

Illinois Yearly Meeting Spring Continuing Committee
Third Month 14, 2026
Downers Grove Friends Meetinghouse, Downers Grove, Illinois

Present were Peter Lasersohn, Frank 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, Michael Dennis, Wil Brant, Val Lester, Dale Gardner, Kevin Brubaker, Kyr Esler, Beth Burbank, Bobbie Trist, Brandon Harrington, Pamela Calvert, Mark Masi, Daniel Lakemacher, Josh Wagner, Colleen Reardon, Kent Busse, Judy Wolicki, Gwen Weaver, Ellen Maxson, Sue Styer, Ruth Fiedler

Minute 1. The meeting opened in silent worship.

Minute 2. Assistant Clerk Kevin Brubaker welcomed Friends and made opening announcements. Kevin explained why Clerk Julia Pantoga is not here today, and that there is a card in the lobby for her for Friends to sign. He introduced the Clerk's Table, consisting of Marie White, Recording Clerk, and Peter Lasersohn, Assistant Recording Clerk. Kevin asked for Friends' assistance in "clerking in the round" and reminded us to speak slowly, clearly, and loudly. Closed-captions were recommended for Friends at home, and for Friends in the room with hearing difficulty. Kevin thanked our hosts at Downers Grove. Chris Goode spoke on behalf of the meeting and thanked Becky Lucas who organized the food for the day. He pointed out the labyrinth in the woods to the southwest. Sue Styer offered to take a group to the labyrinth during lunch.

Minute 3. The clerk invited us each to turn to our neighbor and talk about one thing that is going really well in our monthly meeting. After a few minutes some Friends shared what they had learned: Bobby Trist invited everyone to Urbana Champaign for a fundraiser dinner and talent show on March 28 at 5 p.m.; Evanston Meeting has a Peace Award that they give every year; Lake Forest has a strong children's program.

Minute 4. David Shiner reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. He reminded us that the committee started two and a half years ago as a sub-committee of Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee before becoming an independent ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will be laid down at Annual Sessions this year. The committee's work seems to have been successful in bringing more Friends to the 2025 Annual Sessions. This year at Annual Sessions the committee will ask the following groups to take on some of the new tasks started by the ad hoc committee.

Program Planning Group: Discerning opportunities for spiritual nurture and organizing an art exhibit. Friends shared the following thoughts:

Clarification on whether art will be for sale

Build up resources for program planning (Jocius bequest?). Having an interesting program will attract more attenders. Do we offer speakers enough to cover their travel costs, at a minimum? Clarification: the honorarium is not meant to pay travel costs; there is additional support for travel costs.

Site Planning Group: Reserving a block of hotel rooms with a discount. Friends shared the following thoughts: support for discounted hotel rooms and possibly even a fund to cover the cost of a hotel room if cost is prohibitive

Publications and Technology Committee will be asked to take on the following tasks:

- Making a poster to advertise Annual Sessions
- Submitting a news article to the local media in Putnam County
- Writing regular email blasts to monthly meetings that come out periodically in the lead up to Annual Sessions. Should ILYM monthly meeting representatives be involved in this?

For the 2026 Annual Session the ad hoc committee will handle these items but would like the Publications and Technology Committee to take these on for the future.

Additional items brought up: Concerted outreach to Adult Young Friends who do not come, partially due to financial constraints. Can the committee do some discernment about **Who** would do that outreach? A friend reminded us that in trying to increase involvement, a personal story makes a big difference in increasing interest and engagement.

The ad hoc committee is holding a retreat in two weeks for the clerk and ILYM representative from each meeting. This retreat is intended to bring together Friends from the monthly meetings to explore how they can work together to strengthen their monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. Robin Mohr and Marcia Nelson will be presenting. There are a few spaces open for interested Friends, provided there are not already two representatives from your meeting attending. Contact David Shiner if you are interested in attending.

The committee brought posters advertising Annual Sessions. Friends are asked to take the posters back to their monthly meetings for display and use in announcing Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 5. The Clerk brought forward Dale Gardner and Cathy Garra to serve as the Naming Committee. Approved.

Minute 6. Kevin Brubaker gave a report on the status of the Friends General Conference lawsuit. FGC was invited to participate in a lawsuit with 15 other denominations challenging the Department of Homeland Security's ability to come into houses of worship to find undocumented immigrants. The litigation has been ongoing for about 14 months. The initial request was denied. The appeal of that decision was heard a few weeks ago. A decision on that hearing is expected within a few weeks. At most, that decision would send the decision back to the lower court with the instructions that that court can decide on the case. FGC has asked Friends who have experienced fear about coming to meeting, or who have stayed away from meeting due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity to contact them. Please talk to Kevin Brubaker if you have this information, and he will put you in touch with FGC lawyers who can take an anonymous affidavit.

Minute 7. Minutes 1-6 approved.

Minute 8. Janice Domanik reported for Ministry and Advancement.

The committee is asking for approval of "Mutual Respect and Living in Community at Yearly Meeting" which will be distributed with the Advance Documents, read at business meeting, and included in handouts for Annual Sessions. This is a one-time approval for use at the 2026 Annual Sessions. A friend expressed support for this statement. A suggestion was made to post this around the yearly meeting campus. One friend found it strange that the statement ended with the query around harassment. Another friend suggested that the committee add information about what to do if one experiences or witnesses harassment. A request was made for a child-friendly version of this that could be read during the children's program. Friends approved this statement for use at the 2026 Annual Sessions.

This committee, along with the Personnel Committee, are requesting an increase for the Field Secretary hours. This decision does not need to come to Meeting for Business at Annual Sessions for approval.

Rock Valley Monthly Meeting has not been meeting in person for several years, filing State of Society Reports, or appointing a representative to the yearly meeting. The committee has been in touch with Friends in Rockford. The committee will bring a recommendation to Annual Sessions to lay down Rock Valley Monthly Meeting. A Friend raised the concern that some members of Rock Valley Meeting hold their membership in the Religious Society of Friends through that meeting. The committee will let members of Rock Valley Meeting know of other nearby meetings who would be able to accept their membership transfers. Report accepted.

Minute 9. Brandon Harrington reported for Nominating Committee.

The committee reported its intent to remove the role of Records Librarian from its slate of roles to fill. Based on discussion today, Nominating Committee will revisit the question.

Peter Lasersohn is being nominated as temporary editor of *Among Friends*. Naming Peter Lasersohn as editor of *Among Friends* for a term that ends at the 2026 Annual Sessions approved. Report accepted.

Minute 10. Mark Masi reported for Peace Resources Committee. The committee has investigated the laws around the “No Guns” signage. The law requires that a specific sign (a gun under a red circle with a red slash) be put on every external door on campus if we wish to legally enforce our rule to prohibit guns on campus. The committee recommends posting signs that say simply “Enter in Peace” on some doors and will bring this recommendation to Annual Sessions for approval.

A Monthly Meeting for Healing for the Future of America is ongoing and meets the second Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. The weekly Call to Action is emailed every First Day. If you have items for this call to action, please send them to the committee.

The committee, Downers Grove Friends Meeting, and the Environmental and Social Concerns Committee jointly sent a letter to Governor Pritzker requesting he issue an executive order instructing Illinois state agencies not to cooperate voluntarily with the Trump administration’s demand to share Illinois residents’ data per the National Security Presidential Memorandum-7, “Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence.”

