

**Illinois Yearly Meeting Fall Continuing Committee**  
**Tenth Month 11, 2025**  
**ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois (hosted by Clear Creek Meeting)**

Present were Peter Lasersohn, Frank Young, Julie Young, Janice Domanik, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Beth Carpenter, Christopher Goode, Marie White, Mark (Nemo) McGinnis, Marcia Nelson, Virginia Schelbert, Cathy Carra, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner, Grayce Haworth Mesner, Michael Dennis, Wil Brant, Val Lester, Dale Gardner, Julia Pantoga, Kevin Brubaker, Kyr Esler, Beth Burbank, Bobbie Trist, Fernando Freire, Margie Haworth, Judy Jager, Brandon Harrington, Heather Evert

The meeting opened in silent worship.

**Minute 1.** Presiding Clerk Julia Pantoga welcomed Friends and made opening announcements. She introduced the clerk's table and the Clerk's Committee, consisting of Bruce Kanarek, Judy Jager, Kevin Brubaker, Marie White. Julia described her disability and reminded all that her coughing fits sound scary but she has what she needs, and will recover on her own. Her balance is not good, so please be patient as she moves slowly. Julia is re-introducing the Nelson stretches, first led by Helen Jean Nelson.

**Minute 2.** Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurers' report. The yearly meeting was in good shape last year and ended the year with a budget surplus. The largest financial concern is the increase in property insurance. Report accepted.

**Minute 3.** Valerie Lester reported for the Finance Committee. Val thanked the monthly meetings for the nearly \$100,000 in donations they made. These are not taken for granted and are necessary for the continuance of the yearly meeting. She also thanked the individuals who gave additional gifts to the yearly meeting. Ted and Dawn were recognized for their tireless bookkeeping work. The Review Committee has been busy since annual sessions. These items brought to the Review Committee included:

- A request from the High School Friends that about \$300 in proceeds from their fundraising events over the past two years be sent to AFSC for Gaza relief;
- \$2,500 for trees for the property requested by Environmental Concerns;
- \$2,395 for exit lights requested by Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning;
- Approval of expenses for printing additional copies of the ILYM *Book of Faith & Practice*, to be reimbursed by sales.

All are reminded that it is not the Treasurer's responsibility to chase us to get receipts, etc. Please be respectful of her work and submit the items she needs in a timely manner.

**Minute 4.** Minutes 1 and 2 were read and approved.

**Minute 5.** Frank Young reported for the Development Committee. The committee has prepared a fundraising letter for the year end appeal, and will review the online development materials before the end of the year. The committee has been involved in the planning for the replacement of the bunkhouse

**Minute 6.** Chris Goode reported for the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee (MPE). Twenty-two people participated in the Fall Work Day. Completed tasks include removing the air conditioners from windows at Clear Creek House (CCH), trimming vegetation near buildings, fallen branch and tree removal and stick pickup, work on installing new interior hallway ramp handrails at the meetinghouse (MH), scraping and sealing the MH exterior ramp & handrails and cabin steps (to be continued during Continuing Committee). Most of the work requested by the new insurance company has been completed. The committee continues to look for a lower cost insurance option. Improvements to the site suggested by the new insurance company are underway. These include additional exit lights, removing plants growing near buildings, re-painting the propane tank behind the shower house. There is

some concern about the maples at the front of the property. Environmental Concerns has sent a branch out for testing. Report accepted.

**Minute 7.** Chris Goode, Valerie Lester, and Frank Young reported jointly on the Bunkhouse Issue for Finance, Development, and MPE Committees. A new bunkhouse, either pre-built or constructed on site, is estimated to cost between \$80,000 - \$100,000. The following minute was approved:

Continuing Committee approve authorization of these three committees to allocate existing funds in the Property Improvement Fund (PIF), raise additional funds and make design and construction decisions. Once 75% of the estimated project cost (including the \$50,000 from the PIF) has been raised, then construction of a new bunkhouse may proceed with the aim to make it ready for Annual Sessions in June 2026.

**Minute 8.** Reports of Finance, Development, and MPE committees accepted.

**Minute 9.** Minutes 3, 5, 6-8 approved.

**Minute 10.** Kevin Brubaker reported for the Annual Sessions Planning Coordinators' Group. This is a convening group of representatives from the three planning groups for annual sessions. The group is proposing the following altered schedule for Annual Sessions 2026:

1) MORNINGS:

Breakfast will be 7:00-8:00 a.m. rather than 6:45-7:45 a.m.

Meeting for Worship will run 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thus, a full 30 minutes is available for breakfast clean-up (see Food Planning Group report for additional late shift clean-up slots).

Meeting for Business will run 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on Thursday-Saturday—30 minutes shorter than our current practice. Between a Unity Agenda and the lack of large business items (such as drafting Faith & Practice), it is believed this time is sufficient.

Lunch remains unchanged at 12:00–1:00 p.m.

2) AFTERNOONS:

- Our long, unstructured “break time” will move from late afternoon to early afternoon.
- 1:00–3:00 p.m. will be time available for committee meetings and rest. (Committees are discouraged from using mealtimes for meetings, as meals should be reserved for fellowship)
- Worship Sharing will be 3:00–3:45 p.m. rather than 1:30-2:15 p.m. This activity might be structured with different queries, used for special meetings for worship—healing, grief, etc. (After the meeting concluded, Wil suggested changing this time slot’s label to “Worship/Spiritual Development Groups.”)
- Workshops will run 4:00–5:15 p.m. rather than the current 2:30–3:45 p.m.

3) Meeting for business will occur later on Wednesday to allow more people to attend. A time was not finalized, but likely 3:00–4:30 p.m. (or perhaps 3:30–5:00) rather than the current 2:00–3:30 p.m.

4) Rather than providing 90 minutes for Memorials to be read on Saturday (and thereby cutting into needed Meeting for Business time), the idea of a “soft” border between Memorial Worship and Meeting for Business is proposed. For example, if gathered worship needs more time, the Presiding Clerk might postpone the transition from 9:30 to, say, 9:40—balancing the needs of worship with those of the business agenda. In addition, it is possible that the Presiding Clerk (or M&A Clerk?) might help to guide the tempo of the Memorial Minute reading, so that minutes cluster at neither the beginning nor end. If that feels too “heavy handed,” perhaps a gifted Friend would be asked to more lightly provide this tempo by passing the microphone at an appropriate speed between readers. This will be sent back to M&A for further discernment.

Report accepted.

