

Illinois Yearly Meeting

Theme: Living Our Faith

151th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 17-21, 2026

ILYM Campus, McNabb, Illinois

Advance Documents

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In addition to these Advance Documents, there are three red Sessions binders on the front table in the display area for Friends to read which contain the minutes of each business session (added each day), supplementary and late-arriving reports, State of Society reports from the monthly meetings, memorials, and minutes from the Continuing Committee which meets in the Fall and Spring between Annual Sessions. There is also a folder containing Epistles from other yearly meetings. These documents can also be found online in the “Front Table Folders (Additional Documents)” at ilym.org/2026AnnualSessions.

Please consider the reports in this document as preliminary. Changes may be made before approval. Reports as approved will be printed in the Minute Book for these Annual Sessions.

PRESIDING CLERK: Julia Pantoga (Evanston)
 ASSISTANT CLERK: Kevin Brubaker (Northside)
 RECORDING CLERK: Marie White (Northside)
 READING CLERK: Bruce Kanarek (Northside)

Illinois Yearly Meeting

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 Chicago, IL 60637-1622

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**Proposed Agenda for
Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 17 to 21, 2026**

Unity Agenda

A unity agenda may be used to facilitate acceptance of reports that require no corporate action beyond acceptance. A number of yearly meetings—including ILYM in past years—use this format to simplify their deliberations and identify matters that require time to discern.

A unity agenda requires Friends to read and engage with the advance documents containing committee and representative reports before the business session. Reports will not be read aloud during the business session nor time allotted to be read silently during the business session.

Friends with questions are asked to contact those who have submitted reports. A Friend who feels strongly that corporate discernment is required for a report should contact the committee clerk. The committee clerk should then bring the matter to the presiding clerk for potential addition to the annual sessions' agenda.

Items in bold indicate items with approval required.

Sixth Month 17 (WE)

Committee of Care

Harassment Committee

Appoint Epistles and Exercises Committees (p. 5)

Naming Committee

Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting (p. 34)

Sixth Month 18 (TH)

Racial Equity and Education Committee (p. 27)

Nominating Committee, first reading (p. 21)

Treasurers (p. 6)

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Budget (first reading) (p. 12)

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Co-Field Secretaries (p. 9)

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Ministry and Advancement Committee (p. 18)

Sixth Month 19 (FR)

Publications and Technology Committee (p. 25)
Personnel Committee (p. 24)
Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee (p. 17)
FGC Lawsuit
FWCC Representatives (p. 32)
Environmental Concerns (p. 10)
Handbook Committee (p. 15)
AFSC Representatives (p. 28)
Olney Representative (p. 31)
Scattergood Representative (p. 31)

Sixth Month 20 (SA)

Friends Peace Teams Representative (p. 30)
Friends Committee on National Legislation Representatives (p. 29)
Budget (p. 12)
Nominating Committee (p. 21)
Youth Oversight Committee (p. 28)
Children's Religious Education Committee
Quaker Earthcare Witness Representatives (p. 33)

Sixth Month 21 (SU)

Children's Epistles
Illinois Yearly Meeting 2026 Exercises
Illinois Yearly Meeting 2026 Epistle

Upcoming Dates:

Fall Work Day, ILYM Campus, Saturday, October 3, 2026
Fall Continuing Committee, Saturday, October 2025 (location and specific date TBD)
Spring Continuing Committee, Saturday, March 2026 (location and specific date TBD)
2027 Annual Sessions, ILYM Campus, McNabb, IL, June 16-20, 2027.

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Epistle & Exercises Committee Descriptions

Epistle Committee

The Epistle Committee is charged with writing an epistle to all yearly meetings around the world expressing the current joys, concerns, and sentiments of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The epistle is Illinois Yearly Meeting's message about what we feel God is calling us to do. It is our way of telling the rest of the Quaker world about our search. It is NOT a description of what happened at Illinois Yearly Meeting annual sessions; it is a reflection of our spiritual life.

The Epistle Committee shall consist of at least three persons brought forward by the Nominating Committee and approved by the yearly meeting at the beginning of annual sessions. The Reading Clerk (optional) is an *ex officio* member of the committee. One or two Friends may be asked to serve a second year for continuity. Every effort should be made to have a Young Friend or an Adult Young Friend on the committee.

The epistle should be read aloud and approved by the yearly meeting before the end of the annual sessions. The epistle is included in the Minute Book. The Administrative Coordinator forwards it to the Friends World Committee for Consultation to be added to their epistle section and made available to Friends around the world.

[2022, Minute 28, 2022; Fall Continuing Committee, Minute 15; 2024, Minute 35]

Exercises Committee

The Exercises Committee is charged with writing the Exercises, a report which reflects the spirit that prevailed at the annual sessions as well as recounting the principal activities that occurred. The report serves the purpose of making a record of what was said in worship and what exercised the yearly meeting. The report, primarily for Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting, is beneficial as a summary for those not in attendance as well as a historical review of the annual sessions. It includes material that is not generally in the epistle or in the minutes. It is to be included in the Minute Book. [2014, Minute 17] If no volunteers are available, another creative solution for writing the exercises may be brought forward and decided upon. [2021, Minute 24]

Membership: Two or three Friends volunteer on the first or second day of Annual Sessions. One is encouraged to be someone new to the yearly meeting, one a longer-time attendee. Teen Friends or Adult Young Friends are encouraged to be on the committee.