Minute 11. Daniel Lakemacher reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. The committee participated in advocacy to ask the state treasurer to end the state’s purchase of Israel bonds. This advocacy has not yet been successful but brought together a coalition of many Friends and other groups. The committee is encouraging meetings’ participation in the nationwide “Love is Action” demonstrations organized by American Friends Service Committee. During these demonstrations groups of Friends worship in public while holding signs that highlight specific concerns.

Minute 12. Minutes 8-11 approved.

Minute 13. Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurer’s Report. The fundraising for the new bunkhouse is listed in column 8 as restricted donations to the Property Improvement Fund. The operating budget is right where it should be at this time of the year. Many thanks to the individual and meeting donations that support the work of the yearly meeting. Report accepted.

Minute 14. Valerie Lester presented the Finance Report. She called out the interest and investment income of \$9,000. One of the larger bequests we have received recently gets a lot of comment, but she reminded us that the yearly meeting has received other bequests. Right now, those funds are being held, but the income goes into the operating budget, like an endowment. The gifts we have received help us every day in addition to special expenses.

When there are expenses outside of the budget, these expenses go to the Finance Review Committee. Recently, \$3,000 was approved using this process.

The donations that have been received for the bunkhouse are not being sent to Friends Fiduciary but are being held in a more liquid form.

On February 21, the Finance Committee held a treasurers’ workshop, led by Judy Jaeger and Valerie Lester. Twelve monthly meeting treasurers participated. The feedback received after the workshop was that the treasurers appreciated being brought together with others in their role. Another workshop for treasurers will be held at Annual Sessions.

The Finance Committee will begin drafting the budget for the next fiscal year at their next meeting. All committees are requested to let Finance Committee know what they will need budgeted for their work for the next year. Please send requests directly to Ted Kuhn by April 15. Report accepted.

Minute 15. Friends Fiduciary needs a minute to direct them to release additional funds for the bunkhouse:

ILYM authorizes our Fund Representative, Finance Committee Clerk Valerie Lester and second signer, co-Treasurer Dawn Crimson, to direct the withdrawal of up to \$41,000.00 from ILYM3, the Property Improvement Fund, for transfer to our previously defined checking account at first State bank. The actual amount will be determined by them approximately by June 1, 2026 as our building project is completed.

Minute to release funds approved.

Minute 16. Cathy Garra reported for the Development Committee. The Development Committee is very grateful for the generosity of individual Friends and meetings to make the construction of a new bunkhouse possible. The current standing of bunkhouse fundraising is as follows:

Starting Property Improvement Fund balance:	\$50,135.11
Interest/Investments:	\$609.28
Unrealized Gains (as of 12/1/2025):	<u>\$1,788.75</u>
Total Property Improvement Fund Balance:	\$52,533.14
Donations to the Bunkhouse Project (as of 1/12/2026):	
Individual Gifts:	\$29,062.90
Monthly Meeting Gifts:	<u>\$24,500.00</u>
Total Bunkhouse Gifts:	\$53,562.90
Total Available for the Bunkhouse Project:	\$106,096.04

At this point in the year, we have raised over half of the annual giving goal from individual gifts. These gifts support our general budget. Please consider giving to the yearly meeting to help us meet our goal for this year. Friends accept the report with appreciation.

Minute 17. Mark McGinnis and Marcia Nelson gave the Field Secretaries' report. Mark attended a Quaker Nexus meeting in Indiana that included Friends from Western, Northern, Ohio Valley, Wilmington, Baltimore, Bolivia, and Cuba Yearly Meetings. Fox Valley is still meeting in the Howenstine farmhouse. Chuck Howenstine is attending meeting and is happy to have them continue meeting there for now.

Oshkosh Meeting attendance has dwindled and they ask us to hold them in the Light.

Marcia reminds us that the Field Secretaries can "do for" monthly meetings that ca not do for themselves. For example: they recently led a Quakerism 101 for Clear Creek and Bloomington Normal Meetings.

The Field Secretaries are in an unique position because they visit the meetings and see their strengths and weaknesses. She encourages us to think of ways that the Field Secretaries can share information among monthly meetings outside of Continuing Committee and Annual Sessions. She has identified a need for more structure for communication between meetings. Let us continue to work and talk together about what is working in our meetings, and be clear about what we can not do. Let us not cling to outdated practices that no longer serve us.

The Field Secretaries have visits scheduled to St. Louis and Southern Illinois meetings before Annual Sessions. Report accepted.

Minute 18. Minutes 13-17 approved.

Minute 19. Chris Goode reported for Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee. The spring workday will be held May 2. We would like to repaint the showers with epoxy paint. There is always moving brush, cutting back weeds, etc. The committee would like to have a workshop or speaker for the day as well. Please talk to Chris if you have ideas.

Chip Rorem spoke about the insurance renewal. Our current policy ends on April 10, 2026. The annual premium for 2025 was approximately \$47,000 through Snyder. The committee sought proposals from three brokers. Ramie offered a proposal through Erie for \$17,000. Since we had no claims, if we renew the policy offered through Snyder the premium will be \$40,000. Philadelphia declined to offer a proposal. The committee proposes accepting the proposal through Erie. The next step is for Dawn to go into the office and review the policy. The policy revision will be circulated among the Stewards, who will then approve the policy, hopefully soon.

There was some damage to siding due to wind and a tree, which the committee is working on fixing.

A possible project for High School and Young Adult Friends at the workday will be working on some of the bunkbeds (scraping, painting) and reinstalling them. This project will probably take several workdays to complete.

The committee is working on getting new mattresses for the cabins and the bunkhouse. They had hoped that the mattresses would be \$100 apiece and have found a company from Tennessee that offers them at \$109. The committee will look at a few other companies but are inclined to buy them at \$109 from American Bedding in Tennessee. They hope to get rid of the old mattresses on the workday.

The Advance Documents include drawings of the proposed bunkhouse. The committee had considered installing a “portable building” but had some concerns, specifically about animals gaining access to the interior. It was decided that a custom-built building on a foundation would be more secure. Dean Thieman, who has done a lot of work for the yearly meeting, has provided an estimate of \$90,000-\$92,000. Dean is very confident that this can be completed by June. It will be insulated and on a slab. It will not be heated or air conditioned when construction is completed. This price does not include the demolition of the old building. Chris has the permit for the new building. Dean has staked out the location, and Chris will go tomorrow to check that. He hopes that Dean can start in a week or two. Chris is working to keep the total cost under \$100,000, which would leave some money in the Property Improvement Fund. There was a question raised about accessibility. The building will be on grade, so no ramp is needed. The building can be reached by car, but there are no paths in the campground. Report accepted.

Minute 20. Colleen Reardon reported for Personnel Committee. The committee has reviewed the paid sick leave policy and is not making changes at this point. The policy is legally compliant. They are not making changes now because they need to spend time documenting our practices.

The committee spent time reviewing legal compliance and concluded that they do not have the expertise to efficiently ensure that they remain in compliance with state and federal regulations. They are seeking a consultant who works with small or religious organizations. The committee will work with Finance Committee and the Treasurers to be sure they have the necessary resources for this work. Report accepted.

Minute 21 Dale Gardner reported for Children’s Religious Education. They are preparing for Annual Sessions. In coming weeks, they will have a feedback session with families who have attended in the past. As an experiment, the committee is offering some stipends for teachers who lead the morning programs. The committee will confer with Finance Committee to clarify any budgetary concerns. Report accepted.