**Minute 11.** David Shiner reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. The committee is reviewing the ten initiatives that were taken on to improve attendance at the 2025 Annual Sessions to determine which will be continued in coming years, and how this might happen (which group or role will take responsibility). The committee has considered how Chris Jocius' bequest may be used to ensure the sustainability of the yearly meeting. One possibility is to increase the hours of the Field Secretary position. One Friend asked if the question of additional housing for the elderly at annual sessions has been raised. Friends reported that the hotel block and transportation helped with that concern. Report accepted.

**Minute 12.** David Shiner reported for the Chicago North Planning Group, responsible for the program in 2026. The theme will be "Living Our Faith". The Wednesday night program will feature William "Bill" Buchholtz Allison, a Native American musician and storyteller. The traditional square dance will be on Friday night. Lousia Gil Sanhueza from FCNL will speak one evening, and the process of engaging another speaker to speak to the theme one evening is underway. Sunday's Plummer Lecture will be given by Bruce Kanarek of Northside Friends Meeting. Friends are needed to coordinate some of the children's events, including afternoon recreation, the craft tent, and activities on Thursday night and Sunday morning. Friends who are led to take on any of those roles should inform David Shiner or anyone from Chicago North.

**Minute 13.** Valerie Lester reported for the Chicago South Planning Group, responsible for food. Coordinators are in place for every meal. The committee proposes testing out a second shift volunteer for breakfast to run the dishwasher after the main breakfast crew has left to go to meeting for worship. Ideally, this spot would be filled by someone who tends to eat late and does not attend morning worship. We were reminded that when we add a task, it gets added to the same small group of volunteers. We are encouraged to sign up for chores, and encourage others to volunteer with us to increase fellowship. Report accepted.

**Minute 14.** Margie Haworth reported for Blue River Quarterly Planning Group, responsible for site. All the coordinator positions are filled. BRQ requests volunteers to help set up and break down.

- Overall Coordinator / Advance Prep - Steve Tamari
- Site Prep Coordinator - Barb Lawhorn and Erin Taylor
- Food Service during Site Prep - Heather Evert
- Purchasing Coordinator - Beth Carpenter
- Housekeeping Coordinator - Tom Hensold
- Clean up Coordinator - Diane & Mike Dennis

Report accepted.

**Minute 15.** Minutes 10-14 were read and approved.

**Minute 16.** The clerk announced that Mike Dennis had to leave due to a family emergency. Marcia Nelson announced that ILYM 150th anniversary cookbooks are still available for \$25 each. Beth Burbank announced the ILYM Anti-Racism Cafe will meet on October 15, where they will continue to learn and share resources about NABS and the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.

**Minute 17.** The Presiding Clerk shared her concern about timely submission of committee reports. Committee reports are due 3 weeks before Continuing Committee and 4 weeks before Annual Sessions. Most reports are received on time, but not all committees get their reports submitted by the due date. Is there a way to improve the process?

**Minute 18.** Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The handbook updates include:

- Monthly Meeting Changes: Changes approved.
- Clarification to the Harassment Committee Description: Changes approved, with revisions as suggested on the floor of the meeting.
- Other items were taken verbatim from the 2025 Annual Session Minutes, and include: in Section 5: Specific Practices and Policies: Minute 8, Description of the Property Improvement Fund and Minute 11, Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary Friends. Change the Peace Resources Committee Description, Minute 22. Add changes from the Handbook Committee report from Minute 48 including addition to the Continuing Committee description, Nominating Committee description, Committee Introduction, and Epistle description. Changes approved.

**Minute 19.** The Field Secretaries reported that they have observed that a lot of monthly meetings are doing well. They think this is due to the approval of the apartheid-free pledge and the current state of the nation. A few meetings are quite small and are just hanging on. Mark McGinnis went to the Superintendents and Secretaries meeting in Iowa, which was smaller than expected as NEYM and BYM as well as other groups did not participate. While there, he heard from other yearly meetings that are struggling, even if their monthly meetings are doing well. He is working on developing a quarterly meeting in Chicago. The Chicago Friends School is looking for a place to have a camp, and considering coming to the ILYM campus in May with their 8th grade class.

Marcia Nelson attended Blue River Quarterly Gathering which was attended by 42 Friends (including children). In a few years, the new bunkhouse will be full! Marcia asks Friends to hold the Field Secretaries in the Light as they confront some knotty problems that they have been asked to attend to. She asks us to consider our call, as people of faith, to forgiveness. We look for that of God in all, but we are also fully human. Living in community is hard work. We are not required or forced to forgive, but we are called to forgive. Report accepted.

**Minute 20.** Minutes 16-19 approved.

**Minute 21.** Valerie Lester reported for the Naming Committee. Margie Haworth has agreed to add one year to her one year term, so that there will be two Friends continuing on the committee. Approved the continuation of Margie's term for a second year.

**Minute 22.** Margie Haworth reported for Nominating Committee. Nominations are brought for:

*Children's Religious Ed:* Anna Watson, 2028

*Development:* Kent Busse, 2028

*Handbook:* Sharon Haworth, 2028

*Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning:* Christina Schultz, Liam Gardner, 2028

*Racial Equity and Education:* Steven David Flowers, 2028

In a correction to the report submitted in advance, Brandon Harrington was added as a FLGBTQC Representative. Nominations approved.

**Minute 23.** Janice Domanik reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee has met each month since Annual Sessions. Much of their work has been considering ways to support the yearly meeting by offering opportunities for spiritual education and development in programs or workshops. Report accepted.

**Minute 24.** Mark McGinnis reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee has a new clerk – Mark Masi. The committee is looking into the issue of putting up signs indicating that the yearly meeting campus is a gun-free zone. They have initiated a “Friends Call to Action” which includes ways that Friends can engage in peaceful resistance to the current government oppression and at times

aggression towards marginalized groups. This is sent to clerks of monthly meetings so their meetings will be informed as to what actions Friends can engage in regarding peace. The committee is inviting representatives from the monthly meetings' peace committees to join their committee meetings to facilitate sharing and networking. The monthly Meeting for Healing for the Future of America is well-attended by Friends around the country.

After consultation with the clerk of Nominating Committee, Continuing Committee approved the nomination of Mark Masi as clerk of Peace Resources Committee. Report of the Peace Resources Committee accepted.

**Minute 25.** Chris Goode reported for Environmental Concerns Committee. Last Friday hackberry, service berry, and basswood trees were planted on the east side of the Clear Creek house. Two white oak trees were planted along the path to the meetinghouse. On-going projects include a new compost bin, communication about Quaker Earthcare Witness' Quaker Earth Action Map Project and seeking professional guidance about the health of the maples in front of the meetinghouse. Report accepted.