(From the ILYM Handbook, Rev. 01/2025)

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Treasurers Report

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (as of 5/12/2026)

Account	30 Jun 2026		30 Jun 2025
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Checking Account	105,026.96		92,784.08
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restricted Property Impr.	42,270.22		40,481.47
Friends Fiduciary-Unrestricted Designated	610,606.55		610,606.55
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	757,903.73		743,872.10
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	3,652.96		6,659.14
Total Assets	761,556.69		750,531.24
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	42,660.22		12,871.28
Payroll Taxes	0.00		(36.66)
Total Liabilities	42,660.22		12,834.62
Net Assets			
		FY26 Net Income	
Unrestricted Undesignated			
1 General Operating	13,591.01	(46,408.99)	60,000.00
Unrestricted Designated			
2 Unrestricted Reserves	487,536.18	(1,810.05)	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.	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	105,423.24	8,357.96	97,065.28
Total Unrestricted Designated	635,109.42		627,561.51
Temporarily Restricted			
8 Property Impr.	70,196.04	20,060.93	50,135.11
Total Net Assets	718,896.47	(18,800.15)	737,696.62
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	761,556.19		750,531.24

Illinois Yearly Meeting – Income Statement
7/1/2025 to 5/12/2026

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
Income						
Support from Meetings	63,607.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,607.50
Support from Individuals	26,373.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,373.03
Support from Meetings (Restricted PIF)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,500.00	24,500.00
Support from Individuals (Restricted PIF)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,062.90	29,062.90
Interest & Investment Income	9,345.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	609.28	9,954.90
Other Income	1,427.00	88.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,515.75
Gatherings-Retreats						
Annual Sessions Income						
AS Registrations	5,701.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,701.00
Gifts-Sessions	565.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	565.00
Total Annual Sessions Income	6,266.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,266.00
WW Registrations	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total Gatherings-Retreats	6,366.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,366.00
Total Income	107,119.15	88.75	0.00	0.00	54,172.18	161,380.08

Operating Expenses						
1 Personnel & Office						
1A Employee Direct-Indirect Expenses	63,866.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,866.20
1B Staff Travel	7,198.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,198.82
1C Office Expenses	2,370.86	1,898.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,269.66
Total 1 Personnel & Office	73,435.88	1,898.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,334.68
2 YM Travel Support						
ILYM Reps Travel	929.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	929.32
ILYM Committee Travel	1,018.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,018.31
Total 2 YM Travel Support	1,947.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,947.63
3 Site & Property Expenses						
Annual services-Property Taxes	1,927.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,927.95
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,673.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	7,573.10
Repairs & Maintenance	5,331.76	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	5,681.76

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	5 FWCC World Mtgs	6 Maint. Reserve	8 Property Impr.	Total
Site Insurance Expense	13,792.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,792.00
Caretaker Expenses	1,475.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,475.00
Major Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,192.04	0.00	7,192.04
Building Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
Utilities	2,804.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,804.72
Work Weekend	511.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	511.94
Total 3 Site & Property Expenses	32,516.47	0.00	0.00	7,542.04	35,900.00	75,958.51
4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses						
4A Annual Sessions Expenses						
AS Infrastructure Coordination	5,733.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,733.60
Transaction Fees on Registrations	74.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.69
Total 4A Annual Sessions Expenses	5,808.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,808.29
4B Other Gatherings Expenses	2,843.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,843.75
Total 4 Gatherings-Retreats Expenses	8,652.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,652.04
5 Committee Expenses						
Development Committee	462.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	462.45
Publications & Technology Comm	1,380.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,380.77
YO Committee	1,582.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,582.90
Total 5 Committee Expenses	3,426.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,426.12
6 Support to Others	16,650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	136,628.14	1,898.80	0.00	7,542.04	35,900.00	181,968.98
Operating Income	(29,508.99)	(1,810.05)	0.00	(7,542.04)	18,272.18	(20,588.90)
Other Income / (Expense)						
Unrealized Gain/Loss	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,788.75	1,788.75
Transfers						
Transfers - Budgeted						
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	(15,900.00)	0.00	0.00	15,900.00	0.00	0.00
Total Transfers - Budgeted	(16,900.00)	0.00	1,000.00	15,900.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	(46,408.99)	(1,810.05)	1,000.00	8,357.96	20,060.93	(18,800.15)

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Illinois Yearly Meeting – Constituent Meeting Contributions
7/1/2025-5/12/2026

	General	PIF Bnkhs		General	PIF Bnkhs
Blue River Quarterly		1,000.00	Fox Valley	700.00	
Bloomington-Normal	2,320.00		Lake Forest		1,000.00
Clear Creek		10,000.00	Northside	5,800.00	
Columbia	2,000.00	200.00	Oak Park	5,490.00	
Downers Grove	7,000.00	2,000.00	Saint Louis	7,975.00	
Duneland	3,660.00		South Bend	5,510.00	
Evanston	13,272.50		Urbana-Champaign	5,000	
57th Street	4,880.00		Monthly Meetings	63,607.50	24,500.00

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Co-Field Secretaries Report

The Co-Field Secretaries have spent time on longer travels since spring began. We visited St. Louis Friends and Southern Illinois Friends in Carbondale, both locations accessible by train from the Chicago area. We found St. Louis Friends to be growing; the particulars are in their State of Society report. The older building the meeting occupies has had some needed repairs, which makes for a more welcoming first visual impression. This meeting is keenly concerned about urban issues, as is natural given its location and the troubling history of racial issues that burden the city. We sat for worship with 50 Friends and attenders, a notable uptick in attendance. Friends in Carbondale continue to be small but faithful and active. Strong bonds of personal relationship tie Friends together there. For them we urged outreach and intervisitation, as we would all monthly meetings. Friends have a strong and consistent testimony to offer in troubled times.