Minute 22 Mike Dennis reported for Youth Oversight Committee. The Quake at Evanston Friends Meeting happened with 13 teens, including five teens from Western Yearly Meeting and four from ILYM. A staff volunteer from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting also attended. A Bolivian Friend who is currently attending Earlham School of Religion brought videos of Quakers worshipping in Bolivia and Kenya. The video showed Bolivian and Kenyan Friends singing and dancing in worship. The committee is coordinating with Tom Rockwell of Western Yearly Meeting and might have the 2026 Fall Quake in Indiana. Report accepted.

Minute 23 David Shiner reported for Chicago North Planning Group (Program). Friends are encouraged to offer workshops. Proposals are open until April 20. The group is planning to offer alternatives to worship sharing during that time: two days for sharing meeting practices and one day for a Meeting for Healing. Their next meeting will be Sunday, March 22, at 2:00 p.m. at Evanston Friends Meeting. Report accepted.

Minute 24 Valerie Lester report for Chicago South Planning Group (Food). Meal coordinators are scheduled for each meal. This work falls to the same people every year, many of whom are in this room. She asks us to identify people who come from our meetings, who are not yet in the habit of providing service at Annual Sessions, and encourage them to sign up for tasks. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Beth Carpenter reported for Blue River Quarter (Site Prep). Please advertise site prep in your meeting. Heather Evert is doing the cooking. The committee is still looking to find volunteers for the newly created positions AV Setup/Clean-up Coordinator Position. Report accepted.

Minute 26 Minutes 19-25 approved.

Minute 27 We are grateful to the Friends of Downers Grove who hosted us today. The room is comfortable, and the food was delicious and abundant. Approved.

Minute 28 The meeting closed in waiting worship.

Treasurers Report
Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement
For fiscal year ending June 30, 2026

Account	1 General Operating	2 Unrestricted Reserves	8 Property Impr.	Total
Income				
Support from Meetings	44,217.00	0.00	0.00	44,217.00
Support from Individuals	22,171.03	0.00	0.00	22,171.03
Support from Meetings Restricted PIF	0.00	0.00	24,500.00	24,500.00
Support from Individuals Restricted PIF	0.00	0.00	29,062.90	29,062.90
Interest & Investment Income	9,190.36	0.00	609.28	9,799.64
Other Income	1,332.00	43.75	0.00	1,375.75
Total Income	76,910.39	43.75	54,172.18	131,126.32
Operating Expenses				
1 Personnel & Office				
1A Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	42,504.59	0.00	0.00	42,504.59
1B Staff Travel	4,474.34	0.00	0.00	4,474.34
1C Office Expenses	1,500.49	0.00	0.00	1,500.49
Total 1 Personnel & Office	48,479.42	0.00	0.00	48,479.42
2 YM Travel Support				
2A ILYM Reps Travel	706.34	0.00	0.00	706.34
ILYM Committee Travel	1,018.31	0.00	0.00	1,018.31
Total 2 YM Travel Support	1,724.65	0.00	0.00	1,724.65
3 Site & Property Expenses				
Annual services-Property Taxes	1,154.12	0.00	0.00	1,154.12
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,673.10	0.00	0.00	6,673.10
Repairs & Maintenance	5,039.58	0.00	0.00	5,039.58
Caretaker Expenses	850.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
Utilities	1,848.94	0.00	0.00	1,848.94
Total 3 Site & Property Expenses	15,565.74	0.00	0.00	15,565.74
5 Committee Expenses				
Development Committee	462.45	0.00	0.00	462.45
Publications & Distribution Committee	1,380.77	0.00	0.00	1,380.77
YO Committee	1,653.89	0.00	0.00	1,653.89
Total 5 Committee Expenses	3,497.11	0.00	0.00	3,497.11
6 Support to Others	16,250.00	400.00	0.00	16,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	85,516.92	400.00	0.00	85,916.92
Operating Income	(8,606.53)	(356.25)	54,172.18	45,209.40
Other Income / (Expense)				
Unrealized Gain/Loss	0.00	0.00	1,788.75	1,788.75
Total Other Income / (Expense)	0.00	0.00	1,788.75	1,788.75
Net Income	(8,606.53)	(356.25)	55,960.93	46,998.15

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Balance Sheet as of February 21, 2026

Account	Feb 21, 2026	Jun 30, 2025
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Checking Account	149,285.40	92,784.08
Friends Fiduciary	42,270.22	40,481.47
Temp. Restricted Property Impr. ILYM3		
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated ILYM5	610,606.55	610,606.55
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	802,162.17	743,872.10
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	0.00	6,659.14
Total Current Assets	0.00	6,659.14
Total Assets	802,162.17	750,531.24
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	17,467.40	12,871.28
Payroll Taxes	0.00	(36.66)
Total Current Liabilities	17,467.40	12,834.62
Total Liabilities	17,467.40	12,834.62
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	46,998.15	40,518.86
Net Assets	0.00	(40,518.86)
Unrestricted Undesignated		
1 General Operating	60,000.00	60,000.00
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00	60,000.00
Unrestricted Designated		
2 Unrestricted Reserves	489,346.23	489,346.23
3 Campus Accessibility	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	38,850.00	38,850.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs.	1,000.00	1,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	97,065.28	97,065.28
Total Unrestricted Designated	627,561.51	627,561.51
Temporarily Restricted		
8 Property Impr.	50,135.11	50,135.11
Total Temporarily Restricted	50,135.11	50,135.11
Total Equity	784,694.77	737,696.62
Total Liabilities and Equity	802,162.17	750,531.24

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Co-Field Secretary's Report

We have spent time visiting with monthly meetings, physically and virtually. The challenges of traveling in Illinois in the winter months have tipped the balance toward virtual attendance, but we are now planning more in-person visits in the spring months before annual sessions. While virtual visits can serve as introductions, in-person visits strengthen relationships.

In fact, we find visits so friendly and fulfilling that we urge all meetings to visit their neighbors. We know, for example, that Bloomington and Clear Creek, two smaller meetings, regularly work together. One of us has been leading an online Q101 that draws from both meetings and gives Friends interactions and ideas that would not otherwise happen. A Q102 is in the planning stages. Burlington Worship Group

has been joined occasionally by Friends from Macomb. An American Friends Service Committee Love as Action demonstration on a cold January day drew Friends from four monthly meetings. High School Friends can tell you about a Quake that drew teen Friends from several states.

In November, one of us attended a workshop sponsored by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to work on guidelines for community safety. Following the federal government incursion in Minneapolis, one of us virtually attended Twin Cities Friends Meeting for Worship to show support. In October, one of us attended the Quaker Nexus, the first of its kind. It brought together Friends from Illinois, Western, New Association, Wilmington (Ohio), Ohio Valley, Baltimore, Bolivia, Mexico, and Cuba. The Nexus, along with the Quake, and Peace Resources Committee's Meeting for Healing for the Future of America may be ushering a new trend for yearly meetings to work together on issues that concern all Friends, as well as allow for inter-yearly meeting fellowship. We are indeed stronger together. (Friends can consider this a plug for the forthcoming all-meetings retreat on March 28.)