**Minute 26.** Dale Gardner reported for the Children's Religious Education Committee. About 30 children attended Annual Sessions this summer. The new Children's Coordinator, Charles Howard-McKinney started before sessions and was involved in the planning and running of the children's program this summer. He has liaised with Western Yearly Meeting about potential shared events between our yearly meetings. It is still hoped that the Children's Coordinator will be able to provide support to the monthly meetings, but that aspect of the position has not been developed yet. The committee is working on getting teachers the required background checks and mandated reporter trainings. There has been some conflict within the committee, so the committee has been focused on resolving that since Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

**Minute 27.** Valerie Lester reported for Personnel Committee. The committee committed to create a paid sick leave policy for staff by Continuing Committee. This proved more complicated than anticipated, and the proposed wording will be reviewed by a lawyer. We use an online payroll system that allows staff to access their payroll information directly. This is used seldom, so often Dawn is called upon to provide the information. She is writing up instructions for the employee manual so that the information will be easily available. The committee is moving performance reviews to the fall as this is a quieter time of the year for the committee. Report accepted.

**Minute 28.** The Publications and Technology Committee reports that annual publications are on schedule to be distributed in September, including the 2025 Minute Books, Plummer Lecture, and directory. Video recordings from the 2025 Annual Sessions will be edited by Nathan with Wil assisting for posting on YouTube at the end of September. Nominating Committee has been asked to identify a Friend to serve as *Among Friends* editor.

ILYM Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant continues to refine equipment and usage instructions for supporting hybrid local-remote meetings at Annual Sessions. He listens to participants' requests and feedback to improve and expand the A/V facility each year. The committee agrees that next year, the system can be expanded to support a small number of hybrid workshops and hybrid worship-sharing sessions. The hybrid format has advantages and disadvantages, so participant feedback will help determine whether the extra support tasks are worth the outcome. Hybrid meeting A/V requires several hours' work in setup, operation, support, and packing at the close of Annual Sessions—hours that are not part of the job description of the Administrative Coordinator. The committee requests augmenting the yearly meeting planning documents to find volunteers to take on some of those hours. The committee notes with gratitude that Wil has written detailed instruction sheets for each task needing volunteers, and he is available to demonstrate and to back up the volunteers when the need arises. The committee recommends adding the following to the annual session planning guides.

## *Site Planning Group*

### **A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator:**

1. Find/name 1-2 people to attend Site Prep on Saturday who will set up and test out the system. Saturday setup allows time to get items to fix problems before sessions start. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Setup and testing would take 2 people about 2 hours.
2. Find/name 2 people to do A/V pack up during Sunday cleanup. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Pack up would take 2 people less than 2 hours.

The A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator may or may not be one of these people doing setup and pack up. It would be best if the same team did setup and pack-up.

## *Program Planning Group*

### **A/V Coordinator:**

1. While there will be a signup sheet for people to staff the A/V table during sessions and run mics, the A/V Coordinator will find volunteers to ensure slots are filled, and serve as a backup person for open slots. Instructions are available for A/V table staffing, and the Administrative Coordinator will be available for guidance.
2. Turn on Zoom viewing station(s), open session link on the viewing station(s) when a hybrid session is being offered, verify things are working OK, and turn off when hybrid session has ended.
3. Work with Worship Sharing Coordinator and Workshop Coordinator to find a second person for each hybrid worship-sharing session or workshop being offered. This second person would serve as the Zoom host for the sessions and assist the session facilitator by operating the virtual component of the session.

Note: workshop proposals will have a box for a presenter who wants to offer the workshop in a hybrid format to indicate whether they will be providing a Zoom assistant or if the program planning group needs to provide one.

Report accepted.

**Minute 29.** The date and location of the Spring Continuing Committee has not been finalized yet. It will most likely be on March 7 or 14.

**Minute 30.** Beth Burbank announced that she has been representing the Racial Equity and Education Committee on the monthly Quaker Apartheid-Free Affinity Group Meeting. This group produced a new page on their website that is just for Quakers, and we are the first Faith group that has done this. Janice Domanik announced that the FGC Gathering will be in Vermont this summer, and will be one day shorter, so the cost will be lower.

**Minute 31.** Minutes 12-30 approved.

**Minute 32.** Continuing Committee thanked Clear Creek Meeting for hosting this session and providing our delicious lunch.

**Minute 33.** The meeting closed in waiting worship.

**Treasurers Report**  
**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement**  
**For fiscal year ending June 30, 2025**

<b>FY25</b>	<b>1 Operating</b>	<b>2 Reserves</b>	<b>4 Payroll Resv</b>	<b>5 FWCC World</b>	<b>6 Maint</b>	<b>8 Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income</b>							
Support from Meetings	98,182.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98,182.50
Support from Individuals	39,221.17	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,221.17
Support from Ind., Restricted PIF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Interest & Investment Income	16,413.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,449.19	17,862.24
Other Income	691.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	691.00
<b>Gatherings-Retreats</b>							
<b>Annual Sessions Income</b>							
AS Registrations	22,846.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,846.00
Gifts-Sessions	4,371.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,371.00
<b>Total Annual Sessions Income</b>	<b>27,217.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,217.00</b>
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats</b>	<b>27,217.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,217.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>181,724.72</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,949.19</b>	<b>204,673.91</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
<b>Personnel &amp; Office</b>							
Employee Direct-Indirect Exp	61,537.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,537.01
Staff Travel	5,455.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,455.72
Office Expenses	1,252.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,252.25
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Office</b>	<b>68,244.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>68,244.98</b>
<b>YM Travel Support</b>							
ILYM Reps Travel	5,188.83	0.00	0.00	468.64	0.00	0.00	5,657.47
ILYM Committee Travel	469.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	469.25
<b>Total YM Travel Support</b>	<b>5,658.08</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>468.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,126.72</b>
<b>Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>							
Annual services-Property Taxes	1,998.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,998.87
Mowing, Tree Trimming	3,960.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,700.00	0.00	14,660.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,594.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,767.49	0.00	13,361.94
Urgent Maintenance	1,040.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(12,476.55)	0.00	(11,436.55)
Site Insurance Expense	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,182.00	0.00	47,182.00
Caretaker Expenses	625.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	625.00
Appliances-Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,180.00	0.00	7,180.00
Utilities	2,785.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,785.80
<b>Total Site &amp; Property Expenses</b>	<b>39,004.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>37,352.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>76,357.06</b>
<b>Gatherings-Retreats Expenses</b>							
<b>Annual Sessions Expenses</b>							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,568.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,568.25
AS Admin Coordination	7,566.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,566.92
AS Program Expenses	1,746.66	3,832.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,579.06
AS Cooking & Food	9,691.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,691.02
Children's Sessions Expenses	2,848.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,848.11
Transactn Fees on Registrations	587.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	587.86
<b>Total Annual Sessions Expenses</b>	<b>24,008.82</b>	<b>3,832.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,841.22</b>
<b>Total Gatherings-Retreats Exp</b>	<b>24,008.82</b>	<b>3,832.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,841.22</b>
<b>Committee Expenses</b>							
Committees-General	120.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.16
Development Committee	518.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	518.82
Publications & Distribution Comm	2,066.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,066.15
YO Committee	1,031.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,031.99
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>3,737.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,737.12</b>