The benefits of coming together across usual monthly meeting boundaries was joyfully evident at an all-meeting retreat, convened by the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM, which the Co-Field Secretaries helped to facilitate. Morning keynote speaker Robin Mohr invited Friends to think differently—including thinking about merging—and afternoon breakout sessions drew together small groups from different monthly meetings to work on queries. A number of Friends used the word “connection” in briefly summarizing their experience of the day. As small groups, Friends, this is a worthy goal: connect, whether with the Spirit or to one another, in and across meetings.

These sessions are Marcia Nelson’s last dance as Co-Field Secretary. Thank you for the joy and challenge of journeying among and with you. In the interest of meeting the due date for Advance Document, I reserve the right to say a little more at sessions.

Please sign cards for Friends who cannot be with us this year. You will find cards in the display table area.

Marcia Z. Nelson

My morale has been strengthened by the increasing membership in most of the monthly meetings. Friends shine in troubled times. Most meetings have noted an influx of visitors from those who are just curious to visit those peculiar people known as Quakers to those seeking a new spiritual home.

I am also saddened by two meetings that are not well. Rock Valley, which may be laid down during Annual Sessions. And Oshkosh, which is currently not meeting in person due to ill health of its members. Oshkosh is asking us to hold them in the Light, particularly at 4:00 p.m. on First Day. That is their normal meeting time.

The good news is that there is a desire for Friends from other yearly meetings to come together to enjoy fellowship and worship. The Quaker Nexes held last year in Syracuse, Indiana and ILYM Peace Resources Committee's Meeting for Healing for the Future of America are two examples.

I will miss my traveling companion and wise counselor as Marcia Nelson steps down. Good luck Marcia on your next project.

Mark (Nemo) McGinnis

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Stewards Report

Combined with the [Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee report, p.17](#)

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Development Committee Report

Thank you, Friends! Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends responded with generosity last year, giving funds to replace the High School Bunkhouse. Not only did we raise the quantity of money needed, but it came in promptly. Based on the process begun with Minute 36 of the 2025 Annual Sessions, this gave Maintenance and Planning Committee the confidence and means to proceed with the immediate construction and prompt payment for the building, per Minute 7 of Fall 2025 Continuing Committee. Our goal was to have a new, safe, usable teen space this summer, and the results can be seen across the road during Annual Sessions.

Along with working on meeting ILYM's immediate budget needs, one of the important tasks of the Development Committee is to make information about giving methods available to ILYM Friends. This way they can make effective decisions for themselves. There has been information on the ILYM website, under "Supporting ILYM," and also summarized in a short brochure. This information is now four years old, and has only had some minor modifications. We will be addressing, in the coming year, how to make the information a clear, accurate and useful introduction to giving methods and charitable financial planning. The focus will be on simpler yet effective methods of giving to our yearly and monthly meetings, including potential tax advantages. It will also include information on organizations that can provide useful professional help for prospective donors.

Members of the Development Committee welcome your questions and suggestions.

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Environmental Concerns Committee Report

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) has been meeting monthly on the first Tuesday of each month to continue our work and discussions. We present a summary of activities of ECC in 2025-6.

Health of the Sugar Maple Trees (*Acer saccharum*): Last year the leaves on the lower branches of the six maple trees opposite the meetinghouse had turned brown causing considerable concern. A sample was sent to the Illinois Plant Pathology Lab (IPPL) for evaluation. It was determined the trees have anthracnose, a fungal condition often found in trees that are stressed (two years of drought?) but is only an aesthetic disease rather than one that can kill the tree. To benefit the maples, on the May 2 workday, fallen

and trimmed branches were chipped to provide some mulch to the base of the trees. A large branch sample was also collected and sent to the IPPL for evaluation of verticillium disease.

New Trees at Clear Creek House and Pathway: The five trees, service berry, basswood, hackberry and two white oaks are doing well this spring. We hope Clear Creek Meeting enjoyed the bloom of the service berry in April.

Pollinator Garden Review: The pollinator garden was suggested by Judy Reese our former grounds keeper. We prepared the site on October 10 and laid down cardboard and spread mulch across the cardboard on October 16, 2021. Purchased plants were planted on June 12 and July 30, and walking stones were install in October 1, 2022. Additional plants were installed on May 13, 2023. Weeding was done on May 26, 2024. The garden has two Leopold benches along the curved walkway that allow for contemplation and observation of the prairie plants. The garden is hopefully providing habitat, all be it small, for pollinators and other insects. Lawn grass continues to invade from the lawn, so in future we will dig the sod away from the garden to make control easier. Along the perimeter, the prairie dropseed border is filling in and defining the distinct edge of the garden as planned. On work day, the invasive grass was weeded from the garden. We are discussing adding more species to the garden: milkweed, prairie petunia, showy and old field goldenrod among other species. Fariba is going to make plant label signs for the garden once Noel has provided a list.

Faith and Place: Noel will sign up for updates from this ecumenical environmental social action group to learn more about their work. We are not ready to commit to any more interaction due to the small size of our committee.

Annual Sessions Workshop: We plan to hold an environmental poetry reading workshop on Saturday at Annual Sessions. Bring your favorite poem or one you have written to share.