The turmoil of the times continues to bring people to our doors as they seek out peace and the spiritual strength provided by a faith of action. Not all seekers stick around for the longer haul, but some meetings are adding members, which is mildly remarkable at a time when many churches are shrinking. Growth at Northside Friends includes the development of a children's religious ed program as Friends grow families.

Even as our ranks grow, we continue to mourn inevitable losses. Beloved elder Bill Howenstine, longtime contributor to the lifeblood of Illinois Yearly Meeting, left us earlier this year at the ripe age of 100, a birthday milestone we celebrated last year. Friends will hear about a summer season memorial service as details become available.

Submitted with love, Mark "Nemo" McGinnis, Marcia Nelson

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Children's Religious Education Committee Report

Members: Dale Gardner (chair), Choz Howard (CRE coordinator, ex-officio), Bobbi Trist, Anna Watson, Katherine Young, Alexandra Colin

The committee has worked through some stormy conflict and we appreciate the current calm. We are working for another successful Annual Sessions. We have a parent/child feedback session planned soon. We are exploring bringing in a professional actor storyteller again. We already have some teachers identified and are hopeful about babysitters. We are proposing modest stipends for some teachers in hopes that we can entice more to join us.

The estimated budget for the Children's Program is based on last year's plan. As always this is an estimate and believe the costs will come in lower. We have not usually been successful getting all the paid babysitting help.

Estimated costs for Children's Program at Annual Sessions

Teacher stipends	\$1,000
Choz assistant	\$700
2-3 Babysitters	\$1,890
Professional Actor/Storyteller	\$350
Class and art materials	\$400
Training & background checks	<u>\$270</u>
Total	\$4,610

If you can share a good lead on possible teachers or volunteers, please let Choz know (309 287-9475, howarch@gmail.com), or someone else on the committee.

Dale Gardner

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Development Committee Report

Continuing Committee 10-11-2025 approved raising funds that (when combined with the existing Property Development funds) would be enough to start the construction of the new Bunkhouse. There was an expectation that additional development efforts would be required to raise the complete amount needed.

The funds that have now been donated are sufficient to complete the project. Indeed, the funds presently available may allow some modest changes in the project plans. Such changes would enable the final building to be even more suitable for its intended purposes.

The Development Committee is VERY grateful for the donations that have been received for this project. The committee members do not receive complete details of contributions out of respect for the privacy concerns of all contributors to the yearly meeting. However, the members of the Development Committee are very appreciative of the important support provided by those who make financial donations that support the needs of yearly meeting.

Future plans for the committee include revising and improving the “Support” material on the ILYM web site. Tax code changes mandate constant attention to this important material. Two other matters are also a concern: restoring the Property Development Fund and raising funds to meet the Annual Appeal for individual donations to balance the ILYM budget.

The members of the committee are always interested in comments or suggestions that could help us do our important tasks.

*Here is recent information about the **Bunkhouse fundraising**:*

Starting Property Improvement Fund balance:	\$50,135.11
Interest/Investments:	\$609.28
Unrealized Gains: (as of 12/1/2025)	<u>\$1,788.75</u>
Total Property Improvement Fund balance:	\$52,533.14
Donations to the Bunkhouse Project (as of 1/12/2026):	
From Individuals:	\$29,062.90
From Monthly Meetings:	<u>\$24,500.00</u>
Total available for the Bunkhouse Project:	\$106,096.04

*Here is information about the status of the **Annual Appeal**:*

Donations for the annual budget:	\$22,171.03
Amount requested in the annual budget:	\$40,000.00

Cathy Garra, Alex Lippitt, Peter Poshepny, Jasmine Dennis, Kent Busse, & Frank Young

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Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) of Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) has met three times since fall continuing committee. We present a summary of the topics and issues we have discussed.

The ECC is advertising to ILYM the development of the Quaker Earth Action Map Project being produced by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). The purpose of the QEW effort is to distributed information on the worldwide map about the diversity of earthcare actions that Quaker Meetings have completed or are involved in. ECC has distributed information ILYM wide through announcements of the Administrative Coordinator and to monthly meeting clerks. A few monthly meetings have already participated but we are encouraging other meetings to present their actions to the wider world.

The sugar maple trees in front of the meeting house were determined to have anthracnose, a fungal disease. This common disease often appears in stressed trees. Stress can be caused by many factors including drought, flooding and insects to name a few factors. In our case it is probably drought stress that has been common in Illinois in the last few years. The recommendation that will be best for the maples will be to lightly mulch from near the trunk to past the drip line. We will work on getting this completed before annual sessions.

We recently spent worshipful time reminiscing about Bill Howenstine who recently passed away at 100 years and 7 months. Of course, Alice was part of our remembrance as well.

We have proposed to purchase a wooden slat composter to replace the broken black plastic composter. If this works well, we will buy a second one to hold browns if needed. We wanted to avoid purchasing something made of plastic

We are considering offering a nature poetry reading workshop at annual sessions.

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Finance Committee Report

Review Committee updates (previously unbudgeted)

\$3000 approved for upcoming Workshop - Robin Mohr speaker

Development Committee update—with appreciation!

Bunkhouse: Funds needed are raised and available. Funds came from monthly meetings as well as individuals. The treasurers will draft a minute to be approved at Continuing Committee needed to transfer funds from Friends Fiduciary. Any funds not needed from Property Improvement will be retained in Property Improvement fund for future needs

Thank yous

Treasurer sends list of individual donors (just names) to the Clerks and they will write notes of appreciation.

The list will designate whether donors gave to Property Improvement/Bunkhouse and/or Annual Giving/Operating Funds. The same list of individual donors will also be sent to Clerk of Development Committee, as well as, Monthly Meetings that donated to Bunkhouse.

MP&E/Trustee expected expenses

Bunk House Fund timing of funds likely 1/2 in April and 1/2 at completion (early June)

Site Maintenance: no additional major projects expected

Insurance: Chip Rorem is leading the effort to lower insurance expense including but not limited to current insurer (after a year of no claims as well as higher deductible), Church Mutual, DGMM's insurer, the Insurer who sent a solicitation to Dawn.

Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future ILYM is seasoning their guidance on how best to honor Chris J wishes going forward before laid down at this year's sessions. Finance also seasoned this.

The sense of the committee is that Quaker Process and the Finance Committee can manage the needs. There was much discussion about segregating the funds into a “quasi endowment” (a formal endowment would require additional administration/reporting burden) and whether there is value to that. Members of Finance will work with Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future ILYM to be prepared for a June transition.

Guidance for Annual sessions per Diem (still Pay as Led): maintain @ \$55/day. Last year Pay as Led covered the costs of sessions, including additional incentives. Val notified Admin. Coor.

Treasurer Workshop 2/21: Judy & Val led a round table process with 12 monthly meeting treasurers.

We are seeking feedback and input for a workshop at Annual Sessions

Record of Treasurer responsibilities: Suggested that the Treasurer(s) keep a notebook(s) to record irregular tasks to help facilitate a future transition. This is a subject we will revisit

Next Meeting: prep 26/27 budget,

All ILYM Committees, staff, officers are encouraged to provide input on expected 26/27 budget needs by 4/15 to Ted Kuhn

Finance Committee to meet via zoom 4/23 6-8 p.m.. Will also hold 4/27 in case we need to revisit or something comes up that 4/23 does not work.

Valerie Lester, Clerk ILYM Finance Committee

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Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee Report

Prepared February 20, 2026 for Continuing Committee on March 14. 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 January 25th via Zoom and in smaller groups at other times.

