons to El Salvador to learn more about this work. He taught himself Spanish to make this possible.

He surrendered his ordination and became a member of the American Orthodox Church upon leaving the professional ministry. While nourished by their liturgy, he eventually left and became a member of Evanston Meeting where he served on both the Library Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee, offered several illuminating Bible studies for Meetings for Learning, and was a member of a spiritual development group.

He never left ministry. He served for several years as a Chaplain for the Evanston Police Department, a role in which he wrote weekly brief messages he delivered at roll calls. As Fr. Bob Oldershaw (another EPD Chaplain) noted "Steve wrote moving meditations and prayers in which he shared both his faith and his own deep fears that touched into the deep, daily concerns of the officers." When it was suggested that these might come together in a helpful booklet for other police officers, he confessed that he threw them out once he had delivered them...although some appeared in Evanston Meeting newsletters.

Steve was a writer. In 2021, *The Thousand Secrets of the Tishomingo Hotel*, a work of historical fiction he labored over for 25 years, was finally published. It tells the story of the infamous Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, investing this great injustice with characters who lived, suffered, and comforted one another during that time.

Steve's life was vividly faithful although often difficult during his final years. No matter what, he prayed, hoped, and served as his body permitted, living out the words in Micah 6:8, "he has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." His time with Evanston Friends Meeting was a gift.

CAROLY HANNA HAINES (1939-2024)

Carolyn Hanna Haines was born February 19, 1939 in Worcester, Massachusetts and grew up in a Swedish family. She passed away November 26, 2024 in Urbana, Illinois. She received a BA in 1961 from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana where she sang in the Concert Choir and also met her future husband, Charlie Haines. Singing and a love for music would be lifelong passions. Earlham College had a profound impact on Carolyn; it is where she established relationships and where values were instilled that guided both her friendships and her work throughout her lifetime.

Carolyn and Charlie were married in 1961. While Charlie earned a PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Carolyn stayed home, raising two daughters, Marie (1964) and Karen (1967). A teaching job for Charlie at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) brought them to the Rochester, New York area in 1971. That move prompted Carolyn to begin to look for work outside the home. After a few years working part-time as a swim teacher and with a landscaper, Carolyn decided to pursue a Masters Degree in Human Resources. She earned her degree and worked for Taylor Instruments Company in Employee Relations. At the time, Taylor Instruments relied heavily on an immigrant Laotian population for its labor. Carolyn was highly successful at this work, in part because of her deep caring for others. A highlight was being invited to a Laotian wedding.

When there were layoffs, she was let go as she was not a “head of a household.” Being laid off for being a woman was a very painful thing for her. She then shifted gears and for the next thirteen years worked in fundraising for RIT, Sonnenberg Gardens, and Genesee Country Village & Museum. She also volunteered on numerous boards, utilizing both her fundraising and horticultural experience.

All the while, Carolyn pursued many creative interests, making beautiful quilts and wall hangings and knitting sweaters, but in the garden was where she wanted to be. Her gardens were well-known and appeared in books and magazines. She lectured on diverse gardening topics for over thirty years, and she ran her own award-winning garden design business for eight years. She believed strongly in the connection between gardens and the environment. Her gardens were always designed to invite and feed as many natural visitors as possible. She relished in watching birds, butterflies, bees, frogs and others interacting with her gardens. Carolyn loved being around animals, especially horses, which she enjoyed riding most of her life.

She and Charlie began visiting Sanibel, Florida in the early 1990s. The natural beauty of the island and restrictive building codes kept them coming back year after year. After Hurricane Charlie in 2004, Carolyn worked with local landscapers to establish native horticulture at their condo association. As a testament to that work, many of the plantings she worked to establish came back after Hurricane Ian in 2022, as did the tortoise that lives there.

While Carolyn did attend Urbana-Champaign Meeting for Worship and became a member with her family, she always struggled with religion. She cared deeply about people and relationships, keeping in touch with friends and family throughout the United States. She worked hard to lift others up and share her gardens and her knowledge of horticulture with anyone who might be interested.

THOMAS K. JAGER (1935-2025)

Thomas K. Jager, long time attender of Evanston Friends Meeting, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, died on January 10, 2025, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife Judith J. Jager (member, Evanston Friends Meeting), children Katharine Jager-

Rubinson (husband, Claude Jager-Rubinson) (member, Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston) and Thomas C. Jager-Zaino (wife, Amber Jager-Zaino), and grandchildren Thomas W. and Griffin W. Jager Cash (members, Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston), Jude Jager-Rubinson, Bridget Jager-Zaino, and Thalia Jager-Zaino.

Tom and Judy Jager were married under the care of Northside Monthly Meeting, June 29, 1968, and brought up their children in Evanston in both Northside Monthly Meeting and Evanston Friends Meeting. A graduate of Fenger High School, Blackburn College (BA, history), and Northwestern University (MA, film studies), he was also a Peace Corps veteran and served in the West African country of Ghana from 1962-1964. His service in the Peace Corps changed the trajectory of his career, and he became a social worker, directing the Des Plaines Valley Community Center outpost of Hull House (now Pillars Community Health) from 1968-1980 and then the Evanston United Way from 1980-2005. He co-founded the Evanston Community Foundation in 1986, as well as Evanston's Connections for the Homeless.

Tom lost his father at the age of 3 and grew up in the West Pullman/Roseland neighborhood on Chicago's far south side, attending West Pullman Methodist church as a child. His mother, Louise, sent him on weekends to his grandmother Jager's truck farm, where he grew up with his many aunts and uncles, and his favorite cousin Arlene. He surrounded himself with devoutly religious people, from his closest friend from the Peace Corps, Reverend Paul Goranson, to his brother, John Braglia. He considered Evanston Friends Meeting and the Evanston United Way his community. He hated the public performance of generosity, preferring to privately devote his working life to helping the needy. His spiritual life was fed by summers, begun during his childhood, spent in Lake Lauzon, Ontario. Initially begun by his parents and then deepened by summer visits with his favorite aunt, Kitty, he loved spending "good times in Canada" with his children and grandchildren in the cabin that he and Judy built on Lot 17—being in the woods, swimming in the lake, taking boat rides, going fishing, and berry picking.

PAULETTE J. LEONARD (1940-2025)

Paulette J. Leonard was born November 10, 1940, in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of George and Irene Leonard. She grew up in Venetian Village, Illinois with her two older sisters Jeannine and Cynthia and her twin sister Nannette. She earned her doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Illinois – Chicago. She taught psychology for many years at the University of Central Arkansas – Conway, was a practicing psychologist in Missouri and Arkansas, and taught in Germany.

Paulette became a member of the Upper Fox Valley Friends Meeting in 2010. A deeply private person, when applying for membership, Paulette did not want to have a committee for clearness. The Care and Counsel committee sat with her a few times to talk through what a committee might ask and might share. At the end, they realized that the committee had performed the same role as a committee for clearness, so they recommended that Upper Fox Valley welcome her as a Friend. She was well pleased. She often provided queries and helped with setup and cleanup for meeting for worship. Paulette later moved closer to Lake Forest Friends Meeting, and she transferred her membership there in 2018.

Paulette was an avid reader and greatly appreciated nature and quietness. She loved to travel, enjoyed classical music, was a faithful letter-writer to her friends, and loved her many cats over the years. She is sorely missed.

DOROTHY NEUMANN (1935-2024)

Dorothy Neumann was born in Melrose Park, Illinois in 1935. She died on December 4, 2024 in Urbana. Dorothy's parents were not religious, and she had no recollection of a spiritual life in her childhood or teenage years. During college, she attended the Methodist Church with friends. One of her teachers, a Catholic, was very influential, leading Dorothy to the works of Thomas Merton and Theresa of Avila.

With her husband, Dorothy had four children in four years. He had been raised Catholic, but he had already lapsed by the time he and Dorothy married; she did likewise. She attended no church for eight years thereafter, but during that time she read C. S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters* and Hannah Whitall Smith's *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*. (Hannah Whitall had been a birthright Quaker; she later helped found the Woman's Christian Temperance Union).

By the 1970s, Dorothy's teenage daughters looked forward to shopping trips to Lincoln Square in Urbana. En route, they passed the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meetinghouse on Green Street. Dorothy knew Marion Freeman (who resided upstairs at the time), but she had no particularly compelling reason to visit a meeting for worship. When she did so, Ken Southwood greeted her by explaining, "It looks like nothing is going on, but really there is." Dorothy was influenced by Eknath Easwaran's book *Meditation*, and she tried to set aside time every day to meditate.

During one four-year period, Dorothy found herself consumed by rage. She read *Being Peace*, by Thich Nhat Hanh (Father of Mindfulness): "Life is both dreadful and wonderful. To practice meditation is to be in touch with both aspects." Dorothy once told a group of U-C Friends about standing on a mountaintop, saying in one breath, "I am so insignificant—and I am so significant."