Impacts of War on the Environment: Besides the human cost of war, it also causes great habitat destruction and harm to our environment. What is the environmental impact of modern war? War causes profound, long-lasting environmental damage, including massive greenhouse gas emissions, toxic pollution, habitat destruction, and biodiversity loss. Military activities account for approximately 5.5% of global emissions, with conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war and Gaza bombardment adding hundreds of millions of tons of CO2 equivalent, damaging air, water, and soil quality. Please pray for the end of war and for the non-human life that is traumatized.

Report prepared by the Environmental Concerns Committee

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Finance Committee Report

Review Committee Updates (changes to 25/26 Budget since Continuing Committee)

- \$1,500 CRE Annual Sessions additional expenses (including a story teller and teacher pay)
- \$500 Staff Travel for CRE Coordinator to attend FGC

Prepared Draft, 6/27 Budget

- Personnel Expenses
 - Salaries increased by 2026 COLA +2.8%
 - A new staff person to help coordinate programming across monthly meetings to be requested by Envisioning Committee. In 26/27 - \$5,000 or 1/2 the expected annual expense (if approved and implemented sooner, a request should come to the Review Comm.)
- Site Expenses
 - Insurance Expense has been reduced :)
 - Next year's expected projects should fit in budget projections (increases reflect expected inflation)

- Gatherings/Annual Sessions Expenses
 - Food expense expected to continue to increase
 - Finance agreed to increase caterer labor expense at COLA (unless caterer asks for more)
 - Continue the expected CRE increases to support Annual Sessions program
 - Increase in program to support addition funds for speakers (requested at Continuing Committee)
- Committee Expenses: \$1,500 requested by Personnel Committee for a resource to support their work
- Donations to Others: reach 10% of the Budget
 - Adding Quaker Volunteer Service to our list of organizations that we support
 - Small increase in organizations we have consistently supported
- Projected/requested Income increased to cover expenses

Hybrid Monthly Meeting Treasurer's Workshop planned for Saturday of Annual Sessions (1st Workshop in Feb well attended and appreciated)

Valerie Lester

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Proposed Budget

	Budget FY2027	% Change	Budget FY2026	Actual 5/12/2026	Actual 6/30/2025	Actual 6/30/2024	Actual 6/30/2023
Contributions-Meetings	\$113,325	4%	\$108,850	\$63,608	\$98,183	\$94,375	\$96,293
Gifts-Individuals	\$42,000	0%	\$42,000	\$26,373	\$39,221	\$39,824	\$41,070
Bank & Investment Income	\$16,000	7%	\$15,000	\$9,346	\$16,413	\$10,263	\$10,020
Misc. Income	\$0	0%	\$0	\$1,427	\$691	\$910	\$823
Gatherings-Retreats	\$27,500	10%	\$25,000	\$6,366	\$27,217	\$22,218	\$21,424
Total Revenue	\$198,825	4.2%	\$190,850	\$107,119	\$181,725	\$167,590	\$169,630

1 Personnel & Office	\$86,375	11%	\$77,700	\$73,436	\$68,245	\$66,946	\$58,120
2 YM Travel Support	\$4,000	-27%	\$5,500	\$1,948	\$5,658	\$1,943	\$75
3 Site & Property Expenses							
Annual services-Property Taxes	\$3,000	0%	\$3,000	\$1,928	\$1,999	\$2,385	\$2,586
Mowing, Tree Trimming	\$5,000	11%	\$4,500	\$6,673	\$3,960	\$3,520	\$4,015
Routine Repairs & Maintenance	\$5,000	25%	\$4,000	\$5,844	\$3,594	\$4,114	\$2,354
Urgent Repairs	\$2,000	0%	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,040	\$0	\$2,150
Insurance	\$15,000	-29%	\$21,000	\$13,792	\$25,000	\$16,192	\$14,805
Caretaker Expenses	\$1,300	0%	\$1,300	\$1,475	\$625	\$0	
Utilities	\$3,500	0%	\$3,500	\$2,805	\$2,786	\$1,913	\$2,418
Total Site & Property	\$34,800	-11%	\$39,300	\$32,516	\$39,004	\$28,124	\$28,327

	Budget FY2027	% Change	Budget FY2026	Actual 5/12/2026	Actual 6/30/2025	Actual 6/30/2024	Actual 6/30/2023
4 Gatherings-Retreats							
Annual Sessions Event Expenses (oversight: Admin.Coord.)	\$9,000	0%	\$9,000	\$5,808	\$7,567	\$6,810	\$6,723
Annual Sessions Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Group)	\$11,000	4%	\$10,600	\$0	\$9,691	\$8,661	\$8,572
Annual Sessions Program Aft/Eve (oversight: Planning Group)	\$5,500	10%	\$5,000	\$0	\$1,747	\$4,876	\$2,519
Annual Sessions Children's Program (oversight: CRE Cmte.)	\$4,000	45%	\$2,750	\$0	\$2,848	\$1,588	\$1,926
Annual Sessions Site Prep (oversight: Planning Group)	\$1,750	0%	\$1,750	\$0	\$1,568	\$1,092	\$1,356
Other Gatherings	\$0		\$0	\$2,844	\$588	\$0	\$387
Total Gatherings-Retreats	\$31,250	7%	\$29,100	\$8,652	\$24,009	\$23,027	\$21,483
5 Committee Expenses							
Miscellaneous Committee	\$400	0%	\$400	\$0	\$120	\$95	\$0
Adult Young Friends	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Children's Religious Education	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Development	\$400	0%	\$400	\$462	\$519	\$356	\$262
Environmental Concerns	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Finance	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Handbook	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ministry & Advancement	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nominating	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Peace Resources	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Peace Tax Fund	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel	\$1,500		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$167	\$0
Publications & Technology	\$2,500	0%	\$2,500	\$1,381	\$2,066	\$2,078	\$2,028
Youth Oversight	\$2,400	0%	\$2,400	\$1,583	\$1,032	\$2,114	\$1,380
Total Committee Expenses	\$7,200	26%	\$5,700	\$3,426	\$3,737	\$4,810	\$3,669
6 Support to Others							
Quaker organizations that support the Yearly Meeting							
Friends General Conference (FGC)	\$5,600	4%	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,000	\$4,400	\$4,400