<b>FY25</b>	<b>1 Operating</b>	<b>2 Reserves</b>	<b>4 Payroll Resv</b>	<b>5 FWCC World</b>	<b>6 Maint</b>	<b>8 Property</b>	<b>Total</b>
Support to Others	15,500.00	0.00	0.00	531.36	0.00	0.00	16,031.36
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>156,153.12</b>	<b>3,832.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>37,352.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>198,338.46</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>25,571.60</b>	<b>16,167.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(1,000.00)</b>	<b>(37,352.94)</b>	<b>2,949.19</b>	<b>6,335.45</b>
<b>Other Income / (Expense)</b>							
Unrealized Gain/Loss	0.00	31,735.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,447.65	34,183.41
<b>Total Other Income / (Expense)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>31,735.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,447.65</b>	<b>34,183.41</b>
<b>Transfers</b>							
<b>Transfers - Budgeted</b>							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,850.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,850.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Transfers - Budgeted</b>	<b>(16,850.00)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Transfers - Payroll Reserve	0.00	(1,050.00)	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	(8,721.60)	8,721.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>(25,571.60)</b>	<b>7,671.60</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>15,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>55,574.96</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(21,502.94)</b>	<b>5,396.84</b>	<b>40,518.86</b>

### Illinois Yearly Meeting - Balance Sheet for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

<b>FY25</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>	<b>6/30/2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Checking Account	92,784.08	114,247.28
Friends Fiduciary- Temp. Restricted Property Impr	40,481.47	38,033.82
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	610,606.55	558,415.55
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>743,872.10</b>	<b>710,696.65</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	6,659.14	689.55
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,659.14</b>	<b>689.55</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>750,531.24</b>	<b>711,386.20</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	12,871.28	14,208.44
Payroll Taxes	(36.66)	0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>12,834.62</b>	<b>14,208.44</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>12,834.62</b>	<b>14,208.44</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Current Year Earnings	40,518.86	324,161.66
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>(40,518.86)</b>	<b>(324,161.66)</b>
<b>Unrestricted Undesignated</b>		
1 General Operating	60,000.00	60,000.00
<b>Total Unrestricted Undesignated</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>
<b>Unrestricted Designated</b>		
2 Unrestricted Reserves	489,346.23	55,574.96
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	38,850.00	1,050.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	1,000.00	1,000.00

<b>FY25</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>		<b>6/30/2024</b>
6 Maint. Reserve	97,065.28	(21,502.94)	118,568.22
<b>Total Unrestricted Designated</b>	<b>627,561.51</b>		<b>592,439.49</b>
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>			
8 Property Impr.	50,135.11	5,396.84	44,738.27
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>50,135.11</b>		<b>44,738.27</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>737,696.62</b>	<b>40,518.86</b>	<b>697,177.76</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>750,531.24</b>		<b>711,386.20</b>

## Co-Field Secretary’s Report

The months immediately following Annual Sessions in June on our beloved campus in McNabb are generally quieter ones, with less visitation and smaller attendance at meetings for worship as Friends try to make the most of summer’s long days with vacations and family time. We did enjoy a visit with Friends in Carbondale and were the grateful recipients of generous hospitality, including a potluck with newer attenders as well as several “Quaker-adjacent” partners and spouses. We were delighted to be joined by two school-age children after First Day Meeting for Worship, and hope that family continues to develop a relationship with Southern Illinois Friends, who labor faithfully in a vineyard in which they are deeply rooted. These Friends are also engaged in intervisitation with Friends from Memphis, an outreach that points to one means of gaining energy through new relationships even if seekers aren’t lining up at your meetinghouse door.

This report is being written in the middle of Blue River Quarterly, the gathering of the southern tier of Illinois Friends Meetings (but also Missouri and Indiana). It is packed with school-age and preschool children—13 children altogether—whose energetic presences always delight the numerous grey-haired elders. A program offered by Marcia on Quakerism as a source of strength and hope in troubled times was said by people other than Marcia to be well-received. Meetings are well-represented here, including Friends from Elkhart River Worship Group, which is a six-hour drive from Mt. Vernon in southern Illinois. Earlier this very same week, Mark traveled to Iowa for four days of meetings with superintendents and general secretaries from a host of Quaker meetings and organizations from New York to Iowa and parts in between.

Friends meetings are growing and growing active, on the streets and in social gatherings. Some have sent off summer with picnics, many have stepped up social activism and taken to the streets. Part of the Quaker DNA, our activism has drawn new people and younger energy to many meetings. Friends are writing postcards and carrying placards and educating a new generation of their children in formal and informal First Day Schools. “The children,” a Friend said during one of our visits, “are one of our sources of hope.”

Yes, meetings are confronting problems. Buildings get old. People do too, and their cognitive and social skills can decline. We are caring for our old as well as our young and scheduling memorial meetings. Harking back to the 2025 Annual Sessions theme, our ancestors show us the way, we have the present moment to act, and the future calls us on.

Submitted with love, Mark “Nemo” McGinnis & Marcia Nelson

## Children’s Religious Education Committee Report

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

The children’s program at ILYM was a great success again. We had 24 kids preregistered (and others that came later) from a good variety of age groups from all over the yearly meeting region. We

had lots of teachers for the big groups, and people were generally satisfied with how the children's morning program went. Kids were thrilled by the new playground equipment. Some concern was expressed about some children behavior and the committee is working on solutions. We also continue to look for ways to improve the use of babysitters.

Our new Children's Coordinator, Charles Howard (Choz), did a good job working with the CRE committee and the many teachers, and helped staff one of the larger groups. In July, Choz also volunteered at FGC's YAY gathering in Michigan to coordinate the middle school program, and assisted with the high school program too. In August, he attended a weekend retreat hosted by Western Yearly Meeting in Richmond, Indianan, to discuss potential for shared youth events between members of our yearly meetings. We developed a Midwest Friends collective, and are in the process of planning an intergenerational retreat in November. Choz looks forward to collaborating further. CRE has been very please with him so far.