Explaining her commitment to teaching English as a Second Language classes (Urbana Adult Education), Dorothy said, "God handed me a job." The diversity of beliefs and cultures among her students attracted her, and she did her best to help them advance. In retirement, Dorothy continued her mission to educate by volunteering at Books to Prisoners. She and another volunteer were appalled at the lack of quality educational donations. (People with the wherewithal to donate books typically already possess higher educations.) In 2020, when COVID was arriving, Dorothy and her friend purchased and donated the first large batch of GED Prep books. When prisoners discovered that their requests were suddenly resulting in such high-quality responses, these books flew off the shelves. Other funding sources later assumed responsibility, continuing this potentially life-changing initiative.

When COVID prevented indoor worship, Dorothy was among those who brought lawn chairs and gathered under the shade of large trees on the meetinghouse grounds during good weather. Her declining health eventually prevented her from attending in person.

PHYLLIS MACK REYNOLDS (1938-2025)

Phyllis Mack Reynolds was born on September 20, 1938 in Louisville, Kentucky to Grace Melinda Smith and John Keller Mack. Exactly three years, three months, and three days later, her identical twin brothers, Richard and David, were born. Phyllis translated the twins' early language for her parents.

With a pediatrician father, and a social worker mother, Phyllis was led into healthcare. Choosing nursing, she graduated from Ravenswood Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago. She became a visiting nurse in Chicago and the North Shore. She earned her Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and her Adult Nurse Practitioner certificate, at

North Park University. She attended Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI) classes at Northwestern, deepening her appreciation of art, literature, theater and concerts.

Phyllis lived her life, in the words of Arthur Larrabee, “in alignment with the Spirit.” Her spiritual awareness gave her life meaning and joy. In addition to service, and clerking numerous committees at Evanston Friends Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting, she found time to walk in the sun, cultivate a local community garden, ride her bike, and attend the local farmer’s market. Phyllis also loved nature. Walking in the woods, bird watching, foraging into mycology, and listening to the pond frogs in McNabb. Behind Hillside Terraces, her home in Ann Arbor, she often sat on a rock in the nearby forest to watch the light changing throughout the day.

She cherished the history and grounds of Illinois Yearly Meeting, anticipating the 150th anniversary. Phyllis was spiritually curious, exploring Buddhism, Judaism, Episcopalian, and Native American traditions. A friend described her “in a word, intrepid.” Whether hiking mountains to visit a Shaman in Peru, attending Jungian seminars in Ireland, or traveling to the American Friends Service Committee’s annual meetings, Phyllis was indeed an adventurer, immersing in the culture of each experience. Phyllis was also a loving, engaged and patient listener, advocating for many. She offered hospitality to others, often on short notice, for extended times.

Another source of spiritual joy was retreating to the secluded family cabin in the woods in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Phyllis cherished her solitary visits to the remote area, sharing the natural beauty, space and silence with the nearby wildlife.

In service to our communities, Phyllis participated in site preparation, organized a clerking workshop with Arthur Larrabee, arranged a spiritual deepening program with Marcelle Martin, engaging a variety of speakers to enrich the spiritual development of Friends. Her sense of stewardship was manifested by her keen awareness that each of us shares the world with many peoples, mindful of other gifts of creation, like all the flora and living creatures.

Phyllis was grateful to be named a Vision Keeper by Interfaith Action of Evanston, to serve on ILYM’s Ministry and Advancement Committee, and for the invitation to share her spiritual journey by giving the 2021 Plummer Lecture at ILYM.

After retiring, Phyllis worked part time as a nurse for White Crane Wellness Center at the Adult Day Care Center until moving to Hillside Terraces, Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be near her daughter Tara.

Her favorite outings were drives in the country, walks along the Huron River and visits to the Dow Prairie in the University of Michigan Arboretum. She lived to see the daffodils and forsythia bloom.

Even with dementia and failing health, Phyllis remembered the names and important details about family and friends until her life ended on May 1, 2025.

Phyllis was predeceased by husband Wilfred Reynolds, brothers Richard and David Mack, brother-in-law Weldon Reynolds (Annette). She is survived by four children, Tami Jean Hinz (Michael Tisserrand) children Cecelia and Miles; Thomas James Hinz; Tara Margaret Breslin children Guy and Zoe Blackburn; Dorothy Grace Breslin; stepson Hugh Reynolds (Marian), six nieces and nephews and her beloved rescue kitty, Tiger Lily.

LIDIA GEISER TABER (1941-2025)

Lidia Taber passed away at her home in Urbana on January 10, 2025. She is survived by her husband, Merlin Taber; three stepchildren; and her brother, Samuel (Heidi) Geiser of Bern, Switzerland. Lidia Johanna Geiser was born on November 11, 1941, and grew

up in the town of Biel, Switzerland, in a Mennonite family of four. Her father was a furniture maker and carpenter and her mother a skilled homemaker.

Living in bilingual Biel (German/French) left its mark on Lidia, and multilingualism became a theme in her life. She attended a German-language school and after graduating, she did an apprenticeship as a secretary in the watch industry, where French predominated. After her vocational training, she worked in the south of Switzerland, where she learned Italian. Lidia learned English as an aide in a hospital in London. From London, she moved on to Sweden, and then, as part of a Mennonite exchange program, she came to the U.S. Midwest for the first time in the mid-1960s.

Foreign languages and cultures fascinated Lidia and became her passion. She earned language diplomas in English, French, and Spanish and acquired basic knowledge of Italian, Portuguese and Indonesian. Lidia worked as a foreign language secretary in industry and the hotel trade to finance exploratory trips to Asia and Latin America, each lasting several months. In her last decades of work, she was an executive assistant in the nonprofit sector.

Lidia and Merlin met through family connections and became acquainted as Merlin traveled internationally in his retirement. At the age of 60 and also retired, Lidia emigrated to the U.S. to join Merlin, whom she married in 2001. Initially, they lived alternating between Switzerland and the U.S., but at Merlin's side, the globetrotter Lidia settled down and enjoyed being part of the Taber family. Lidia easily formed friendships with other foreign language speakers, looking for opportunities to speak Schwyzerdütsch, the Swiss-German dialect.

Born in the mountains, Lidia loved being in fresh air, walking, cycling and hiking. Merlin and Lidia were exceptional partners, contributing equally to each other's well being. Together they hosted dinner parties, attended concerts and watched birds from their porch. Lidia brought out the best in Merlin and Lidia's happiest times were her years with Merlin.

Lidia attended worship faithfully with Merlin at Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting for many years. She and Merlin were known for welcoming newcomers to the meeting and inviting them to their homes for a meal and conversation. During the COVID pandemic, Lidia greatly enjoyed worshipping in the beautiful backyard of the meetinghouse when she had a ride. Failing that, she often worshiped together with Sandy Bales indoors or outdoors at Clark-Lindsey Village. Lidia is greatly missed by her family and friends.

AILEEN TYSON (1928-2024)

Aileen Tyson was born on January 20, 1928, in San Jose, California, and passed away at the age of 96 on May 24, 2024. She married Paul Williams in 1947, and they had 7 children. The family settled in Illinois in the late 1960's. She had a long career as a professional musician, playing double bass for numerous symphonies, including the Evanston Symphony, the Northbrook Symphony, and the North Shore Concert Band with whom she played under the Eiffel Tower. She also learned to play the pipe organ and became the choir director at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Glencoe.

After her divorce from Paul, she taught both piano and string bass, obtained her real estate license, sold homes throughout the North Shore for many years, and became an avid Cubs fan. Late in life she married Jared Ingersoll.

Aileen attended Lake Forest Friends Meeting and became a member in 2016. She attended for several years before moving to Azpira Place in Lake Zurich. She was proud of her Quaker ancestry which included Martha Elliott Tyson, a 19th Century Quaker anti-slavery and women's rights advocate who co-founded Swarthmore College in 1860.

Aileen was very well read and had natural curiosity about life. She enjoyed painting, producing many beautiful works of art. She loved animals, good conversation and wanted everyone to have fun.

Her eldest daughter, Marty, described Aileen as a caring mother and grandmother. She is survived by her six children (Marty, Bruce, Laura, Sarah, Amy and Tom), 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. She also noted that “Aileen leaves behind a legacy of music, art, family, laughter, and zest in her life that will live forever in the memory of her family and friends.”

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

Being together in worship and community is a source of joy and hope. We are holding each other up when we are downcast, frustrated and angry about decisions on the national political scene that hurt people we care about. Attenders and members who have been inactive for a time have been returning to participation in worship, where we seek support from each other and the Spirit.

Our worship space at Normandy Village in Normal is peaceful. For years, we have used queries from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to add focus to our worship once per month. This past year, we have noticed an increase in vocal ministry, which has been a blessing and a benefit to us.