	Budget FY2027	% Change	Budget FY2026	Actual 5/12/2026	Actual 6/30/2025	Actual 6/30/2024	Actual 6/30/2023
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	\$5,600	4%	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$5,000	\$3,850	\$3,850
Quaker Organizations that Nurture ILYM Friends							
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	\$325	18%	\$275	\$275	\$250	\$100	\$100
Friends Journal	\$325	18%	\$275	\$275	\$250	\$250	\$250
Regional Quaker educational institutions							
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	\$375	15%	\$325	\$325	\$300	\$350	\$350
Scattergood Friends School and Farm	\$375	15%	\$325	\$325	\$300	\$250	\$250
Earlham College	\$375	15%	\$325	\$325	\$300	\$250	\$250
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	\$375	15%	\$325	\$325	\$300	\$125	\$125
Olney Friends School	\$375	15%	\$325	\$325	\$300	\$125	\$125
Quaker Organizations that Support our Testimonies							
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	\$575	10%	\$525	\$525	\$500	\$500	\$500
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	\$575	10%	\$525	\$525	\$500	\$500	\$500
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	\$425	13%	\$375	\$375	\$350	\$350	\$350
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	\$575	10%	\$525	\$525	\$500	\$300	\$300
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	\$425	13%	\$375	\$375	\$350	\$350	\$350
Project Lakota/Ville	\$425	13%	\$375	\$375	\$350	\$250	\$250
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	\$425	0%	\$375	\$375	\$350	\$100	\$100
Quaker Volunteer Service	\$425						
Support to Organizations that Support the Work of our Committees							
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	\$100	0%	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
NABS Healing Coalition	\$100		\$100	\$100			
Chi-Nations Youth Council	\$425		\$400	\$400			
CAARPR		0%			\$500	\$500	\$500
Total Support to Others	\$18,200	9%	\$16,650	\$16,650	\$15,500	\$12,650	\$12,650
Total Expenses	\$181,825	5%	\$173,950	\$136,628	\$156,153	\$137,500	\$124,325
To Maintenance Reserve	\$16,000	1%	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$15,850	\$15,850	\$15,850
To FWCC World Meetings	\$1,000	0%	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Increase in Payroll Reserve				\$1,175	\$1,050	\$1,175	

	Budget FY2027	% Change	Budget FY2026	Actual 5/12/2026	Actual 6/30/2025	Actual 6/30/2024	Actual 6/30/2023
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Reserves					\$8,722	\$13,241	\$28,455
Total Budgeted Transfers	\$17,000	1%	\$16,900	\$18,075	\$26,622	\$31,266	\$45,305
	\$198,825	4.2%	\$190,850	\$154,703	\$182,775	\$168,765	\$169,630
	\$0		\$0	(\$46,409)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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Handbook Committee Report

Change the Minute Book description to say

The Minute Book is published annually and includes the minutes of the Annual Sessions as well as documents useful for the work of the yearly meeting.

The following descriptions, the Youth Coordinator (updated) and the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator have been developed by the committees of oversight for these positions along with the Personnel Committee. The Handbook Committee is recommending that we put them in the Handbook.

Youth Coordinator (7-29-22)

Committee-with-Oversight: Youth Oversight Committee

Supervisor: Clerk of Youth Oversight

Last Revised: 7/29/22

Purpose. The Youth Coordinator (YC) provides programs and to coordinate activities for High School Friends (HSF) from Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM), including a) leading retreats, b) helping them to find/participate in new experiences related to spiritual development, service, and leadership, and c) recognize the need for and refer to appropriate pastoral or professional care. The YC will also act as a liaison with the Junior High School friends (JHSF) and Adult Young Friends (AYF) to help teens through the transitions and stay involved in the ILYM community.

Qualifications.

- Active in the Society of Friends (Illinois Yearly Meeting preferred but not required), called to youth ministry, and knowledgeable about the Bible and Friends testimonies, business procedures and writings.
- Attuned to Friends’ social concerns and also to problems and concerns of today’s teens.
- Proven ability to interact effectively with teens and to share religious faith and Friends’ convictions.
- Experience with both major Friends’ traditions and understanding of religious diversity among Friends.
- Able to work cooperatively and to encourage local development of youth activities.
- Able to manage program planning details and to operate within a budget.
- Specific training or experience on youth development, programs, or education preferred
- Computer literate and preferably familiar with e-mail, social networks (like facebook, instagram, twitter, snapchat), and webgroups (like yahoo or google)
- Must have access to a car, valid driver’s license and be available for weekend travel and be able to accept overnight hospitality.
- Must pass a background check and maintain Mandated Reporter certification.
- Recommend Quaker Clerking, Physical and Mental Health First Aid courses completion in the first 6 months

Responsibilities.