Recently there has been some interpersonal dissonance on the committee and we are working on resolving that. Generally though, the committee is being productive and looking forward to next year.

Dale Gardner, Chair, Children's Religious Education Committee

### **Development Committee Report**

The Development Committee has completed the annual appeal letter concerning individual contributions to the annual budget. Copies will be available at the Continuing Committee meeting. The annual review of the on-line support section at ilym.org will be completed before the end of the year.

The committee has been involved in the planning for the replacement of the bunkhouse. This project is quite large and complex. Successful completion requires three committees (Finance, Maintenance and Planning & Envisioning, and Development) to work closely together. At the October Continuing Committee meeting these committees will not report separately regarding their involvement in the bunkhouse project. Instead, they will together give one "united" bunkhouse project presentation. Necessary information will be distributed at Continuing Committee.

Frank Young, Clerk

### **Environmental Concerns Committee Report**

The Environmental Concerns Committee has met twice since Annual Sessions. After September, we will have an ECC meeting the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (Central).

The yearly meeting has granted the funds to purchase trees for the east side of the Clear Creek House (CCH). They will be planted further away from the house than those that are being replaced. The sugar maple will be replaced with a linden tree (*Tilia*). The silver maple will be replaced with a hackberry (*Celtis* species) and smaller Juneberry (*Amelanchier* species). Hornbaker Gardens will also plant two white oak trees along the path between the CCH and the meetinghouse.

ECC will be assisting with ensuring the shrubs around the CCH are more than 15 inches from the house per insurance requirement.

Ongoing projects include new compost bin, communication about Quaker Earthcare Witness' Quaker Earth Action Map Project and seeking professional guidance about the health of the sugar maples in front of the meetinghouse.

Report prepared by the ECC and submitted by Noel Pavlovic, clerk.

## Finance Committee Report

Finance met 9/11/25; Attendees: Treasurers - Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn, Judy Jager, Cynthia Harris, Frank Young, Val Lester, Kevin Brubaker (ex officio) & Chris Goode (ex officio).

Treasurers reported on 2024-2025. The Annual Operating Fund shows a \$8,722 surplus (transferred to Unrestricted Reserves). However, we took \$22,182 of the increased Insurance out of the Maintenance Reserve, otherwise we would have reported a \$13,460 deficit.

The Review Committee approved Environmental Concerns request for \$2,500 for trees for the property, and Stewards/MPE request for \$2,395 for EXIT lights. Finance agreed that these expenses should be reported in annual operating expense (instead of being taken out of reserves), in the spirit of transparency. Finance agreed that Stewards/MPE have latitude to spend beyond the annual operating budget for property maintenance (why we fund Maintenance Reserves), and appreciates the heads up that Chris gives us.

Bunkhouse: Finance is in unity that the Property Improvement Fund (PIF) should be made available for the bunkhouse (currently \$50,000) and that any donations towards the bunkhouse would be put in the PIF. Finance, Development & Envisioning are in unity that the Jocius bequest be held for new initiatives to strengthen the yearly meeting. Val Lester (Finance Clerk) will work closely with Development to assist in fund raising.

Treasurers workshop: Finance envisions Treasurer workshops to be an ongoing effort to support our monthly meetings (annual). Finance developed an initial list of subjects for workshop(s):

- How much to budget/give to ILYM?
  - Resident Adult Friends
- Banking practices?
  - 2 signers/access to statements
  - Authorizing new signers/new treasurer
- Tax Letters
- What to report @ Business Meeting
- Budgeting (with and without a Finance Committee)

Judy Jager & Val Lester will work together to develop the workshop for Feb 21 or 28 (based on when most Monthly Meeting Treasurers are available).

Treasurer workload: We recognize that Dawn gets a large number of requests and has to chase down information to close the books & set up payroll. We will look for ways to reduce the burden/stress of our Treasurer/Bookkeeper.

## Handbook Report

### Monthly Meeting Changes

Change listing of Spoon River Monthly Meeting to Spoon River Worship Group (under the care of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting) and remove Macomb Worship Group from listing on p. 7 of Handbook.

[Minute 12, 2025]

### Clarification to the Harassment Committee Description.

Membership: The Harassment Review Committee will be made up of the Presiding Clerk or a designee, the Clerk of Ministry and Advancement or a designee, another member of Ministry and Advancement, the Field Secretary, and one at large Friend appointed by the Presiding Clerk. **The member of the Ministry and Advancement Committee and the at large Friend have a one- year term (renewable) from the beginning of one annual session to the beginning of the next. The ex-officio members (Presiding Clerk, Field Secretary, and Clerk of Ministry and Advancement) may change as those serving in that capacity change.** If any of the people in those roles is directly involved in the actions that led to the

investigation, that person(s) will be excluded from the Harassment Review Committee for the purpose of that particular investigation. In such cases, the remaining persons will carry out the investigation.

The Clerk of Ministry and Advancement and the Presiding Clerk will appoint Friends to the committee prior to the Annual Sessions. Members of the Harassment Review Committee will be announced at the beginning of the yearly meeting sessions ~~and included in the minute book. Those members will serve for one year, from the convening of one Yearly Meeting Session to the next.~~ An allegation can be brought to any member of the committee. Complaints will be handled promptly and confidentially. [2017, Minute 42.] If an issue comes to the committee before or during Annual Sessions, those serving on the committee can continue to serve beyond sessions until the issue is resolved. ~~The ex-officio members (Presiding Clerk, Field Secretary, and Clerk of Ministry and Advancement) may change as those serving in that capacity change.~~ [2019, Minute 36]

### Other

Other items are taken verbatim from the minutes. Include in Section 5: Specific Practices and Policies: Minute 8, Description of the Property Improvement Fund and Minute 11, Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary Friends. Change the Peace Resources Committee Description, Minute 22. Add changes from the Handbook Committee report from Minute 48 including addition to the Continuing Committee description, Nominating Committee description, Committee Introduction, and Epistle description.

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

Prepared September 20 for Continuing Committee on October 11. The committee members are Carol Bartles, Mark Robinson, Marie White, Dennis McQueen, 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 as a whole on August 21 via Zoom and in smaller groups at other times.

**Fall Workday:** Will be held on October 4 and hope for good attendance. Field Secretary Marcia Nelson will do a workshop after a potluck and chili lunch. Tasks will include removing the air conditioners from windows at Clear Creek House (CCH), trimming vegetation near buildings, fallen branch and tree removal and stick pickup, and maybe chipping or burning the piles, new interior hallway ramp handrails at the meetinghouse (MH), scraping and sealing the cabin steps and the MH exterior ramp handrails, paint at bathhouse shower and propane tank, and more.