We formed an Advocacy Team with the help of Friends Committee on National Legislation and made the Apartheid-Free Communities Pledge, responding to leadings among our members to make a long-term commitment to freeing Palestinians in Gaza from violence and deprivation. We shared our meeting space to host training for the Advocacy Team, which includes allies from other local faith communities.

Children coming to First Day School bring joy and hope in our Friends community. Their idealism and concern for others has guided our meeting in where to direct charitable donations. The adults and children together are learning more about the history of Friends in the United States through the past year’s lessons at B-N Friends meetings. We have been coordinating our First Day School around the schedule of educational activities at the local Unitarian Universalist Church, allowing for more consistent support of the growth of our youth.

Our Women’s Meeting for Eating continues as a social gathering of Friends from Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek and Urbana-Champaign meetings. Our multigenerational group has been refreshed this year with a new generation of adult young Friends.

One area of spiritual growth that we have neglected over the past year is adult religious education. We miss the leadership of our past adult RE coordinator, who moved out of the area. In the upcoming year, we may not be able to return to holding a regular monthly adult RE hour, but there is interest in doing it more often.

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

The Burlington Worship Group is primarily the same seven people. We have various abilities to participate every Sunday, but we do usually gather and worship. We always seem to feel our time together goes quickly.

Usually, we visit after worship. Sometimes we share insights that come during worship. We find participating in worshiping with this group is meaningful and valuable.

We are grateful for the spiritually safe space that worship provides for us individually and as a group. We look forward to having the Field Secretary visit in March. The Field Secretary visit always seems to help us regather our group and ourselves.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Clear Creek Friends maintain deep spiritual connections to each other and to this place. Our stewardship of the Illinois Yearly Meeting grounds extends back 150 years and we hope will continue well into the future. We are a small, loving community who supports its members and attenders in countless ways.

The coming of spring sees us having our traditional Easter worship and potluck. In 2024 we had no children present so there was no Easter egg hunt, but we enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship after worship.

Clear Creek Friends are an aging group but continue to do what we can to care for the grounds, participating in work days, site prep, planting flowers and picking up the ever-present collection of sticks and branches that fall from the many trees. Storms damaged even more trees this year but we were thankful no damage was done to either the meetinghouse or Clear Creek House. One of our attenders repaired the split rail fence panels around the meetinghouse this spring. We are glad that the yearly meeting has engaged the services of Shirley Maubach as caretaker, relieving us of the need to meet contractors and check the buildings and grounds regularly.

We have had some changes at Clear Creek this year. Kay Drake, our treasurer for more than 30 years, handed over those duties to Mike Murphy in April. We are thankful for Kay's faithful service and for Mike's willingness to step into the position. We have had several visitors in worship this year, one of whom has become a regular attender. We are thankful for her presence among us and for the depth she brings to our worship and our fellowship.

We continue to use a memorial fund designated for that purpose to support our students pursuing college or trade school education. This summer one of our adult young Friends attended a Bolivian Quaker Education Fund program in Bolivia. We also continue to donate to local charities and Quaker organizations, including a special donation to World Central Kitchen for relief in Gaza in support of the efforts of the ILYM High School Friends.

In March we hosted a retreat, "An Introduction to Quaker Meditation," led by Co-Field Secretary Marcia Nelson. The retreat was an effort to reach out to our surrounding community to let them know we are here and to give them a glimpse of what Quakers have to offer. We welcomed three seekers from the community and had several others indicate they were interested but could not attend. The day was enriching not only for our guests but for Clear Creek Friends as well. Time will tell if we will see any increase in participation because of our efforts at outreach.

It is always a joy for us to welcome the ILYM community to campus for work days, site prep, annual sessions, and this past fall for Continuing Committee. The spiritual energy brought by larger gatherings of Friends is a boost to our spirits. Visitors are a blessing to us.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

This has been a year of strengthening our meeting and preparation for uncertain times to come. Some of these preparations were physical—we decided to replace crumbling siding on our meetinghouse, enlarge our parking area, and install solar panels, and our front-yard garden bloomed with life. We also increased our visibility by printing kid-designed t-shirts that help us represent our values in the community. Some of our preparations were emotional and spiritual. Many of our attenders were active in national

and state-level elections in November, and have some apprehension about what the next few years will bring, but we are determined to stand with people around the world in opposition to violence and hatred, as Quakers have done for centuries. We continue to offer hybrid meetings on Sundays, welcoming friends from afar (Seattle, WA, Jefferson City, MO, Colorado, Kansas, and Michigan). We have had visitors from other meetings, including Steve Tamari, from St. Louis Friends Meeting, who presented about his work opposing genocide in Palestine. We continue to have Midweek meetings on Zoom on Wednesdays. Our meetingroom is full most First Days, with twenty or more people and messages frequently shared. We also had several people attend the Blue River Quarterly Meeting in the fall, and it was great to reconnect with other Quakers in the region.

Our First Day School attendance varied, with two to six children attending (ages 2-12). Kids designed a Quaker t-shirt, helped with the garden, and visited a Catholic Church to learn more about other religious traditions. We have a rotation of adults regularly teaching in First Day School. We face a challenge in coming years to meet the needs of younger kids as well as our teens and tweens who are often busy with sports and other activities. The kids join the worship 5 to 10 minutes before the rise of meeting, and they love to introduce themselves and share the projects they worked on. Our Peace and Social Justice Committee, our Meeting for Learning Committee, and our Hospitality Committee are all contributing to the life of the meeting.

We revived our monthly vigil, with the focus shifting depending on current events. Attender Julia Tayon occasionally organizes a “museletter,” which offers us the opportunity to get to know each other by answering various prompts or questions. We continue to partner with a local Buddhist organization, Show Me Dharma, to provide meals to unhoused people six times per year. Additionally, we have had several Fun Nights, with potluck suppers, movie nights, and games.

We were fortunate not to have deaths among our regular attenders this year. Our longtime attender Carolyn Doll shared openly her process of moving toward death in her mid-nineties. We look forward to the new year with hope to build stronger connections with each other and trust in our expanding community.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

Instead of abandoning the aging DGFM Christmas cactus, trimming dead roots and repotting led to its rejuvenation. Similarly, we have come to realize over this past year that our meeting also required attention to enhance its health and vitality. Our membership is aging with a diminishment of energy directed toward efforts to grow the meeting, committee involvement, and the maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds. To that end, over the last several months we have held three separate discussions with Friends focused on ‘the Future of the Meeting. We made a special effort to invite new and younger attendees to breathe new life into the process as they provided their perspectives and ideas.

One of the major concerns we wanted to address was the decline in meeting attendance. Coincidentally, first-time young adults began attending both in person and online at the same time these discussions took place. The renewed vigor newer attenders have brought to the meeting is noticeable in their active roles in the community, efficiency, and organization in our meetinghouse kitchen, a call to reinstate our First Day program, and an expressed interest in serving when various opportunities were listed. The Spirit is moving among us.

We have yet to discern one way that we can all meet together every Sunday; some Friends are only willing to meet in-person because they believe technology is inappropriate in a Quaker meeting, while others want more inclusivity and feel that can be

achieved using technology. This year our online presence has become even more central to our meeting. Our online monthly Fellowship Group draws many Friends who are blessed to have a time of sharing followed by a discussion of a Quaker theme; Meeting for Business still draws more participation on Zoom than it did in-person. For many Friends, our hybrid Fourth First Day provides the deepest feeling of community in both worship and the fellowship and food of Potluck. Thursday evening Meeting for Worship and Monday afternoon Aging & Saging continue to meet in person in the Meetinghouse.

An opportunity for growth is outreach to our local community. We have made some strides in this area. We fly a flag next to the street-side DGFM sign that says we welcome all to our meeting. On MLK Day we piloted a children's program open to the community which used the talents of eager First Day School teachers. We hope to hold other events to be attended by both our meeting and the local community. One member initiated the creation of a labyrinth on the DGFM grounds. We also reached out to the wider community by writing a minute urging a cease-fire in the war on Gaza and support for humanitarian aid for all those suffering. This minute was hand delivered to our two senators' offices in Chicago. A few months later, we signed on to the Apartheid-free Pledge in support of Palestinians' suffering. A representative from DuPage United worshipped with us, then gave a presentation after potluck.

We reinstated collecting financial contributions at our once-a-month potlucks; we had not done this since COVID began. We now collect money for a specific group consistent with our beliefs for three months at a time. We also collected warm coats for immigrants and mittens/gloves, hats and scarves for the needy.

An aging membership impacts DGFM's ability to maintain the building and grounds, so stewardship of these things was the focus of one of our discussions. The membership resoundingly want to keep our building and grounds and gave voice to numerous ways to maintain both.