Spring Workday: Will be held on Saturday May 2. We are looking for someone who might do a talk or workshop after lunch as has been our recent experience. Chili will be provided with potluck additions. We are making a list of tasks and welcome suggestions. We will continue work on the meetinghouse (MH) interior ramp handrails and will epoxy paint the peeling areas of the bathhouse showers. Christina Schultz is investigating safe procedures for doing this task.

Insurance: Our property and workers comp insurance comes up for renewal in early April. Chip Rorem and Dawn Crimson are investigating other brokers as well as our current insurer, Snyder, and have reached out to Church Mutual, our former company to see if they would take us on again with higher deductibles. We have received one bid so far that is much more reasonable than our insurance cost for the past year.

Maintenance Items: 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. Mark Robinson is doing research on providers and pricing so that we can order them in time to arrive by workday or site prep. Our dumpster provider will take old mattresses, and we are investigating the cost for removal. We are discussing refurbishing and repainting the bed frames with the High School Friends providing the workforce. This project might be done over a longer period of time starting with the beds being moved into the new bunkhouse, and could be done as projects at workdays, site prep, or during Annual Sessions. One of the fans at the meetinghouse is wobbly. It may be time to consider replacing the fans with new larger fan/light fixtures. We will try to have estimates to present at Annual Sessions. We may also consider doing some painting and window repairs in the meetinghouse next year.

New Bunkhouse: Chris Goode prepared construction documents for a 16'x48' site built bunkhouse that could accommodate as many as 6 sets of bunks on each side (24 beds total) with a common space at the center. It will be a frame building on a concrete slab located just north of the existing bunkhouse and aligned with and east of the Penn House, and the Fox Hole. Dean Tieman, our long-time contractor, priced them out and returned a bid for construction including everything but electrical costs at \$82,350. A later price for electrical came in at \$7,800 which Dean felt was too high, and so is getting another price, hopefully lower. In any case the cost should be less than \$90,000. This does not include re-seeding the disturbed areas, any new furnishings, or demolition of the existing bunkhouse. We will investigate a contractor to demolish and remove the old building sometime after Annual Sessions in summer/fall. We understand that ~\$55,000 was

raised by Development Committee coupled with the over \$50,000 in the property improvement fund is available. We still aim to keep total costs under \$100,000 and hope to leave some money in that fund after all expenses. Permits have been applied for from the county and looking to start construction as soon as weather allows for excavation and concrete work, hopefully by mid to late March. Dean felt that there should be no problem having the new building ready in time for Annual Sessions.

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

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Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

During the Annual Sessions last year we approved a minute reaffirming our commitment to all people regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. We were requested to develop action steps.

The following is submitted to Spring 2026 Continuing Committee to approve as an experiment for 2026 ILYM Annual Sessions. We will consider its permanent adoption at a later date.

When we gather for our Annual Sessions we will include the following in Advance Documents, share at the beginning meeting for business, and include it in handouts for the annual sessions.

Mutual Respect and Living in Community at Yearly Sessions

Welcome, Everyone, to Annual Sessions!

Once a year we gather in community for the better part of a week. We meet for worship and for business. We also eat, sleep, reconnect as friends, develop new friendships, sing, dance, play, teach, learn and grow together. It can be an inspiring and joyful experiment in community. As Quakers we believe the Divine moves through each of us. We strive to be inclusive and respectful of all individuals, regardless of identity.

As human beings, we often fall short.

Sometimes, some of us do not experience the joy others take for granted. Collectively and as individuals, we can always do better to ensure everyone in community feels safe and comfortable. As we prepare to gather and over the course of our gathering, let's be as aware as possible of how our actions and those of our community members might affect others.

Here are queries to encourage reflection on living in community in as inclusive and as mutually respectful a way as possible.

- Are we respectful of personal boundaries? Not everyone is a hugger or likes to be touched. Not everyone wants their picture taken.
- Do we make assumptions about others that might be taken as a slight? Not everyone is a "he" or a "she". We are part of a racist system, even if we do not believe we are racist.
- Could my behavior or words make someone feel uncomfortable, even harassed? What is expected of me if I am witness to sexual harassment?

Field Secretary Hours: We requested and the Personnel Committee approved an increase in the hours for the Field Secretary to 900 hour per year. The handbook, and previous minutes, indicate that increases of Field Secretary hours do not need come to Meeting for Business for approval. At ILYM 2026 Annual Sessions, we will ask that this statement be added to the Handbook to clarify this:

“The annual hours of the Field Secretary can be modified upon discernment of the Ministry & Advancement Committee and the Personnel Committee. They will notify the Annual Sessions of any changes made.”

We are aware of the critical need for in-person meetings with monthly meetings to develop a relationship. However, we have meetings and worship groups far from the geographic center of our yearly meeting. These include Southern Illinois, Columbia, St Louis, Oshkosh, and South Bend and the Elkhart River and Burlington worship groups. The travel times have increased as we have more Friends Meetings located away from where our Field Secretaries live. The people serving us find it hard to accomplish the work in the currently agreed hours. The committee believes it is not integrity to have individuals spend more time than they are being paid. We need to be responsible employers and increase the hours for this position so that the Field Secretary can be available to accomplish the work including visiting meetings in person, responding to phone requests and assisting meetings beyond being present with them. In addition, the work may require research or consultation with others.

Rock Valley Meeting: Page 135-6 of the *Illinois Yearly Meeting Book of Faith and Practice* “Responsibilities to yearly meeting for monthly meetings” include: participation in the yearly meeting life and work, appointing a representative to the yearly meeting, contribute financially to the yearly meeting, submitting an annual statistical report and a state of society report. A monthly meeting is also expected to meet regularly for worship and to carry out the business.

Rock Valley Meeting has not met regularly for several years. It has not submitted reports to the yearly meeting, and it does not respond to inquiries from the Field Secretaries. In view of this, Ministry and Advancement will recommend that Rock Valley be laid down at 2026 Annual Sessions of ILYM..

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Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee has been working hard to connect with Friends to find their leadings to serve ILYM. Below, **in bold**, are the nominations currently being brought forward at ILYM Annual Sessions. Please review the positions that are not yet filled (indicated by blank lines) and prayerfully discern your availability for these.

We have been made aware that the role of Records Librarian has not been active for many years we have taken this role off of our list of roles to fill. The Presiding Clerk of ILYM, the Assistant Clerk, the Clerk of Publications and the administrative coordinator (AC) will revise the AC job description with special attention to record keeping and website responsibilities. They will likely bring a revised description and suggestions for volunteer roles to Annual Sessions.

The ILYM *Among Friends* editor has asked to step away immediately, rather than his term end of 2027. We ask that Continuing Committee temporarily appoint Peter Lasersohn to fill this role immediately. We will bring his name forward for approval of a three-year term at the 2026 Annual Sessions.

Following is the draft slate so far (*new appointments in bold*):

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Julia Pantoga (clerks 2026, 2027; assists 2028)

Assistant Clerk: Kevin Brubaker (assists 2026); _____

Recording Clerk: Marie White (records 2026, 2027; assists 2028)

Assistant Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn (assists 2026); _____

Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek (2027)

Co-Treasurers: Ted Kuhn (2027), Dawn Crimson (2028)

Stewards: Grayce Mesner (2026), Beth Carpenter (2027), Chip Rorem (2027), Chris Goode (2028),

Grayce Mesner (2029), _____ (2029)

Among Friends Editor: **Peter Lasersohn** (2029)

Standing Committees / clerks:

Children's Religious Ed (5-10)/Clerk: Dale Gardner

2026: Bobbi Trist

2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin

2028: Katherine Young, Anna Watson

2029: _____

ex officio: Children's Religious Education Coor.