**Insurance:** Our new insurance company made an inspection in the spring and requested us to clear plants away from buildings, add exit and emergency lighting at the meetinghouse, and some other items. We are currently investigating other insurance brokers, and options to try to lower our high rates from our new insurance company after our coverage was dropped by Church Mutual last March.

**Children's Playground Equipment:** The new swing set for younger kids and the gaga ball pit seemed to be a success at Annual Sessions. We may add to this equipment in coming years. We would like continued input from the children, and others attending Annual Sessions this year for advice on sturdy, safe, affordable, and fun equipment that we might add.

**Maintenance Items:** Grassers provided us a price of \$,2070 for two exit sign/emergency lights. Work should be done prior to October 15. We have some unbudgeted additional electrical work at the MH, fixing wobbling fan/lights and replacing a hallway light, and possibly some re-circuiting at CCH as well. We are looking for a contractor who can fix the exterior soffit of the porch at CCH and would like to get that work done this fall. We are planning to purchase new mattresses for the cabins (48) and the bunkhouse (12 or 20) sometime prior to Annual Sessions and are anticipating that they will be about \$100 each or ~\$6,000 to \$6,800. The committee is aware of some desire to replace the old metal bed frames as well.

**New Bunkhouse:** *Val Lester, Chris Goode, and Frank Young are preparing a separate combined report of the Finance, Stewards/MP&E, and Development Committees to Continuing Committee on October 11.* The bunkhouse would be used by High School Friends at Annual Sessions, and could be used by other groups at other times of the year when the bathhouse is also functional. Stewards/MP&E Committee has been working on the following:

Goal: Aim for completion of project by Annual Sessions in 2026.

Program: Sleeping spaces at both ends for 10 persons each, with a common/meeting space at the center.

Options: Pre-built and site-built are both being considered. They each offer different possibilities for construction speed and schedule, size and width, customization, flexibility, materials used, anchorage, wind resistance, animal resistance, insulation level, HVAC permission, county permission, and cost.

Location: On the site of the current bunkhouse, or, to east, west, or north of the current bunkhouse which would allow its continued use should we not be ready by our goal date of next Annual Sessions.

Permits: A pre-built project plan and description has been sent to Putnam County for preliminary review.

Cost Estimate: Additional estimates are being gathered. Current estimated range between \$85,000 and \$110,000.

More updated and detailed information will be presented jointly at Continuing Committee.

Action Item: *Further consideration for continued authorization of these three committees to allocate existing property improvement funds, raise additional funds, make design and construction decisions, and spending for construction for a new Bunkhouse to aim to make it ready for Annual Sessions in June 2026.*

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

## **Ministry and Advancement Committee Report**

The committee has met each month since the annual sessions. Much of our work has been considering ways to support the yearly meeting by offering opportunities for spiritual education and development in programs or workshops. During workday in early October, Marcia offered an opportunity to think about authority and ministry in Quakerism. She also offered a program during Blue River Quarterly on the role of Quakerism in unsettled times. We will continue to offer opportunities, and if friends have specific requests, we would be happy to hear them.

Each month we hear about visits to monthly meetings made by members and by the co-Field Secretaries. This assists us in knowing the state of society for the yearly meeting. A regular part of each meeting is to hear from the co-Field Secretaries about their work for the yearly meeting. We host a monthly meeting for worship for all ILYM on the 10th of the month.

In the months ahead we will be considering action steps to bring forward as a follow up to the LGBTQ+ minute approved at Annual Sessions. We are open to suggestions that individuals may have for us to consider.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

*Children's Religious Ed* : Anna Watson (2028)

*Development* : Kent Busse (2028)

*Environmental Concerns*: ~~Charlotte Raaseh~~ (removed)

*Handbook*: Sharon Haworth (2028)

*Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning*: Christina Schultz, Liam Gardner (2028)

*Racial Equity and Education*: Steven David Flowers (2028)

*FLGBTQC*: Brandon Harrington (2028)

## **Peace Resources Committee Report**

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

- Meeting for Healing is moderately-to-well attended every month since it was changed to Meeting for Healing for the Future of America. Friends from other yearly meetings regularly attend. A reminder is sent to all ILYM monthly meetings as well as the other yearly meetings that regularly attend.
- We have discussed the ILYM charge to recommend a no-guns on campus policy, but until we can get clarification by reading the minute from Annual Sessions, we cannot move forward.
- We have initiated a “Friends Call to Action” which is sent out each week. It includes ways that Friends can engage in peaceful resistance to the current government oppression and at times aggression towards marginalized groups. It is sent to clerks of monthly meetings so their meetings will be informed as to what actions Friends can engage in regarding peace.
- We are also planning to invite Peace and Justice or Peace and Social Concerns Committees to send a liaison to our Peace Resource Committee Zoom Meeting to exchange ideas on a timely basis. This is in response to our rapidly changing political landscape.

## **Personnel Committee Report**

This report includes updates on progress toward revisions to the Employee Manual and staff performance reviews with no action items.

The Personnel Committee had reported at Annual Sessions that the committee was focusing on clarifying the wording of the “Paid Sick Leave” portion of the Employee Manual and asked 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. Currently, the committee is not ready to bring revised wording to Fall Continuing Committee for approval. As a committee we will continue to prioritize this task and bring it to Spring Continuing Committee. It is important to emphasize that there are no plans to eliminate paid sick leave but to align the policy with ILYM practices. This task has proved to be more complex than anticipated. Once the committee approves new wording, this wording will be shared with the attorney whom Personnel Committee has used for several other employee matters to be sure the proposed wording aligns with state requirements including those of the Paid Leave for all Workers Act which requires provisions be made for paid leave more broadly than just for sick leave.

The Personnel Committee has considered ways to best ensure that all staff are aware of and utilize procedures to access financial information regarding pay, taxes, etc. Several members of the committee, including those also on Finance Committee, are working to develop a document that can be accessed by staff. It is proposed that this be an appendix in the Employee Manual so it can be updated more easily when needed. The committee is seeking input from employees on what to include in this document. A draft of this document will be considered at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

Staff performance reviews which had in previous years been conducted in spring, were to have been moved to summer. This decision reflected the fact that for some staff, a larger portion of their work is concentrated on preparation for Annual Sessions and occur during Annual Sessions. Due to scheduling conflicts, the performance reviews are being moved to fall. To facilitate these annual reviews, the personnel committee will send an email later this month requesting feedback or suggestions from the broader ILYM community to those committees who supervise staff. Evaluations will then be completed later this fall.