The Christmas cactus is not as big and gangly as it used to be, but it did live up to its name and was in full bloom in December. It continues to thrive and Friends are able to take cuttings to begin growing plants in their own homes. At the same time Friends began the new year not only overflowing with ideas to grow the meeting but also reaffirming their commitment to keeping the building and grounds as our place to grow in our faith in God. The spirit is indeed working among us.

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

2024 was a good year for Duneland Friends Meeting. We continue to be a small meeting, growing in appreciation and love toward each other. We meet twice a month in person and virtually for worship on Sunday and again for fellowship, study, and worship with a different emphasis each Wednesday.

Due to the unusually contentious and hostile political developments of the past year, many members were concerned about the direction we were headed as a nation. Our meeting provides an opportunity to discuss those concerns while holding them in light of our values and beliefs. We continue to lovingly worship together in the midst of our spiritual and religious diversity. Members shared the spiritual wisdom they received during silence, which was very helpful.

Like many Quaker meetings, our membership is composed mainly of seniors, but we are young at heart and committed to reaching out to younger seekers. We want to be ready and welcoming when children return to be part of our community.

Some Friends have experienced serious health issues this past year, and we have supported and held in the Light those who have experienced health setbacks. Those who

confronted health challenges expressed how the love and spiritual support from other Friends helped them cope.

Duneland Friends live far apart, and congregating in person can be challenging. We may have relied too much on conducting our meetings for worship with a concern for business virtually which, although a great resource, lacks the benefit of worshipping in the same room and seeking Divine guidance together.

Working towards peace and alleviating human suffering is part of what Quakers are called to do consistent with our testimonies and vision of that of God in everyone. A concern has been raised that as a meeting we could do more to seek engagement with the national and international issues of our day. We have not collectively engaged in a significant way in dealing with these complex issues, although many Friends have done so individually.

Most of the financial contributions to the meeting are dedicated to supporting Quaker organizations and various humanitarian causes including those in the Valparaiso community. We have a carbon tax fund that supports different projects to abate the ecological damage humanity is inflicting on our home, the Earth.

In all, we praise and give thanks to the Light. In 2025, we hope to further our spiritual growth both individually and as a meeting, and caring for the people and planet in the years to come.

ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING

We are a small worship group with a core of frequent attenders and others who come sometimes and others who have expressed interest in coming. While our complex lives can make it difficult to make it to worship as regularly and fully as we might prefer, the space of worship and support around us consistently provided nourishment, opening, and guidance.

We feel deeply humbled and grateful for the sacred gift of meeting—where hearts gather, and Spirit breathes among us. While we may spend our lives seeking Spirit outwardly, it is through the tender inward journey that we have come to rest in both the light and the shadow. It is within the deepest darkness that we have been most held—where Spirit, with unfathomable patience, has waited...not to be found, but to be remembered.

Our meeting is supported by ILYM, the Ministry and Advancement Committee, and Faith Mennonite Church, which graciously provides the space where we gather.

Our children are on our hearts a lot, and we work to nurture them and their spiritual formation. We support each other as parents. We do not have everything we would like for the children and First Day School, but we attend to these our children as if each were our own, because they are all our children.

There, in the quiet ache of shadow, we came to know that even our wounds were sacred. Triggers become gentle messengers, inviting us to return to the altar within. The path to balance is not through denial of the ebb and flow, but through loving discernment. We do not always live up to our best intentions—but there is grace in each fall into difficulty, each hurt each straying from the path, and always the promise of return.

As the seasons shift and life moves through its sacred cycles, meeting—this space of communion—remains constant. A sanctuary. Alive with Spirit, it welcomes us just as we are, again and again. Whether we arrive in stillness or in storm, Spirit meets us with open arms, embracing us with a love that asks nothing and offers everything. The beauty of the return is not in having never left, but in finding that Spirit, and the soul of this beloved community, has been patiently holding space all along—silent, radiant, and ready to receive us.

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

How is the Life of the Spirit faring in Evanston Meeting? Individuals would vary in how they would answer this query. The quality of our Sunday worship changes from one week to the next. Often there are fewer people on the benches at 10:00 a.m. compared to 10:15 a.m., with the late arrival of attendees bothering some people more than others. A truly "gathered" meeting is unusual, but in all meetings for worship we seek to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit both individually and as a community. Usually there is some spoken ministry during our Sunday worship, with Friends following various journeys in their efforts to grow spiritually.

A number of years ago, Evanston Meeting made a conscious effort to try to increase the number of children in attendance. A financial commitment was included in the annual budget, and an experienced children's teacher was hired. This investment has brought many families and abundant joy to our community. Over 20 children are currently registered, and a typical Sunday has around 8-12 children in attendance. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Head of First Day School, and several members volunteer to help teach the classes. Although a few children worship for the initial 15 minutes in the main room on the upper floor, most sit on the lower floor with their parents to have quiet time together, share their joys and sorrows, and do a bit of yoga before dispersing to three different classrooms for First Day School. The membership of Evanston Meeting has not changed much in the past few years.

We typically have between four and eight Friends who join us via Zoom with around 30 people in attendance at the meetinghouse. In the last year we have had no marriages, no births and no new members officially joining The Society of Friends. Evanston Meeting has many attenders who have been with us for several years, and we are exploring various ways to encourage them to seek formal membership. Ministry & Worship is also reaching out to inactive members to learn if they wish to continue their membership.

We held memorial services for our member, Steve Durham, who died in December and also for long time attender, Tom Jager, who passed away in January. We anticipate providing memorial services for Dianne Atkinson and Phyllis Reynolds who died just days before this report is being submitted.

Many members of Evanston Meeting connect with the wider Quaker world. Over a dozen people from Evanston attend Illinois Yearly Meeting held in June in McNabb, Illinois. Individuals are actively involved with American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Friends Committee on National Legislation. Our service goes beyond the Quaker world with members involved in Interfaith Action of Evanston and numerous other local charities. A member of our meeting is the longtime head of Chicago Friends School, which teaches Quaker values to children in the Chicago area.

Evanston Meeting seeks to bear testimony against oppression, war, and acts of cruelty. A significant form of witness by our meeting for the past couple of years has been to provide hospitality to migrant families. Other Quaker meetings and individuals have helped in numerous ways including with financial expenses. The meeting struggled to come to unity before coming to a response to the crisis in Gaza in the last year. Our faith community is a source of comfort, friendship, and inspiration for each of us as we seek to grow in both spiritual understanding and our ability to lessen human suffering.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

57th Street Meeting remains small but strong. Friends speak of a sense of joy and welcoming, a growing sense of trust and belonging; the dynamics are much less fraught than in the past.

While we acknowledge our responsibility to respond to needs and dynamics in the larger community and world, as a meeting we are growing more spiritually-centered, rather than action-oriented, realizing that this gathered centeredness is the work of the meeting, and that it is in prayerful silence and corporate worship that the seeds of insight grow into leadings and action.

As a meeting in a university community setting, we have many visitors, often young, often new to Quakerism, looking for guidance or models of how to behave, especially in difficult and challenging times. Some may come for what they perceive as politics, but stay for the deepening. Some join us in silence and at close of meeting, share some grief or pain, having found in the shared silence something of comfort and peace, something that allows them to feel safe. Some, led and inspired by the Quakers' history of activism, come to learn more about Quaker practices, and find, meeting gathered in silence, that "this is what we do"—our meeting is seeking to find and nourish "that of God in everyone," to nurture the deep seeking, centeredness and community that guide, inform, and sustain right action in the world.

We are challenged by our small—though growing—cadre of seasoned and active Friends and attenders able to serve in formal roles, but even as we struggle to maintain our administrative structure—the scaffolding that holds the meeting together and allows deepening worship, fellowship, community, and outward action—we find comfort in our sense of community, mutual care, and belonging, and we welcome with joy an increasing sense of fellowship and participation as our meeting grows.

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

We are a small meeting with regular involvement at Meeting for Worship of 6-9 people, mostly members, at Pioneer Farm in McHenry. Judy Gottlieb is our capable clerk. We are always glad to see Chuck Howenstine, who greets everyone and keeps the physical plant going, along with his venerable Dad, Bill. We gratefully welcome new members and attenders, Kunaka Pearl Ratunil and husband, Jeff/Achala; Marypatrice Wendt (Mp); Thomas Chesser; and occasionally others.

Our meetings are often quiet, but what gems of sharing arise, are sustaining. We endeavor to maintain contact with those who have moved away or who cannot easily make it to meeting. Our social action is individual (recycling, community gardening, etc.) rather than corporate, but we often see each other at local, peaceful demonstrations for democracy. Our non-resident member, Mark McGinnis, who is ILYM Co-Field Secretary, faithfully attends our Meetings for Worship for Business and keeps us updated on ILYM matters. On First Days, a sign is posted out front welcoming all.