Development (3+)/Clerk: **Cathy Garra** (at sessions)

2026: Alex Lippitt

2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny

2028: Frank Young, Kent Busse

2029: **Jasmine Dennis**

Environmental Concerns (at least 6)/

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic

2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday

2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann

2029: **Chip Rorem**

Finance/Clerk: Val Lester

2027: Val Lester, Judy Jager

2028: Cynthia Harris, Frank Young

2029: **David Shiner, Kevin Brubaker**

ex officio: Treasurers, Clerk, and MP&E Clerk

Handbook/Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2027: Pam Kuhn, Sue Styer

2028: Julia Pantoga, Sharon Haworth

2029: _____

Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning (6-8 plus stewards)/Clerk: Chris Goode

2026: Dianne Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic

2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen

2028: Mark Robinson, Christina Schultz, Liam Gardner

2029: _____

Ministry & Advancement/Clerk: Janice Domanik

2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor

2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom

2028: Steve Tamari, Sarah Pavolic, Virginia Schelbert

2029: _____

Ex Officio: Field Secretaries

Peace Resources (6-12)/Clerk: Mark Masi

2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman

2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi

2028: Janet Fair, _____

2029: _____

Personnel (4 plus reps from Finance & committees that supervise employees)/Clerk: Colleen Reardon

2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon

2028: _____

2029: _____

Ex-officio: Finance rep, clerks of Youth Oversight, Children's RE, Pub&Tech, MP&E, M&A

Publications & Technology (3-5 plus ex officio)/Clerk: Dawn Crimson

2026: Dawn Crimson, Lilith Swygert (Tech)

2027: Nathan Lasersohn

2029: **Ted Kuhn**

Ex-officio: Administrative Coordinator, *Among Friends* Editor

Racial Equity and Education (min 6, 3-year staggered)/Clerk: Daniel Lakemacher

2026: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher

2027: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner

2028: Beth Burbank, Janet Fair, Steven David Flowers

2029: _____

Youth Oversight/Clerk: Mike Dennis

2026: Charles Howard-McKinny, Brad Laird

2027: Mike Dennis, Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher

2028: Rose Johnson, Erica Cheng

2029: _____

Ad Hoc to review Faith & Practice (To be approved ILYM 2026)

2029: **Marcia Nelson, Erin Taylor,** _____

Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:

AFSC (4 for 3 years)

2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera Godwin

2027: Frank Young, Beth Burbank

2029: _____

Friends Peace Teams (serve on Coordinating Council)

2026: Andrea Kintree

2029: _____

FCNL

2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner

2027: Kevin Brubaker

2028: Fariba Murray

2029: _____

Friends School Liaisons:

Olney

2028: Grayce Mesner

Scattergood

2028: Alex Lippitt

Chicago Friends School (1 for 3 years)

2028: Mary Ellen Isaacs

FGC Central Committee (2 for 3 years)

2028: Lilith Swygert

2029: _____

FWCC (4 for 3 years)

2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist

2028: Julia Pantoga

2029: **David Shiner, Alex Lippitt**

FLGBTQC

2026: Jad Tamari

2028: Brandon Harrington

QEW (not more than 2; serve on Steering Committee)

2026: Sarah Pavlovic

2028: Chip Rorem

2029: _____

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Peace Resources Committee Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the accomplishments, challenges, and future goals of PRC.

Our committee meets once per month to discuss how we can be a resource to help build peace in our lives as Quakers, at our monthly meetings, and in the world around us. Our committee has accomplished the following peacebuilding activities:

- Initiation and facilitation of a Monthly for Healing for the Future of America. This event takes place the second Monday of every month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Downers Grove Friends' virtual meetinghouse. Friends gather to hold the country, its leaders, those who are suffering and those causing suffering in the Light. Friends gather in waiting worship and share their intentions for healing as well as messages received, and have time after the close of worship for sharing. Attendees thus far have been from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and New Jersey meetings.
- Implementation and publication of Friends Weekly Call to Action. Each First Day a publication is sent to the clerks within ILYM, and individuals who have requested to be on the contact list. The call to action is aimed to educate Friends with practical ways to peacefully protest inequality, discrimination and oppression of marginalized groups as individuals and meeting communities.
- PRC, together with Downers Grove Peace and Environment & Social Concerns Committee, drafted a letter to send to Governor Pritzker requesting that he issue an executive order instructing Illinois State agencies not to cooperate voluntarily with demand by Trump Administration agents to share Illinois residents' data per NSPR-7 (National Security Presidential Memorandum- 7), "Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence." The letter was included in PRC's Weekly Call to Action.

It was accepted by the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business of the 57th Street Meeting of Friends and Downers Grove and sent by the Clerks of the meetings to the governor. A meeting in Indiana also requested a template of the document (see additional documents).

- Research and discernment as to whether the ILYM meetinghouse should have a “No Guns Sign.” The Committee recognized that there were strong differing opinions at ILYM regarding this issue. The PRC was of one mind that our first priority is to keep people and the ILYM meetinghouse safe. Making a statement about our values is our second priority. We do not think posting “No Guns” signs are the best path to this, but recommend posting a sign or signs saying “Enter in Peace” (see additional documents).
- Participation in a Faith Leader Group in a local community. PRC has a member who serves as a Quaker representative on the Elgin Area Immigrant Alliance Faith Leader Committee. The group holds silent vigils and assists in offering mutual aid to immigrant families who are suffering hardship due to the government’s oppression of immigrants from many countries.

Our future goals are as follows:

- Building solidarity among meetings as face the current challenges to peace within our country
- Continuing assessment of threats to peace in the US and in the world and finding non-violent ways for Quakers to respond as peacemakers
- Increasing the number of active members on the committee

Our greatest challenge is recruiting new members to serve on our committee. Current members are reaching out to others from ILYM to visit a committee meeting to see if they feel called to serve with us.

Mark Philip Masi, Committee Clerk

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Personnel Committee Report

At its meeting in January, the Personnel Committee considered and approved the recommendation from Ministry and Advancement that the hours for the field secretary be increased.

The Committee heard updates from committees who supervise staff. At this point, there are no anticipated vacancies.

The committee plans to hold off on any changes regarding paid sick leave for staff for the time being. The committee believes that the current policy provides staff with generous paid sick leave time and is in compliance with state regulations. We are aware that ILYM current practices for tracking hours worked, combined with the facts that are employees work off-site and that the greatest number of hours are worked in preparation for and during annual sessions makes documenting our practices difficult. We will take this up again after the 2026 Annual Sessions.

The committee spent a considerable amount of time discerning how to best stay abreast of changes in labor law and implications of these for ILYM. The committee determined that we do not have the required expertise to effectively do this. We realized that the greatest need is being up-to-date on changes in regulations and policies at the state level so that we remain in compliance. At this point, we are not seeking an attorney to do this consultation, rather someone who works in the HR field and is knowledgeable about small non-profit religious organizations and could apprise us of changes and ways we can remain in compliance. Three members of the committee know of individuals who specialize in the area of human resources with non-profits. They will bring information from their outreach to these individuals to our next meeting. Personnel Committee will work with the finance committee and treasurers on budget-related issues and bring a recommendation to Annual Sessions.