- Work with the Youth Oversight (YO) committee and individual meetings to organize and publicize HSF activities at Yearly Meeting levels.
- Work with the Youth Oversight committee, monthly meetings, and High School Friends clerks/members to organize, publicize, and execute events. Events include three weekend-long retreats for High School Friends (one in each fall, winter, and spring) and a five-day-long event at ILYM Annual Sessions in June.
- Work with committees to coordinate junior high friends and adult young Friends transitional activities
- Work with monthly meetings, ILYM committees and other groups to seek help with the above in order to provide self with breaks while at all quakes and multi-day activities
- Encourage youth participation in wider Friends youth activities (Quakes, Other yearly Meetings, FGC, FUM, work camps, service projects, etc).
- Act as a youth resource to monthly and quarterly meetings of IYM
- Assist in the spiritual nurture of HSF in ILYM, drawing on additional resources from YO and the Ministry and Advancement Committee as necessary.
- Track and submit hourly timesheets and activity reports to YO clerk twice a month and work with YO to submit 3 summary reports to ILYM for Fall Continuing Committee, Spring Continuing Committee, and Annual Session.
- Become familiar with Policy Manual. Submit self-evaluation after 3 months and yearly thereafter at the beginning of February, then participate in performance evaluation later in February.
- Travel as necessary

Evaluation. Reports to and is evaluated by YO Clerk in consultation with YO (including HSF clerk & recording clerk). It is also recommended that applicants have a local clearness committee in their own meeting to support their decision to apply and continue in this position.

Pay And Budget. Salary is based on 500 to 700 hours per year (with cost of living increases in subsequent years),paid in 24 installments of 2 times per month. ILYM will pay taxes, an additional \$500 in travel (based on mileage) and subsidize (beyond registration fees) another \$2,500 for other expenses related to youth programs.

Estimated Hours/Tasks

- 50% Plan/Attend Teen events
- 30% Communications
- 10% Reports/Committee Meetings
- 10% Other

Children’s Religious Education Coordinator

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

Responsibilities

- Provide a Quaker-focused, safe, fun, inclusive, and enriching environment for all children attending Illinois Yearly Meeting events including Annual Sessions and up to 3 additional week-end programs per year.
- Plan and implement children’s religious education programs in collaboration with the Children’s Religious Education Committee.
- Manage program details including activities, hours, expenses, safety protocols, educational resources, responsibilities and roles of volunteers and/or program staff.
- Secure all resources needed prior to Illinois Yearly Meeting events for children including snacks, play equipment, educational resources, volunteers and/or event staff.
- Serve as lead for all in-person children’s activities and programming.

- In collaboration with Children’s Religious Education Committee, create relationships with monthly meetings to identify Friends who have gifts to share in working with the children.
- Attend Children’s Religious Education virtual committee meetings, participate in their efforts of engagement with member meetings and the larger Quaker world.
- Track and report hours worked and submit expense receipts to the Illinois Yearly Meeting Treasurer.
- Submit quarterly reports to the Children’s Religious Education Committee.
- Read and follow expectations outlined in the Illinois Yearly Meeting Employee Manual including those for ongoing training.

Qualifications

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

Compensation

Assumed 500 hours per year with payment of equal amounts spread throughout the year.

Social Security/Medicare withholding. Worker’s Compensation.

Reimbursement for all necessary travel.

Professional development allowance for relevant training or experience.

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Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee & Stewards Report

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. We have formally met twice so far this year and organized two workdays.

Spring Workday: Was held on Saturday May 2, with about 25 persons helping out. We trimmed trees; made mulch for the lawn sugar maples; repainted the bathhouse showers and meetinghouse exterior ramp and installed the handrail at the interior ramp; fixed a sign and raccoon holes at the meetinghouse; installed window air-conditioners at Clear Creek House; threw out our old mattresses and distributed our new ones, and repainted some bunkbeds; and enjoyed chili and each other’s company at a long lunch.

Fall Workday: Will be held on October 3. Please mark your calendars and join us. If you have ideas about a short after lunch program please let us know.

Insurance: Our property and workers comp insurance came up for renewal in early April. Chip Rorem and Dawn Crimson found us a new broker and policy that reduced our annual insurance costs from about \$48,000 to around \$16,000 for the coming year.

Maintenance Items: As noted, and with Val Lester’s assistance, we purchased 68 new mattresses (48 for cabins, 4 for Penn House, 16 for bunkhouse). They are foam with a nylon cover and should be more easily cleanable. The total cost delivered was \$7,192. We hired a dumpster to dispose of the old

mattresses. The cost for that was about \$450. The High School Friends will be refurbishing and repainting all of the metal bunkbeds at cabins and bunkhouse as a service project over the next year or so. We are in the process of repairing some wind damage at the Clear Creek House garage, and have some small and larger holes made by animals, some quite high up on the meetinghouse, that will be repaired.

Future Projects and Maintenance: Next year we plan for a lighter year than this one, and hope to do some work at the meetinghouse including hiring someone to tighten up the trusses in the attic, and to possibly strengthen the ceiling to replace the four fan/lights with larger fans that move more air, and perhaps some painting and window repairs. Some of the cabins need their steps replaced, and the wood screen doors are always a repair problem looking for a better solution. We feel that the barn is quickly deteriorating and would like to see if we can find someone willing to take it down and away for the value of its lumber.