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

Lake Forest Friends Meeting is a lively place and a delight to our senses. As we enter the meetinghouse on Sunday morning, we will be greeted with a friendly smile, handshake or hug and are likely to hear the joyful sounds of our children and/or music. Flavorful smells from the kitchen may tantalize our tastebuds. As we join others in worship, we may be greeted by a crackling fire or the chirping of birds outside. If we are lucky, we will see birds, small critters or even deer as we worship together.

Meeting for Worship on Sunday is the heart of our community as we meet each First Day to celebrate our lives together and our thankfulness for what the earth has to offer us. Vocal ministry varies, and sometimes we enjoy complete quiet during our hour together. Our meeting closes with introductions, the sharing of joys and sorrows, and announcements. Visitors are asked to introduce themselves and say a little about

themselves as they wish. We have had several newcomers, some of whom have become regular attenders, adding their spark to the meeting. We also grieve the deaths of three of our members: Aileen Tyson, Paulette Leonard, and founding member Emma Cadbury.

LFFM continues to be concerned about the many social and earth injustices in our world today. Such issues are addressed by our youngest Friends in their First Day school classes and by our meeting as a whole. The Peace and Social Action Committee provides leadership to act on these problems. We continue to provide lunch monthly for a homeless shelter, collect provisions for a refugee family, and do a yearly bedding drive for those in need. We often support other organizations with their endeavors, and several Friends have been felt led to participate in social actions in their local communities. Recently, two Friends shared their talents and provided entertainment events, one to raise money for scholarships for needy Lake County college students and another to raise funds for a shelter for homeless women. In an effort to learn how to better work across the political and other divisions that seem so prominent in this time, we asked FCNL to hold their workshop entitled “F/friends in Unlikely Places.” All of these events were open to the community and were well attended.

Potluck Sunday has evolved into Sharing Sunday, with the expectation that we not only share our culinary delights with each other but support the physical needs of our community. Two baskets are ever present in the foyer, one labeled “The Haven” and another “Refugees.”

And we do take time for fun at LFFM. The Christmas pageant is always a spectacular event, with Friends of all ages participating. An Easter egg hunt, a barbecue and a Halloween party bring Friends of all ages together. Monthly game night, monthly Music and Muffins, a Saturday night reading and discussion group, and an occasional old-fashioned hootenanny offer more opportunities for us all to enjoy each other’s company.

Our First Day School is small but mighty. Our young Friends grapple with issues that affect our environment and the world around them. This year they have learned about several historical figures who made major contributions in alleviating social injustices in our world. Their discussions are lively, and often we adults learn more from them than they learn from us.

LFFM is a thriving community. I think we all look forward to another year of sharing, fun and learning.

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Northside Friends (NFM) relocated last year to sublet space in a 100-year old church located in Chicago’s Edgewater neighborhood. We worship in a room filled with natural light; our windows open onto a residential street. We have grown into our new home which we share with Chicago Friends School (CFS).

Our current location better supports families: After a pandemic dry spell, parents and their children are returning to on-site worship. Two Northside families have been blessed this year with the arrival of babies.

Along with the joys of joining together with CFS we are responding to persistent issues. Sometimes, other users’ events preempt access to our worship space. Meeting does not hold a lease with the landlord; there are no formal methods to contact and interact with him. In April 2025, NFM learned that the building owner intends to end all existing leases which requires us to vacate no later than summer 2026. We are unsure whether we will be able to move together with CFS to their new—also undetermined—home.

Meeting for Business (MfB) has offered a mirror of the easiest and grittiest of Northside. MfB has become more transparent and is marked by a willingness to

communicate. However, they can also be messy. In these deep conversations, we create a space where we can have healthy conflicts. A three- or four- hour MfB is not unusual.

Nevertheless, our hybrid Meeting for Worship continues to attract new members and attenders as we welcome weekly attendance of up to fifty people, nine of whom attend online. One Northsider observes: “I’ve been a Quaker for ten years. As a new-to-Northside Friend, I’ve learned more about our faith practice in the last 18 months than I had all that time.”

We have made significant technological adjustments to improve the sound quality for online attenders. When we first arrived at CFS, the online sound clarity was muddled. Technology committee tried multiple configurations and found a workable solution. After benefiting from a university listserv for many years, Technology Committee also moved to a new provider.

Our committees continue to flourish. Adult Spiritual Formation provides newcomers and seasoned members opportunities to reflect and grow. Ministry of Mutual Care assists our meeting in formal and informal ways. Ministry on Racism’s (MoR) work attracts attendees to Northside. Ministry of Worship provides many opportunities to learn about and season Quaker faith and practice, including Quaker 101. House Committee stepped up to manage our new space by hiring a Northside Friend who prepares and takes down meeting’s space every week.

Northsiders thank Friend Wil Rutt for his decades-long servant leadership as Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) representative, a role from which he recently stepped down.

Following Rise of Meeting, Friends are invited to eat brunch together at a cafe down the street. To encourage inclusivity, meeting anonymously covers meal costs, if needed, so that financial obstacles prevent no one from attending.

After several cautious pandemic years, we revived our annual picnic with a well-attended July trip to Edgewater beach.

Northside is responding to wider world events. Northside provided a donation for Hurricane Helene disaster relief. We advocated that the State of Illinois divest from Israel Bonds. Several attenders responded to the genocide in Gaza by participating in Palestinian coalition actions in Chicago. For many months Friends labored over joining the Apartheid-free Communities Coalition convened by the American Friends Service Committee. Although MoR was able to join the coalition as a signatory, NFM has not reached unity on the issue and we continue to season it. Northside whole-heartedly endorsed the Quaker Vision for Peace pledge. Tensions around how to live out our endorsement of this Vision over Palestine/Israel continue.

Our thriving condition might be best expressed by a long-time Northsider who observes: “... our strengths express in free-form, spirit-driven ways of managing spiritual affairs. Our understanding of abundance vs scarcity underpins everything. Inclusivity is core—it’s like a live wire—it’s natural, intuitive fellowship. Communal spirit informs Meeting for Worship, committee work, social gatherings. It encourages growth and nourishes spiritual energy and purpose. It’s an exciting thing to witness.”

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park Friends Meeting is content and stable. In going through ILYM queries we have arrived at areas of strength and areas that need improvement.

We are content with the quality of our meetings; often we feel our meetings are gathered in worship. We have a good balance of silent worship and of spoken, spirit-led ministry. We feel a lot of love and fellowship towards one another. Our membership is mostly stable and we have also had visitors.

We have two excellent co-clerks who have fortunately agreed to serve for another two-year term. We also have an excellent treasurer who has served well and faithfully for many years, and a skillful and experienced recording clerk who for several years has also served well and faithfully. Our connections with the wider Quaker world include participation in ILYM and with the two Field Secretaries, and we also have relationships with the Care Children's Academy (a Quaker school) in Uganda and with Scattergood Friends School. With the stewardship of our Peace, Justice & Environment Committee, we donate to various Quaker organizations.

Our connections have grown through a number of continuing events and activities this year. We have an ongoing spiritual group that meets 2-3 times a month. After several years of inactivity due mostly to COVID, we have resurrected our Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee. Our weekly newsletter keeps friends and visitors abreast of monthly and yearly meeting activities, as well as of events in the wider world. Recently we started having a lunch once a month at a local restaurant, giving us an opportunity to meet in a more informal group.

We felt sad about the death of our long-time member, Helen Dickinson. We hosted a traditional Memorial Meeting, which was well attended and was a very beautiful celebration of her extraordinary life.

Of course, there are areas of our meeting life we would like to improve. Although we have deeply moving vocal ministry, we may want to explore opening to more personal sharing of experiences and their ensuing insights. Perhaps an ARE program could help with queries or resources.

Although we have a steady stream of visitors, we feel that we need a plan for talking to newcomers, and for moving from visitor to attender and from attender to member. We may attract more visitors if we increase our visibility.

We have a high level of love and fellowship with one another, but occasionally there are conflicts. We are working at handling them better. All in all, the state of our monthly meeting is healthy.

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

South Bend Friends has been focused on developing relationships within the meeting and with the wider community. With the restart of both monthly potlucks and snacks and beverages at the rise of meeting, Friends linger and connect, strengthening a sense of community. We read *Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times* by J. P Brent Bill and *Spiritual Gifts, the Beloved Community, and Covenant*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 461 by Emily Provance.

As fewer Friends are led to committee service, individual Friends have stepped forward to volunteer for the work of the meeting, assisting with snacks at the rise of meeting, being with children in First Day School so that parents can also participate in Meeting for Worship, and opening/closing the building. The life and work of the meeting has also become more organic and cooperative by holding less tightly to committee structure. Two committees are using the model of sharing the role of clerk among all committee members.