## Publications and Technology Committee Report

The committee met on 8/25/2025 over Zoom: Dawn Crimson (clerk), Nathan Lasersohn, Lily Swygert, Ted Kuhn (ex officio *Among Friends* editor), Wil Brant (ex officio Administrative Coordinator).

- Annual publications are on schedule to be distributed in September, including the 2025 Minute Books, Plummer Lecture, and directory.
- Video recordings from the 2025 Annual Sessions will be edited by Nathan with Wil assisting for posting on YouTube at the end of September.
- Nominating Committee has been asked to identify a Friend to serve as *Among Friends* editor.

ILYM Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant continues to refine equipment and usage instructions for supporting hybrid local-remote meetings at Annual Sessions. He listens to participants' requests and feedback to improve and expand the A/V facility each year. The committee agrees that next year, the system can be expanded to support a small number of hybrid workshops and hybrid worship-sharing sessions. The hybrid format has advantages and disadvantages, so participant feedback will help determine whether the extra support tasks are worth the outcome.

- Hybrid meetings can seem more inclusive, but when the format is participatory (open discussion, participants equally share in conversation), it is challenging to establish centeredness among both the local and remote participants.
- Hybrid meetings are more effective and beneficial when the format has a primary presenter, with the local and remote participants more in the role of students or audience.

Hybrid meeting A/V requires several hours' work in setup, operation, support, and packing at the close of Annual Sessions—hours that are not part of the job description of the Administrative Coordinator. The committee requests augmenting the yearly meeting planning documents to find volunteers to take on some of those hours. We note with gratitude that Wil has written detailed instruction sheets for each task needing volunteers, and he is available to demonstrate and to back up the volunteers when the need arises. We recommend adding the following to the annual session planning guides.

### *Site Planning Group*

A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator:

1. Find/name 1-2 people to attend Site Prep on Saturday who will set up and test out the system. Saturday setup allows time to get items to fix problems before sessions start. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Setup and testing would take 2 people about 2 hours.
2. Find/name 2 people to do A/V pack up during Sunday cleanup. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Pack up would take 2 people less than 2 hours.

The A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator may or may not be one of these people doing setup and pack up. It would be best if the same team did setup and pack-up.

### *Program Planning Group*

A/V Coordinator:

1. While there will be a signup sheet for people to staff the A/V table during sessions and run mics, the A/V Coordinator will find volunteers to ensure slots are filled, and serve as a backup person for open slots. Instructions are available for A/V table staffing, and the Administrative Coordinator will be available for guidance.
2. Turn on Zoom viewing station(s), open session link on the viewing station(s) when a hybrid session is being offered, verify things are working OK, and turn off when hybrid session has ended.

3. Work with Worship Sharing Coordinator and Workshop Coordinator to find a second person for each hybrid worship-sharing session or workshop being offered. This second person would serve as the Zoom host for the sessions and assist the session facilitator by operating the virtual component of the session.

Note: workshop proposals will have a box for a presenter who wants to offer the workshop in a hybrid format to indicate whether they will be providing a Zoom assistant or if the program planning group needs to provide one.

### **Annual Session Planning Groups**

**Chicago North, Program:** The theme for the 2026 ILYM gathering will be “Living Our Faith.” Our Wednesday night program will feature William “Bill” Buchholtz Allison, a Native American musician and storyteller. We will have our traditional square dance on Friday night. We are in the process of engaging speakers who will speak to our theme on Thursday night and Saturday night. Sunday’s Plummer Lecture will be given by Bruce Kanarek of Northside Friends Meeting. We are still looking for Friends to coordinate some of the children’s events, including afternoon recreation, the craft tent, and activities on Thursday night and Sunday morning. Friends who are led to take on any of those roles should inform David Shiner or anyone from Chicago North.

**Chicago South, Food:** Given the large number of late breakfast dishes, we are testing adding a late shift for breakfast—requesting someone each day (who tends to eat late and does not attend morning worship) to volunteer each day to run the dishwasher so that the early morning crew does not have to miss worship/memorial minutes and lunch does not come in to piles of dishes.

**BRQ, Site:** We are working on generating volunteers to join us at site prep. Here is the list of coordinators:

- Overall Coordinator / Advance Prep - Steve Tamari
- Site Prep Coordinator - Barb Lawhorn and Erin Taylor
- Food Service during Site Prep - Heather Evert
- Purchasing Coordinator - Beth Carpenter
- Housekeeping Coordinator - Tom Hensold
- Clean up Coordinator - Diane & Mike Dennis

Site prep runs June 13-17 (Saturday lunch through Wednesday lunch)

### **Planning Coordinators Group Report**

ILYM Planning Group met on 28th Day, 8th Month to consider several changes to Annual Sessions which impact more than one planning committee.

We have agreed to try an altered schedule for Annual Sessions in 2026.

#### 1) MORNINGS:

- Breakfast will be 7:00-8:00 a.m. rather than 6:45-7:45 a.m.
- Meeting for Worship will run 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thus, a full 30 minutes is available for breakfast clean-up (see Food Planning Group report above for additional late shift clean-up slots).
- Meeting for Business will run 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon on Thursday-Saturday—30 minutes shorter than our current practice. Between a Unity Agenda and the lack of large business items (such as drafting Faith & Practice), we believe this time is sufficient.
- Lunch remains unchanged at 12:00–1:00 p.m.

## 2) AFTERNOONS:

- Our long, unstructured “break time” will move from late afternoon to early afternoon.
- 1:00–3:00 p.m. will be time available for committee meetings and rest. (Committees are discouraged from using mealtimes for meetings, as meals should be reserved for fellowship)
- Worship Sharing will be 3:00–3:45 p.m. rather than 1:30-2:15 p.m. This activity might be structured with different queries, used for special meetings for worship—healing, grief, etc. (*After our meeting concluded, Wil suggested changing this time slot’s label to “Worship/Spiritual Development Groups.”*)
- Workshops will run 4:00–5:15 p.m. rather than the current 2:30–3:45 p.m.

3) Meeting for business will occur later on Wednesday to allow more people to attend. We did not finalize the time, but likely 3:00–4:30 p.m. (or perhaps 3:30–5:00) rather than the current 2:00–3:30 p.m.