New Bunkhouse: Construction began on April 30 and the concrete foundation and slab have been poured, and framing of the building has begun as of May 3. Dean Tieman, our contractor, assures us that the building should be complete by early June, in time for us to use for Annual Sessions. We will start with four sets of bunks at each of the two bunkrooms (they can each ultimately accommodate six sets). It will be about 16'x 48' 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. The ceiling in the building rises to the peak and the bunkrooms at each end are separated with a partition from a common space at the middle that is lit and vented from raised dormers above. The building will cost about \$90,000 not including re-seeding the disturbed areas, any new furnishings, or demolition of the existing bunkhouse. We are investigating a contractor to demolish and remove the old building sometime after Annual Sessions in summer/fall and hope to have more information about this to present at Annual Sessions. 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.

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

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Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

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 as 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

Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Mark McGinnis as Field Secretary for 3 years.

At the Spring Continuing Committee Meeting, M&A with the support of Personnel Committee requested that the hours for the Field Secretary position be increased to 900. There is an increased need for visits to meetings beyond a single time each year. The Field Secretary needs to visit a number of times to build a relationship that allows for continuing mutual work via phone calls and email. Extra visits are especially important when there is a change in the clerk. A small meeting or worship group gains support from multiple visits by the Field Secretary. COVID harmed meetings, and we are still seeing the impact of this. The push for more time in-person with monthly meetings and worship groups is seen as a means to strengthen meetings and to establish relationships that foster effective working together when problems do arise. Spring Continuing Committee indicated it did not need to come to the Meeting for Business at Annual Sessions.

The Handbook and previous minutes indicate that increases of Field Secretary hours do not need to come to Meeting for Business for approval. At the ILYM 2026 Annual Sessions, we ask that the following statement be added to the Handbook to clarify this:

The annual hours of the Field Secretary can be modified upon the discernment of the Ministry and Advancement Committee and the Personnel Committee. Ministry and Advancement will report any changes to Annual Sessions.

Program Coordinator Position

At the suggestion of the Ad hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM, Ministry and Advancement Committee recommends that ILYM create a Program Coordinator position. This Friend would innovate and coordinate ongoing programs and initiatives for the yearly meeting, such as Quaker 101/102 classes, book discussions, Bible study groups, meetings of clerks and/or treasurers, and workshops. They would provide regular dissemination of information (beyond the Administrative Coordinator’s announcements emails), They would work on other ways for community interaction, such as listserv(s) to discuss issues, online resources for addressing meeting issues, and developing in-person opportunities between annual sessions. They would encourage ILYM officers and committees to offer workshops, worship opportunities, or other types of gatherings. They would be in regular communication with monthly meetings and worship groups about planned activities. They would not be required to travel, and their work would be spread throughout the year. This position is for 400 hours per year. M&A will oversee the position, as it does the Field Secretary.

Programming Coordinator Job Description

Purpose: The Programming Coordinator assists Illinois Yearly Meeting by sourcing, coordinating, and actively promoting programming geared to the needs of its meetings and worship groups. An overarching goal of this position is to encourage inter-meeting connections; therefore, offerings should serve a cross section of the ILYM community.

Oversight: ILYM Ministry and Advancement committee

The Programming Coordinator's service is under the oversight of the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The coordinator is supervised by the Clerk of Ministry and Advancement, who provides an annual evaluation of the Program Coordinator in consultation with the committee. To be effective, the coordinator is expected to seek counsel from individual members of Ministry and Advancement, from the Field Secretary(s), and from ILYM meetings' and worship groups' clerks and representatives.

Qualifications:

- Evidence of active engagement in the ILYM community.
- Experience in providing on-line, in-person, and hybrid events.
- Knowledge of Quaker heritage, practices and processes, the Bible and Quaker writings.
- Knowledge of the resources and organizations in the wider Quaker world that can support their offerings.
- Creative communication approaches that will engage the diverse ILYM community members, both on-line and in-person, utilizing social media and traditional vehicles.
- Ability to proactively encourage participation in their offerings.

Responsibilities: The Programming Coordinator is an employee of ILYM. Their offerings will seek to address the expressed needs and requests of meetings and worship groups, and Ministry and Advancement Committee's discernment of priorities. Their individual skills, leadings, and personal style will inform their work. They are not expected to deliver all the programming which they initiate, but to manage those programs.

Responsibilities are as follows:

- Initiate, provide, and oversee online, in-person, and hybrid educational and spiritual programming that contributes to the sustainability of the ILYM community. The Programming Coordinator is expected to discern and offer programs that will feed the community's thirst and hunger. The following possibilities for such programs are not intended to be regarded as prescriptive; rather, detail is given in order to show the breadth of opportunities: Quakerism 101 and 102, Bible study groups, book discussion groups, clerking techniques, supporting aging Friends, childcare management, Quaker processes, Meeting for Healing, introduction to ILYM *Faith and Practice*, dealing with confrontation, etc. The Program Coordinator may also be led to offer programs for groups with similar functions, such as clerks, treasurers, and ILYM representatives; and to cohort groups, such as men, women, high schoolers, and Adult Young Friends. In addition, the Coordinator might be led to offer a one-off program spontaneously, in reaction to an external event.
- Develop and maintain an ILYM listserv.
- Develop and publish an ILYM programming calendar.
- Coordinate World Quaker Day activities within ILYM.
- Provide Ministry and Advancement Committee with a written report of hours spent each month, specifically detailing their activities.
- Provide a written report of their work to Continuing Committee's fall and spring sessions and Annual Sessions.
- Develop their programming budget and submit that budget request to the Finance Committee so to be including in the proposed budget for approval during Annual Sessions.