Children's Religious Education continues to be an active part of the life of the meeting. While our First-Day-School class for teens has phased out this year as older Young Friends have chosen to attend Meeting for Worship for the full hour or assist with the younger class, our class for nursery-school-age Young Friends has grown in activity and participation, combining Friendly play with learning about Divine love and Friends' testimonies.

The first of two worship sharing events explored the roles of Clerk of Monthly Meeting and the role of a clerk in general. This second hour came out of a two year

discernment process between the Nominating Committee and Ministry & Council. The other event was a time to share concerns and grief over election results.

Many of us expressed deep concern regarding President Trump's executive order that churches are not sanctuaries during a monthly potluck. That conversation led to a second hour during the next potluck where we met with other concerned community partners (United Religious Community of St. Joseph County, La Casa de Amistad, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and First Presbyterian Church) to hear what our undocumented neighbors need.

Meeting has been discerning its role in relationship with community organizations, rejuvenating our relationship with the United Religious Community of St. Joseph County, a multi-faith group also focused on helping refugees resettle in our community. We continue to discern our relationship with We Make Indiana, a local multi-racial, multi-faith movement working with local public officials on policy changes to ensure all can thrive. We also partnered with First Presbyterian Church on one of its Matthew 25 projects, Guns to Gardens, providing a safe place to relinquish guns that were turned into sculpture and garden tools. Intergenerational craft and music activities invited celebration and connections.

We have been closely following the activities of other Quaker communities, especially the lawsuits that have been filed in opposition to executive orders that attempt to forbid the use of houses of worship as sanctuary spaces. Most importantly, we continue to create space to be open with each other, to listen and strengthen relationship bonds with each other and the wider world.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Our small meeting continues to gather at Gaia House, a space we rent for Sunday mornings. Gaia House began as a Christian campus ministry and has continued as a multifaith center and community meeting space for diverse groups, including several recovery groups, two Buddhist groups, a pagan group, a west African drumming group, a downstate trans support group, among others. Although individuals within our meeting have connections to some of these other groups, our interactions as a meeting with these other groups is only occasional. Nevertheless, sharing this space seems appropriate. Gaia House's mission statement says, "Gaia House Interfaith Center is a welcoming community committed to Spiritual Awareness that integrates Peace, Justice and Ecological Sustainability...." It feels like home to be part of this larger community.

Our Sunday gatherings are small, rarely having more than ten people and, more often, only five or six. We come most Sundays to a gathered silence that can be profound. That silence deepens as we jointly sit in expectant waiting. Vocal ministry is sporadic, with only silence during many of our gatherings. That ministry though, when it does occur, often seems to speak to the unasked questions or inchoate thoughts another in our gathering may have. After silence, we may share the messages and thoughts that came to us but did not quite fully develop to a vocal ministry. These sharings enrich our closeness and our spiritual life as a community.

We continue to share potluck after the first meeting of the month and to Meet for Worship with a Concern for Business on fourth Sundays. Often these concerns are routine but we have also struggled this year to come to unity on a statement on Gaza. We have regularly made modest contributions to support community homeless shelters and some of us have stood together during protests against the radical changes being made in our country. Some of our signs declare "Quakers Will Not Be Silent."

We continue to have occasional potluck "Life of the Meeting" gatherings in homes that include those who gather together for worship, but also those whose schedules may

keep them from attending meeting and those who are “Quaker adjacent,” spouses and partners of those who attend meeting but who do not attend themselves. This too enriches our closeness as a community.

We go forward together uncertain and troubled about where our nation is headed, but committed to both our own community and to finding ways to reach out to bring our commitment to SPICES—Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship, to make a difference in a wider world.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

In many ways the State of Society of Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting is much the same as it was at this time last year, and that is a good thing. Once again, while we mourn the loss of valued Friends, we joyfully welcome new members and attenders to Meeting for Worship, and our meeting is enriched by their presence and ministry.

As we move on from the pandemic years, our meeting is growing and changing. The many threads that held us and sustained us during those difficult years are now lengthening and strengthening. New formal and informal groups meet regularly, not only in the meetinghouse, but in homes and in public spaces. These groups meet for Bible study, to knit and crochet, to walk in our public parks, and to share meals. These gatherings allow us to not only talk about our lives and get to know each other on a deeper level, but also let us weave together stronger spiritual connections. We feel that we are part of a growing community.

Among the threads that we feel binding us together are both our children and our older members. We enjoy the children's close of meeting reports on First Day School activities and delight in their spiritual development. Although we wish for more young Friends, we hold close the ones we have. For some of our older members, it is difficult or impossible to come to meeting, yet these Friends are an important part of our spiritual lives and our meeting's history.

The decision to join the Apartheid-Free Communities Campaign was not an easy one, but we are stronger for holding fast to our Quaker decision-making process. During two called business meetings, we listened patiently to each other's concerns and labored to come to a sense of the meeting.

We feel bound together as a meeting as we consider our responsibility for the stewardship of funds that were left to the meeting last year, and we strive to make our meetinghouse and our local and broader communities healthy and thriving places for us all. Among our efforts last year, we installed a geothermal heating and cooling system at the meetinghouse, we donated funds to the Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center for after-school and summer enrichment programs and also donated to the Education Justice Project for a new college-in-prison program at Decatur Correctional Center, a women's prison not far from Champaign-Urbana.

We continue to discern how best to use the funds from the aforementioned bequest. Our original process for making decisions was somewhat divisive, but a new process born out of the dissension is carrying us forward in greater unity in our mission to be of peaceful service to the community. We consider this a Spirit-led development.

We look forward and pray for another year of growth and stronger spiritual connections. As we look around us, in our own community and around the world, we know that there is much more we can do.

FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Tenth Month 26, 2024

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, McNabb, Illinois

Attending were Kevin Brubaker (clerk), Julia Pantoga (assistant clerk), Peter Lasersohn (recording clerk), Wil Brant, Chris Goode, Daniel Lakemacher, Noel Pavlovic, Sarah Pavlovic, Beth Burbank, Dale Gardner, Heather Evert, Kyr Esler, Marie White, Erica Cheng, Michael Dennis, Beth Carpenter, Diane Clark-Dennis, David Shiner, Mark (Nemo) McGinnis, Marcia Nelson, Colleen Reardon, Cathy Garra, Ted Kuhn, Sharon Haworth, Grayce H. Mesner, Richard Ashdown, Brandon Harrington, Virginia Schelbert, Fernando Freire, Bobbi Trist. Via videoconference: Sue Styer, Gwen Weaver, Kent Busse, Meredith George.

Minute 1 The meeting opened with silent worship.

Minute 2 Ted Kuhn gave the Treasurer's report. Contributions have been generous and expenses have been slightly lower than expected; the meeting's overall financial condition is good. Report accepted.

Minute 3 Ted Kuhn reported for the Finance Committee. The committee is working on an updated description of the Property Improvement Fund and on guidelines for monthly meetings and their treasurers. Report accepted.

Minute 4 Julia Pantoga reported for the Handbook Committee. Reflecting previously approved decisions, the committee is proposing new text for the Handbook's descriptions of the Finance Committee policy on Considering Gifts to Others, of the Reading Clerk's responsibilities, and of the Representative to Chicago Friends School. Friends defer consideration of the text for the Reading Clerk responsibilities to the spring session of the Continuing Committee. The other two changes approved.

Minute 5 Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Naming Committee. They propose Kent Busse for clerk of Nominating Committee. Approved.

Minute 6 Marcia Nelson and Mark McGinnis presented the Field Secretaries' report. Marcia recently attended Fox Valley Meeting and reports that our aged Friend Bill Howenstine is doing well. She also attended Blue River Quarterly Meeting, and reports positively. Mark attended Downers Grove and other meetings and reports that they mostly seem to be in stronger shape than a year ago. He also attended the General Superintendents and Secretaries Conference in Richmond, Indiana. Report accepted.

Minute 7 Minutes 1–6 approved.

Minute 8 The written report of the Ministry and Advancement Committee was accepted.

Minute 9 Dale Gardner presented the report of the Children's Religious Education Committee. The committee is still seeking applicants for the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position. The job notice will be posted on the yearly meeting website. The children's program at yearly meeting last summer went well. Report accepted.

Minute 10 Chris Goode reported for the Stewards and for the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. The Fall workday was well-attended and completed a good deal of work. The next workday is scheduled for May 3, 2025. Electrical service in the campground has been updated, and updates are planned for the meetinghouse. Several trees were damaged or downed in a windstorm and required professional cleanup. The meetinghouse windows will require maintenance soon; interior painting is also planned. A meeting with a prospective part-time caretaker is scheduled. The committee seeks input on what kind of equipment should be on playground. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Ted Kuhn reported for the Publications and Technology Committee. The 2024 Minute Books, Plummer Lecture and directory have been published. Year-round fiber internet is being made available on the yearly meeting campus. The yearly meeting has a Zoom account which can be used for committee meetings and yearly meeting programs. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Friends noted that Zoom attendance at this meeting was over a small laptop computer, and expressed the hope that at future Continuing Committee meetings a larger-scale implementation of Zoom might be employed.