4) Rather than providing 90 minutes for Memorials to be read on Saturday (and thereby cutting into needed Meeting for Business time), we arrived at the idea of a “soft” border between Memorial Worship and Meeting for Business. For example, if gathered worship needs more time, the Presiding Clerk might postpone the transition from 9:30 to, say, 9:40—balancing the needs of worship with those of the business agenda. In addition, we discussed the Presiding Clerk (or M&A Clerk?) helping to guide the tempo of the Memorial Minute reading, so they cluster at neither the beginning nor end. If that feels too “heavy handed,” perhaps a gifted Friend would be asked to more lightly provide this tempo by passing the microphone at an appropriate speed between readers. This will be sent back to M&A for further discernment.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Brubaker, Convener

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future ILYM**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting recognized early this year that, contrary to original expectations, its work would not be completed by the time of the 2025 Annual Sessions. We therefore reported at Spring Continuing Committee and at Annual Sessions that we intend to complete our work by June 2026, and will request for our committee will request to be laid down at next year’s Annual Sessions.

During ILYM in June, we hosted hour-long small-group meetings with Friends after each of three morning business sessions. Those meetings involved having Friends share information and perspectives about their local meetings, followed by discussion as time allowed. The feedback we have gotten indicates that those meetings were well received. The Chicago North group, which is handling program planning for next year, is considering whether to offer some version of them at the 2026 Annual Sessions.

We are now in the process of discernment about what completion of our work will entail. Our agenda includes assessing the success or otherwise of the many initiatives we undertook in order to encourage Friends to attend this year’s annual sessions. Those initiatives included 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 exhibition 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 considering which of those initiatives are worth continuing in the future, and how they may best be continued after our committee is laid down in June 2026. With respect to our other remaining work, we have generated some ideas for outreach to ILYM meetings. We recently met with the Field Secretaries and the Clerk of Ministry and Advancement to present these ideas. Their feedback was very helpful. We are now in the process of considering further how to proceed over our remaining ten months.

### **Clerk's Concern about Submission of Committee Reports by Due Dates**

The due date for committee reports to be submitted to our Administrative Coordinator is approximately three weeks before Continuing Committee and four weeks before Annual Sessions. This due date allows for the timely completion of the Advance Documents, including the agenda. Details about the timeline can be found at the end of this report. We want the Advance Documents to be available for review with sufficient time for Friends to read and consider them.

Most of the time, most committee reports are submitted by the due date given. However, that is not always true. When reports are not submitted by the administrative due date, the delay affects workloads, Advanced Documents, the Agenda, and the Minutes.

For this Continuing Committee, clerks who did not submit reports by the due date were contacted by me and allowed an additional 10 days to submit a report that I could use to craft the agenda and the recording clerk could use to prepare for minute taking. However, these reports could not be printed in the Advanced Documents, so Friends could read and consider them before Continuing Committee.

Is there a better way?

I am seeking a way to be friendly to our Administrative Coordinator, the clerking team, and all the Friends who carefully prepare for our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. At the same time, we need to be concerned for our committee clerks who labor hard and have a number of concerns of their own.

I ask for your prayerful discernment.

Here is our current timeline:

- 3 wks before CC: Reports due, and AdminCoor starts to compile/formats reports (one week to do)
- 2 wks+2 days before CC: Send Preliminary Advance Documents to Clerk for review and developing agenda (one week to do)
- 1 wk+2 days before CC: AdminCoor receives agenda, inserts into AdvDoc and posts/prints advance document (giving one week to print up and for people to review)

For annual sessions there is need for an extra week, so the due date is 4 weeks before sessions.

This is because the AdminCoor needs to have them printed before leaving for site prep (4 days before sessions start). This also gives the clerk a few more days to review and develop an agenda for the longer Meeting for Business at Annual Sessions.

### **Bunkhouse Issue:**

#### **Joint Report of Finance, Development, and MPE Committees**

##### **Minute 36 from ILYM's 2025 Annual Sessions**

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 about 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. Friends accept the report and authorize the committee 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.

**Finance Committee actions and activities, Val Lester, Clerk**

Finance Committee recommends

- using the Property Improvement Fund (PIF) for the new Bunk House (currently \$50,000) and directed the Treasurer to put any contributions towards the Bunk House into the PIF,
- pledged funds can be made available for construction in advance of receipts (advancing/replenishing unrestricted reserves).

**Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee, Chris Goode, Clerk**

Project for a New Bunkhouse that would be used by High School Friends at ILYM Annual Sessions and could be used by other groups at other times of the year when the Bath House is also functional. Stewards/MP&E Committee has been working on the following:

*Reason:* Existing Bunkhouse building is 140 years old, rotting support timbers, sagging floors, difficulty closing door/windows, animal intrusion through floors, one room is now unusable.

*Goal:* Aim for completion of project for use by Annual Sessions in 2026.

*Program:* Sleeping spaces at both ends for 10 persons each (total 20), with a common/meeting space at the center.

*Options:* Pre-built (14'x44') and Site-built (16'x48') are both being considered. They each offer different possibilities for construction speed and schedule, size and width, customization, flexibility, materials used, anchorage, wind resistance, animal resistance, insulation level, HVAC permission, county permission, and cost. We intend to make our decision based on maximum likely endurance with regard to cost and construction schedule considerations.

*Location:* Adjacent to, but located to east, west, or north of the current bunkhouse which would allow its continued use should we not be ready by our goal date of next annual sessions.

*Permits:* A pre-built project plan and description has been sent to Putnam County for preliminary review.

*Costs:* Additional estimates are being gathered. Current estimated project price ranges between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

**Development Committee, Frank Young, Clerk**

Development is responsible for informing ILYM members about the value of this project and the ways that it can be supported. Tasks include:

1. Create and distribute a "case for the project" document.
2. Keep and distribute a current version of this document as modifications are made to the project or its schedule.
3. Find, train, and use people who have Young Friends involvement and interests and are willing to help with education and solicitation tasks.
4. Ensure that existing ILYM conditions for gifts (donor confidentiality, amounts of individual gifts confidential, and all donors are treated equally) are observed.
5. Have a "two stage" campaign
  - a. First stage is quiet. Goal is to raise half of the remaining needed funds.
  - b. Second stage is open and more visible.
6. Periodically publicize total contributions made to date.
7. Work to prevent any confusion between the annual appeal and this special appeal.

## **Summary**

Finance, M, P. & E., the Stewards. and Development need to continue to work together on this project. Each Committee has obvious and important tasks but each also needs to listen to the observations and knowledge of the other groups. This was done during the initial stages of project definition. The three clerks expect to continue this cooperation.

### **To be considered by Continuing Committee:**

Further consideration for continued authorization of these three committees, Finance Committee, Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee, and Development Committee, with the assistance of the Youth Oversight Committee and the High School Friends, to allocate existing property improvement funds, raise additional funds, make design decisions, make construction decisions based on having at least 75% of estimated funds raised, and spending decisions, not to exceed \$100,000 for construction for a new Bunkhouse with the aim to make it ready for Annual Sessions in June 2026.