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Racial Equity and Education Committee Report

A core group of both committee members and others in ILYM have been working to live out the commitments made by the Yearly Meeting in the Indigenous concerns minutes from the 2025 Annual Sessions:

Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery (Minute 37 with background information on p. 45 - 49); and joining the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (Minute 27, with background information on p 50, 51).

We have designated the monthly Anti-Racism Cafe to these issues specifically on all the even-numbered months. Friends are continuing to attend events through the Mennonite-initiated Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery to learn about repair networks—allies working with Indigenous-led initiatives.

Additionally, we are participating in Friends Peace Teams Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshops, and A Return to the Earth series of four webinars led by Nia To Go There (Cree). Several Friends have also met online to study the book, *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future*, by Patty Krawec. After finishing this book, some Friends are repeating this study as a learning opportunity with small groups at their monthly meetings.

As a committee we are continuing to counteract the racism that is foundational to both the abductions and displacement of primarily Black and Brown people by American law enforcement agents and the genocide of the Palestinian people that is made possible by the weapons, funding, and diplomatic cover that America provides to Israel. As follow-up to minute 49 (Letter p. 44-5) at the 2025 Annual Sessions urging Illinois State Treasurer Frerichs to divest from Israel Bonds, committee members have protested with other interested Illinois residents outside meetings of the Illinois State Board of Investments. Spurning our advocacy and that of thousands of Illinoisans, and arguably in violation of International Law, Treasurer Frerichs renewed \$15 million of Israel Bonds maintaining the State's total holdings at \$100 million as of February 2026. The committee encouraged monthly meetings to send letters and several did.

REEC has coordinated with AFSC to gather Friends from across Chicagoland Meetings to hold Quaker witness events in highly visible public places. We have stood quietly together offering whistles and holding signs that reflect our Quaker values and speak to the present political moment such as “We all belong here,” “No war on Venezuela,” “Immigrants Make our Communities Stronger,” and “Defend our Communities – Abolish ICE.” In January, Friends in 15 different cities across the US held similar public witness events on the same weekend. We hope Friends in other regions of ILYM will consider joining from their locations in future months—next opportunity is March 21-22—and we are eager to provide support to those looking to engage in this or other forms of Quaker public witness.

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Youth Oversight Committee Report

Committee members: Allison Boyaris, Erica Cheng, Michael Dennis (clerk), Jasmine Dennis (Youth Coor), Choz Howard-Mckinney, Rose Johnson, Brad Laird, Daniel Lakemacher, Hannah Laird (HSF co-clerk).

We have had a momentous start to 2026 with the Quake that Rocked the Midwest (QRM) at the Evanston Friends Meetinghouse. Myron Guachella, Rowan (Western Yearly Meeting), Carol Simmons (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), Jordan Snarr, Hannah Lutz (Wilmington Yearly Meeting), Charlotta Koppanyi, Charles Howard, Erica Chang, Michael Dennis, and Jasmine Dennis (ILYM) collaborated to accomplish this event that was attended by 13 teens.

- Jasmine Dennis taught the IYLM teens about using music to manipulate your brain and mood.
- For the out-trip, the teens explored Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum. This is a Native American museum that walks you through different tribes in different geological areas of the

Americas. We saw art and survival skills. We learned how Native Americans adapt and use different things from the environment to build stronger communities.

- Afterwards, we visited Curt's Cafe, a vocational program for homeless, runaway and foster youth. This has become a tradition for a few years in Evanston.
- Carol Simmons walked us through worship sharing after visiting the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum.
- Myron Guachella led us through a workshop on Bolivian religion, customs, and traditions. They learned how to salsa and different music around the world.
- Rowan led a workshop on dungeons and dragons, a spiritual journey.
- Charlotta led an art project to help teens talk about what they wanted to do in the coming years.
- The teens played Wink and several Imposter group games.
- The teens also made out-trips to the YMCA, Chicago sky gate (aka bean), and Chinatown.
- Wrapping up the weekend the teens attended the annual Interfaith Action Evanston Walk for Warmth

At QRM, we discussed future collaborations over the year. This includes the possibility that we will have our fall Quake with the Western Yearly Meeting in Indiana and they will attend QRM in Evanston again in 2027. This is in hopes that we can start inviting other meetings in the midwest area. We are currently discussing the next Fall Quake that they do every year. Our current contact regarding that is Thomas Rockwell from Western Yearly Meeting.

Choz Howard-McKinney and Dale Gardner attended a weekend retreat with Western YM in Indiana.

Previously, we made T-shirts for fundraising events. Just last year, Milo Johnson helped design T-shirts for the 150th Illinois Yearly Meeting. They enjoy making the T-shirts and even some like selling them. However, at the business meeting in Evanston, the ILYM teens decided they are interested in shifting ways to fundraise money more cost effectively. The Wilmington Yearly Meeting teens make and sell soft serve ice cream. The teens are determined to find new fun ways to raise money

The teens are particularly excited about the possible new bunkhouse for the upcoming annual sessions, anxiously awaiting news regarding the bunkhouse and mattresses.

Our next Quake with the Illinois Yearly Meeting teens will be by Lake Bloomington for Spring Blue River Quarterly. There will be archery and swimming available to the teens, along with the intergenerational workshops and activities.

Along with the planning for different fundraising activities for the next annual session, the teens discussed getting together in a larger group for workday on May 2. This is in hopes that they can work on painting the bunk bed frames for the new mattresses in the cabins and new bunkhouse as a group. The teens are clearly in full support of the new bunkhouse and they would like to show appreciation where they can.

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Annual Session Planning Groups

Chicago North, Program:

The theme for the 2026 ILYM Annual Sessions 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 will have guest speakers on Thursday and Saturday nights. Larissa Gil Sanhueza from FCNL will be our speaker on one of those nights, and Alaskan Friends who are working on issues with Native Americans will speak on the other one. Sunday's Plummer Lecture will be given by Bruce Kanarek of Northside Friends Meeting.

We encourage Friends to consider offering workshops. Applications are available through the ILYM website and will be open until April 20. Worship sharing will be held daily as usual, but this year there

will be alternative options each day. For Thursday and Friday that option will be sharing of meeting practices, as was hosted by the Ad Hoc Com on Discerning the Future of ILYM at last year's annual sessions. A Meeting for Healing will be held on Saturday afternoon. We will have an art exhibit in the meetinghouse again this year.

BRQ, Site:

Preparations for Site Prep are underway. Housekeeping responsibilities begin with Annual Sessions as the volunteer sheet gets filled in. Preparations for Clean-up begin as Annual Sessions wind down. Our coordinators for those areas are aware of those tasks.

Site Preparation: The Site Prep coordinators are preparing a call for site prep volunteers that will start appearing in the ILYM announcements in mid-March, as well as an online sign-up for volunteers to keep track of who is coming and how many will be present at each site prep meal. They are also working to find volunteers to fill the newly created A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator position.

Here is the announcement that will go out to recruit volunteers:

Come early and find out what fun it can be to work towards a common cause with a great bunch of people and be a part of transforming 12 acres of land into a most useful site for a few hundred people.