Minute 13 Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The spiritual nature trail has been revised, and a campus tree map is being developed. He reported on a recent visit to the Mount Palatine Cemetery Prairie. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Minutes 8–13 were read and approved.

Minute 15 Mike Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. During yearly meeting, the teens considered issues pertaining to the Israeli invasion of Gaza and engaged strongly with Quaker process in their deliberations. The teens met again at Blue River Quarterly, and are planning to do so again in the spring. A quake is planned for Martin Luther King Day weekend. A t-shirt design is being developed for next year's yearly meeting sessions. Rose Johnson has announced her resignation as Youth Coordinator, due to increased responsibilities at her other employment. The committee proposes working with Personnel Committee to search for a replacement. Proposal approved; report accepted.

Minute 16 Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. They have revised the text of their description in the Handbook, to be proposed to the yearly meeting at the annual sessions this summer. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Sarah Pavlovic reported orally for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. An online workshop by Marcia Nelson on “Final Thoughts: End of Life Considerations” is scheduled for November 9. Report accepted.

Minute 18 Daniel Lakemacher reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee is researching ILYM history with respect to Native American concerns. The committee has continued to work toward education and justice pertaining to Israeli policies toward Palestinians, and renews its request with the Peace Resources Committee to join, as committees, the Apartheid Free Communities Coalition. Friends accept the report. In considering the proposal, Friends expressed a variety of views with respect to the question of whether it is appropriate for yearly meeting committees to make public statements on issues about which the Yearly Meeting itself was not able to find unity. The following minute was approved: “In Summer 2024, Illinois Yearly Meeting did not reach unity on joining the Apartheid Free Communities Coalition. Illinois Yearly Meeting recognizes the leading that its Peace Resources Committee and its Racial Equity and Education Committee have to join the Apartheid Free Communities Coalition. We approve their request to join the Coalition and embrace the challenge which these committees have brought, and will bring, to us.”

Minute 19 Minutes 15–18 were read and approved.

Minute 20 Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. The committee reviewed and approved the job description for the Children's Religious Education Coordinator, and it will work with the appropriate committees as she searches for a Site Caretaker and a Youth Coordinator proceed. Report accepted.

Minute 21 The written report of the Development Committee, which notes that an annual appeal letter should be ready soon, was accepted.

Minute 22 David Shiner reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The committee held workshops at yearly meeting last summer and has engaged in further research. It has found that our attendance has declined, but at a rate which is typical for U.S. Friends meetings generally. The length of our annual sessions is about average. The per-day cost is among the lowest of U.S. yearly meetings, unless hotel accommodation is included. Our local meetings are also generally experiencing lower attendance now than 10 or 20 years ago. David asked for Friends' views on how the yearly meeting can support local meetings. Friends gave a variety of responses, mostly emphasizing ways of building and strengthening a sense of community. David also asked for ideas on making attendance at yearly meeting easier. Many of the responses emphasized transportation, program, and sensitivity to job constraints and finances. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Chris Goode reported for the Chicago South Planning Group, which has responsibility for Site Prep for the 2025 Annual Sessions. All positions have been filled.

Minute 24 Sharon Haworth reported for Blue River Quarterly Meeting, which has responsibility for program. The program will focus on the 150th anniversary of the yearly meeting. The theme is "Honoring the Past, Living the Present, Envisioning the Future." A musical presentation is planned for Wednesday, a panel discussion by Friends who have grown up in the yearly meeting for Thursday, and a talk by historian Tom Hamm on Saturday. Beth Carpenter will be the Plummer lecturer. A birthday party for the yearly meeting is planned for Saturday afternoon. Recipes are solicited for a cookbook; send them to Pam Wolfe. Photos for inclusion in video or hard-copy collages should be sent to Sharon Haworth.

Minute 25 Ted Kuhn reported for Chicago North, which has responsibility for food. Zach and Kelly Schobernd will return to cook. All positions have been filled; Friends are encouraged to sign up for volunteer slots.

Minute 26 The meeting thanks Clear Creek Meeting for hosting us at this session.

Minute 27 The date and location of Spring Continuing Committee have not yet been fixed, but will be announced soon.

Minute 28 Minutes 20–27 were read and approved.

Minute 29 The meeting closed in silent worship.

Kevin Brubaker, Clerk

Peter Lasersohn, Recording Clerk

SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 1, 2025

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting Meetinghouse, Urbana, Illinois

Present were Peter Lasersohn, Frank Young, Julie Young, Janice Domanik, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Julian Buckingham, Beth Carpenter, Christopher Goode, Marie White, Mark (Nemo) McGinnis, Marcia Nelson, Virginia Schelbert, Cathy Carra, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, Eli Rorem, Noel Pavlovic, David Shiner, Colleen Reardon, Barbara Kessel, Sharon Haworth, Margie Haworth-Davis, Grayce Haworth Mesner, Cameron MacRae, Michael Dennis, Wil Brant, Val Lester, Dale Gardner, Julia Pantoga, Kevin Brubaker. Via videoconference: Kent Busse, Gwen Weaver, Sue Styer, Brad Laird, Bobbi Trist, Heather Evert.

Minute 1 The meeting opened in silent worship.

Minute 2 Clerk Kevin Brubaker welcomed all and made opening announcements.

Minute 3 Julia Pantoga reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Marie White as Assistant Recording Clerk. Appointment approve Marie appointed for immediate service. Report accepted.

Minute 4 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurers' report. Income and expenses are approximately as expected; the yearly meeting is in good financial condition. Report accepted.

Minute 5 Valerie Lester reported for the Finance Committee. The yearly meeting is now fully staffed, so our payroll expenses are higher than in recent years. These expenses have been budgeted for, but may limit our ability to exceed the budget in other areas. The committee has formulated a minute to clarify the purposes of the Property Improvement Fund, with the following text:

The Property Improvement Fund is a Donor Restricted Fund to be used for significant improvements to the ILYM Campus in McNabb, including new buildings and existing buildings. It is not intended to be used for maintenance of the existing campus. Any use of this fund should be approved at Annual Sessions (requests should be brought by Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee. This fund is intended to improve the facilities to better serve ILYM needs.

The project priorities come from ILYM with input from MP&E Committee. Donors wishing to underwrite any specific project should work through the Development Committee.

The committee requests feedback on this wording, and plans to propose a version of it at annual sessions this summer. The committee also hopes to provide more support for monthly meeting treasurers, and may offer a workshop so that treasurers may share best practices. Report accepted.

Minute 6 Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. This year, the committee included detailed financial information in the annual appeal letter. This appears to have helped stimulate donations. Frank warned Friends about the possibility of donors restricting gifts to inappropriate uses; decisions about how funds are spent are usually best made by the yearly meeting. Report accepted.

Minute 7 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. They propose adding language to the effect that the Reading Clerk is an ex officio member of the Epistle Committee, with the option of declining that membership. Proposed language approved and report accepted.

Minute 8 Minutes 1–7 were read and approved.

Minute 9 Kevin Brubaker reported as Clerk. Friends General Conference has approved joining a lawsuit challenging the right of immigration officials to enter places of worship in search of undocumented immigrants. To prove standing in this case, FGC asked the Clerks of yearly meetings to report on the impact of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy on their meetings. As Clerk, Kevin contacted monthly meetings in ILYM, and reported to FGC, which was then able to join the lawsuit. Kevin read the following moving statement from the court filing by the organizations bringing the suit, emphasizing the religious foundations of their position:

Plaintiffs in this challenge are 12 national denominational bodies and representatives, 4 regional denominational bodies, and 11 denominational and interdenominational associations, all rooted in the Jewish and Christian faiths. Plaintiffs and their members are Baptist, Brethren, Conservative Jewish, Episcopalian, Evangelical, Mennonite, Quaker, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Reconstructionist Jewish, Reform Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, United Methodist, Zion Methodist, and more. They bring this suit unified on a fundamental belief: Every human being, regardless of birthplace, is a child of God worthy of dignity, care, and love. Welcoming the stranger, or immigrant, is thus a central precept of their faith practices.

The Torah lays out this tenet 36 times, more than any other teaching: “The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:34). In the Gospels, Jesus Christ not only echoes this command, but self-identifies with the stranger: “For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). Plaintiffs’ religious scripture, teaching, and traditions offer clear, repeated, and irrefutable unanimity on their obligation to embrace, serve, and defend the refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their midst without regard to documentation or legal status.

Kevin noted that ILYM participation in the suit precludes participation in parallel suits on the same issue. Report accepted. The meeting thanked Kevin for his skillful navigation of this process, which involved a delicate balance between Quaker process and considerations of speed and confidentiality.

Minute 10 Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson reported as Field Secretaries. They have visited several meetings, some of which are in robust shape, and some of which are struggling. Rock Valley Meeting is considering laying itself down. Some meetings are strong, despite small numbers; level of energy does not necessarily correlate with size. Public dissatisfaction over the political situation in this country may provide an opportunity for Friends to make ourselves better known. Mark, Marcia, and other Friends noted the recent deaths of several well-loved Friends. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Janice Domanik reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee solicits advice on possible workshops. The committee has formulated the following minute in support of LGBTQIA+ Friends, and solicits feedback. The committee plans to propose a version of this minute at yearly meeting this summer.

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends believes there is that of the Light of God in every person. We affirm and celebrate our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary members and attenders. Any person who

is led to faithfully love whom they love and express in integrity who they are, including through their gender expression, is ministering to the world and showing who God is. When members and attenders do this, their faithfulness blesses us all.

Illinois Yearly Meeting will continue to support all our members and attenders as they live lives of faith and integrity—including respecting, affirming, and celebrating their uniqueness, supporting them in the choice to come out, caring for them as they live and form relationships (including marriages under the care of our meetings), and caring for them in the face of any test or rebuke they are subjected to by the world and society. As with other health care choices, we support the decisions our members and attenders make regarding gender-affirming care. ILYM especially recognizes and supports those in the LGBTQIA+ community who also endure racism and ableism.

Report accepted.

Minute 12 Minutes 9–11 were read and approved.

Minute 13 Michael Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. Jasmine Dennis has accepted the position of Youth Coordinator. A Quake was held at Evanston over the Martin Luther King Day weekend — the first such gathering since the COVID pandemic. Teen participation is planned for the upcoming session of Blue River Quarterly Meeting. T-shirt sales to fundraise for relief efforts in Gaza are planned for the annual sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Dale Gardner reported for the Children’s Religious Education Committee. Choz Howard-McKinney has been hired as Children’s Religious Education Coordinator. Planning for the children’s program at annual sessions is underway; Friends are encouraged to volunteer as teachers. Report accepted.

Minute 15 Colleen Reardon reported for the Personnel Committee. With the new Youth Oversight and Children’s Religious Education Coordinators, the yearly meeting is now fully staffed. The committee continues work to ensure conformity with legal requirements. Report accepted.

Minute 16 Chris Goode reported for the Stewards and the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. Church Mutual Insurance has declined to renew our policy; a search for new coverage is expected to be completed soon. Shirley Maubach has been hired as a caretaker, for approximately one hour per week. Spring Work Day is planned for May 3. Electrical work at the campground has been completed. Improvements to the electrical system in the meetinghouse basement are planned, as are upgrades to the air conditioning in Clear Creek House, and several other maintenance projects. A meeting has been held with interested children to gather their views about possible new playground equipment. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Minutes 13–16 were read and approved.

Minute 18 Wil Brant reported for the Publications and Technology Committee. An issue of Among Friends will be published this spring. The audio-visual technology area for annual sessions will be moved to the back of the meetinghouse at the upcoming sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 19 Sara Pavlovic reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness. She is ILYM representative to the steering committee. QEW has been hosting interesting presentations and opportunities for conversation recently, for example: Artificial intelligence and water use, how to be involved in local climate action. Currently they are doing a mapping

project with FWCC to create a map of climate actions happening with Quaker meetings and organizations around the world. This is an opportunity to learn more about what other Quaker meetings are doing and how these projects might be implemented locally. Wil includes these events in the ILYM email newsletter. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Mark McGinnis reported for Peace Resources Committee, which is right now “running before the wind” and is contemplating changing the name and description of the committee. They are not only for resources but also want to be more proactive. The committee presented a workshop at the Quake that Rocked the Midwest on militarism and recruitment. Attendance at Meeting for Healing for Palestine and Israel declined, so they shifted the focus to Meeting for the Future of America. At the last meeting they had much better attendance, with Friends from around the country joining. Report accepted.

Minute 21 Janice Domanik reported for Racial Equity and Education Committee. The next café will be on the process of mutual aid (March 15). The committee now decides a topic in advance of each meeting and sends a blurb out in advance. Janice presented a proposed minute, “Draft Apology and Land Acknowledgement”. She will take suggestions regarding the proposed minute back to the committee. Report accepted.

Minute 22 Minutes 18–21 were read and approved.

Minute 23 David Shiner reported for the ad hoc Committee on the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The committee has received a wealth of input from monthly meetings and worship groups on ideas for increasing attendance at yearly meeting. The committee hopes to implement several of these ideas in our sessions this year, including robust activities for newcomers each day; reserving a block of rooms at a reduced rate in a nearby hotel; having more program activities available remotely; disseminating a Frequently Asked Questions document about annual sessions; and holding a spiritual nurture event. Also planned are an art display space, initiatives directed specifically toward Adult Young Friends, and intergenerational activities. In ensuing discussion, Friends offered multiple suggestions of ways to increase participation, and of information to be included in the proposed FAQ document. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Representatives of the planning groups reported that yearly meeting planning is proceeding as needed. Reports accepted.

Minute 25 The Clerk reported that Val Lester and Erin Taylor have been appointed as the Naming Committee.

Minute 26 Minutes 23–25 were read and approved.

Minute 27 The meeting thanked Urbana-Champaign Meeting for hosting this Continuing Committee.

Minute 28 The meeting closed in waiting worship.

Kevin Brubaker, Clerk

Peter Lasersohn, Recording Clerk

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2025-2026 APPOINTMENTS

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.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Childrens Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Dale Gardner
2026: Bobbi Trist
2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin
2028: Katherine Young, Quinn Parks
ex officio CRE Coordinator

Development Committee

Clerk: Frank Young
2026: Alex Lippitt
2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny
2028: Frank Young

Environmental Concerns Committee

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2026: Nancy Halliday, David Wixom
2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann
2028: Charlotte Raasch

Finance Committee

Clerk: Val Lester
2027: Judy Jager, Val Lester
2028: Cynthia Harris, Frank Young
ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, MP&E Clerk

Handbook Committee

Clerk: Pam Kuhn
2027: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer
2028: Julia Pantoga

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee

Clerk: Chris Goode
2026: Carol Bartles, Diane Clark-Dennis, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White
2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen
2028: Mark Robinson
ex-officio: all Stewards

Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Janice Domanik
2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor
2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom
2028: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert, Steve Tamari
ex officio: Field Secretaries

Nominating Committee

Clerk: Margie Haworth-Davis
2026: Brad Laird, Margie Haworth-Davis, Alex Lippitt
2027: Brendon Harrington

Peace Resources Committee

Clerk: Mark McGinnis
2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman
2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi
2025: Janet Fair

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
2026: Dawn Crimson, Lilith Swygart
2027: Nathan Lasersohn
ex-officio: Admin. Coord., Editor of *Among Friends*

Racial Equity and Education Committee

Clerk: Daniel Lakemacher
2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher
2027: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner
2028: Beth Burbank, Janet Fair

Youth Oversight Committee

Clerk: Mike Dennis
2026: Charles Howard-McKinney, Brad Laird
2027: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis, Daniel Lakemacher
2028: Rose Johnson, Erica Cheng

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
2026: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David
Wixom
2027: Kevin Brubaker
2028: Fariba Murray

Friends General Conference Central Committee
2028: Lilith Swygert

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

Friends Peace Teams
2026: Andrea Kintree

Friends Secondary School Liaison
2028 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2028 Scattergood: Alex Lippitt
2028: Chicago Friends: Mary Ellen Isaacs

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

Quaker Earthcare Witness
2026: Sarah Pavlovic
2028: Chip Rorem

INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert
Web Contact: Sean West
Among Friends Editor: Ted Kuhn
Blue River Quarterly Clerk: Dawn Crimson

YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS COMMITTEES

2024 Exercises Committee: Pam Kuhn
2025 Epistle Committee: Marcia Nelson,
Erica Cheng, Kira Smith

<h3>2026 ANNUAL SESSIONS RESPONSIBILITIES</h3>
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Program: Chicago North Site Services: Blue River Quarterly Food: Chicago South
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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 573-474-1827
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, 10:30 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

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

1020 W. Bryn Mawr 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. (E) 574-232-8258
ilym.org/southbend
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon (E)

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 WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek)
 902 N Brown, Galesburg, IL 61401
 10:00 am 309-351-2264

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
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	Andrea Kintree
South Bend	
Southern Illinois	Dawn Crimson
Urbana-Champaign	Bobbi Trist & Dale Gardner

*Burlington (WG), Elkhart (PM), & 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