Site Prep takes place on the days before the beginning of Annual Sessions. All ILYM Friends are cordially invited to help get the campus ready before the main event begins. Meals and housing during Site Prep are free, so come and enjoy good comradeship while building up your sweat equity. Site Prep will begin Saturday June 13 and concludes after lunch on Wednesday, June 17 (you can arrive in the evening of Friday, June 12 but food service begins with lunch on Saturday). If you plan to attend, please fill out the online form {link to form} or contact Site Prep Coordinators at: ErinandBarb@gmail.com. Information requested would be your expected days of attendance, your housing plans (tent, cabin, hotel, or Clear Creek House), and any dietary restrictions.

Site Clean-up: On Sunday, June 21, beginning as individuals finish with lunch, please plan to stay an hour or two after lunch and help with clean up. It is an easier job if we each do a part of cleaning up and closing down the site.

Meals During Site Preparation: Our Site Prep chef knows the drill well. They will do the shopping and recruit a volunteer to help with meal preparation during Site Prep and Site Prep volunteers will take care of dishes and keeping the kitchen clean.

Purchasing Coordinator: Our coordinator will do the inventory during workday May 2, and plan to have the supplies purchased and on site prior to site prep. They have a copy of the tax-exempt letter and have registered ILYM at our local Menards. They use our Sam's membership for the bulk of the paper products.

Hotel Reservations: A dozen rooms each with two queen beds have been reserved as a block for the Days Inn in Ogelsby. The fee is \$104/night, the same fee as last year. In addition, ILYM will cover \$30 per night for each booking. Dawn Crimson will deliver the credit card to the hotel at the beginning of sessions so this contribution will be applied to their bill when folks check out.

ILYM guests must make these reservations directly with the hotel and not through third parties. Otherwise, the process is complicated for the hotel and for Dawn and the guests themselves. The direct line for the hotel is (815) 883-9600. The manager of the hotel goes by "P.D." There are a few kinks to work out with the process of on-line registration through the hotel. The Overall Site Prep Coordinator is working with the hotel manager to work those out. Over and will send out detailed instructions as soon as they are ready.

Steve Tamari, Overall Site-Prep Coordinator

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Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future ILYM

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting is in the process of completing its work, which will conclude when it is laid down at this year's annual sessions. For this year, we are repeating many of the initiatives we undertook to encourage Friends to attend last year's annual sessions, which were enumerated in our report to Fall Continuing Committee. We have been considering how some of them may best be continued after our committee is laid down. For that purpose, we have drafted several proposals (below) for adding responsibilities to various planning groups and committees. We ask for feedback on these proposals at Continuing Committee so we can prepare them for possible approval at this year's annual sessions.

- The Program Planning Group will have two additional responsibilities: (1) discerning and scheduling opportunities for spiritual nurturance during Annual Sessions; (2) arranging for an art exhibit to be held during Annual Sessions, and providing information about the exhibit to the Administrative Coordinator for inclusion in ILYM announcements.
- The Site Services Planning Group will have responsibility for securing a block of rooms in a local hotel for use during Annual Sessions, negotiating a discount if possible, communicating information about how to register for those rooms to the Administrative Coordinator, and planning transportation to and from the hotel for those who need it.
- The Publications and Technology Committee will have three additional responsibilities: (1) creating and distributing a poster touting the Annual Sessions at least three months in advance; (2) writing and submitting a news article about Annual Sessions to the local news source; and (3) sending regular email blasts to ILYM members and attenders encouraging them to attend Annual Sessions, starting a few months in advance.

Our other remaining work has involved planning a retreat for clerks of ILYM meetings and representatives to ILYM. That retreat will take place at Clear Creek House on Saturday, March 28. It will give those present the opportunity to share practices from their home meetings, to hear from others about theirs, and to discuss and discover ways in which ILYM might be able to assist its member meetings. Co-Field Secretary Marcia Nelson will direct the event. The keynote speaker will be Robin Mohr, former Executive Secretary of the FWCC Section of the Americas and current Clerk of Green Street Friends Meeting in Philadelphia. With the generous assistance of Clerk Julia Pantoga, our committee has been working toward making this event a success. We hope it will encourage the formation of other such events in future years. If we are to offer this retreat regularly, which committee will take responsibility for handling it?

As the issue of handling the Jocius bequest is part of our committee's charge, we have been considering how that bequest should best be administered in the future. The Finance Committee has also been discussing this matter. We are planning an online meeting of members of both committees for joint discernment in the near future.

There may be aspects of the work of the ad hoc committee that should be continued once it has been laid down other than those mentioned in this report. Friends are welcome to communicate thoughts about this to any member of the committee, either at Continuing Committee or afterward. We will consider those ideas at a future meeting.

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Additional Documents

PRC Sample Letter to Governor Pritzker

Dear Governor Pritzker,

We, the members and attenders of the _____ Meeting of Friends, ask you to issue an executive order protecting tax-exempt organizations from politically motivated targeting by the federal government. The National Security Presidential Memorandum- 7 (NSPM-7), “Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence,” issued on September 25, 2025, allows the administration to investigate and prosecute individuals and organizations believed to be proponents of domestic terrorism and political violence. NSPM-7 authorizes law enforcement measures against US individuals and groups as potential domestic terrorists based on their political or ideological beliefs rather than their actions.

NSPM-7 directs the United States Attorney General and the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, and Homeland Security to “request operational assistance from and coordinate with law enforcement partners,” including those on the state and local level, to identify, target, and investigate “institutional and individual funders, and officers and employees of organizations” who engage in “terrorist acts” including “any behaviors, fact patterns, recurrent motivations, or other indications common to organizations and entities that coordinate these acts...”

These “behaviors” are not well-defined and can include First Amendment-protected speech and activities that are viewed unfavorably by the Trump Administration. NSPM-7 orders Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs), which are FBI-operated partnerships between federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies and state and local law enforcement, to “coordinate and supervise a comprehensive national strategy to investigate, prosecute, and disrupt entities and individuals” whom President Trump views as his political opponents. As Quakers, we believe that the “[l]ove of God and humankind calls us to labor for a just, equitable and peaceful society...working to build and maintain civic institutions which strengthen communities, promote health and safety, and protect the rights and freedoms of all people” (Illinois Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 2020). In this light, we are asking you to protect your constituents from NSPM-7 by issuing an executive order that prohibits voluntary cooperation of state law enforcement agencies in sharing data with JTTFs.

Sincerely,

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No Guns on Campus

In response to Annual Session 2025, Minute 35, Peace Resources findings and recommendations:

- We have investigated the conceal carry law:
 - No Weapons signs are the only legal way we may prevent anyone from bringing a gun on campus.
 - We would have to have the signs at each entrance to every building.
- Putting the No Weapons sign, the pistol in the circle with a slash through it, may bring unwanted attention to our campus. Example: Many No Hunting signs have bullet holes in them.
- At Annual Sessions, some Friends stated they did not want the signs because if someone came bearing a gun; we would have to call the police who would only bring more guns on campus.
- We do not recommend displaying the No Weapons Sign.

- As an alternative, we recommend a simple sign saying, “Enter in Peace” or words to that effect.

Peace Resources has also viewed a few videos concerning what to do in an active shooter event. The videos present a conservative, pro-gun leaning response to an active shooter. If the Continuing Committee wishes us to continue to explore the No Weapon Signage and an active shooter response; PRC would be happy to do so.

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