Compensation: The Program Coordinator is compensated up to 400 hours yearly, allocated as required. Travel expenses are reimbursed.

Harassment Review Committee

In all we do as Friends we value each individual. Sometimes, we need to remind each other of our needs regarding their behavior. If you feel harassed by the comments or behavior of another person at an ILYM function, and you feel able, you can tell that person clearly that you find their behavior objectionable and ask them to stop it. If a direct approach is not feasible for any reason, you can lift your concern to the Harassment Review Committee of ILYM.

The Harassment Review Committee will listen separately to the person who was harassed or abused and the person whose behavior was deemed objectionable. The charge of the Harassment Review Committee is to offer support to those whose personal boundaries have been violated, whether those boundaries are physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual; and to determine appropriate remediation and/or intervention. As offenses may vary in severity, so too will responses. Quakers have tools for addressing conflict and the harassment review committee may use: queries, a clearness process, a support process, holding in light, restorative work, development of agreements regarding behavioral boundaries, and including bans from in-person meetings. Consequences are intended to be affirmations of accountability to the person who was harmed as well as to the integrity of the yearly meeting community.

Except required reporting of the sexual abuse of minors to legal authorities, the proceedings of the Harassment Review Committee will be held in confidence for the purposes of safety and respect. While difficult in small communities, confidentiality is intended to ensure the dignity of all involved.

Rock Valley Meeting

Page 135-6 of the Illinois Yearly Meeting 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 recommends the meeting be laid down. Ministry and Advancement committee will assist members in transferring their membership to another meeting

Thanking those who have served

Ministry and Advancement Committee thanks Marcia Nelson for her faithful service as Co-Field Secretary for the last 3 years. Her leading to become a field secretary was rightly ordered and her gifts served the committee and yearly meeting well.

I as clerk of the committee thank Steve Tamari and Erin Taylor for their service on the committee. They each brought gifts that were needed in our work.

Janice Domanik

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Nominating Committee Report

Appointments *(names in bold are new appointments)*

Appointments for 2027 start at the rise of 2026 sessions, terms end at the rise of the sessions listed

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

Assistant Clerk: Kevin Brubaker (assists 2026); _____ (assists 2027, clerks 2028, 2029, assists 2030)

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

Assistant Recording Clerk: Peter Lasersohn (assists 2026); _____ (assists 2027, clerks 2028, 2029, assists 2030)

Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek (2027) (3 year term)

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

Stewards (3-5): Grayce Haworth Mesner (2026), Beth Carpenter (2027), Chip Rorem (2027), Chris Goode (2028), **Grayce Haworth Mesner**, (2029), _____ (2029)

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

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

2026 Epistle Committee: _____, _____, _____

Standing Committees:

Children's Religious Education,

Clerk: _____

2026: Bobbi Trist

2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin

2028: Katherine Young, Anna Watson

2029: **Bobbi Trist, Lindsay Rabbi**

ex-officio: CRE Coordinator

Development, Clerk: **Cathy Garra**

2026: Alex Lippitt

2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepney

2028: Frank Young, Kent Busse

2029: **Jasmine Dennis, Brandon Harrington**

Environmental Concerns, Clerk: Noel Pavlovic

2026: David Wixom, Nancy Halliday

2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba Murray,

Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann

2028:

2029: **Chip Rorem, David Wixom**

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,

Clerk: Chris Goode

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

2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen

2028: Mark Robinson, Christina Schulz. Liam Gardner

2029: **Diane Clark-Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic**

Ex Officio: All Stewards

Ministry & Advancement, Clerk: _____

2026: Janice Domanik, Erin Taylor

2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom

2028: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert

2029: _____, _____

ex officio: Field Secretaries

Peace Resources, Clerk: Mark Masi

2026: Sarz Maxwell, Barry Feldman

2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi

2028: Janet Fair

2029: **Gwen Weaver**

Personnel, Clerk: Colleen Reardon

2026: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth, Colleen Reardon

2028:

2029: **Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth**

ex-officio: clerks of Youth Oversight, Finance,

Children's RE, Publications and Technology,

MP&E, M&A

Publications & Technology, Clerk: _____

2026: Dawn Crimson, Lilith Swygert (tech)

2027: Nathan Lasersohn

2029: **Ted Kuhn, Lilith Swygert (tech)**

ex-officio: AdminCoor, *Among Friends* Editor

Racial Equity and Education, Clerk: _____
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: **Charles Howard-McKinny**

Appointments to Wider Quaker & Other Organizations:

AFSC
2026: Mike Dennis, Nora Vera-Godwin
2027: Frank Young, Beth Burbank
2029: **Mike Dennis, Fariba Murray**

FCNL
2026: Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner
2027: Kevin Brubaker
2028: Fariba Murray
2029: **Garnet Fay, David Wixom, Dale Gardner**

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Faith & Practice

2029: **Marcia Nelson, Erin Taylor, Kevin Brubaker, Bridget Rorem, Janet Fair**

FGC Central Committee
2028:
2029: **Kevin Brubaker**

FLGBTQC
2026: Jad Tamari
2028: Brandon Harrington

Friends Peace Team
2026: Andrea Kintree
2029: _____

Friends School Liaisons:
Olney
2028: Grayce Haworth Mesner

Scattergood
2028: Alex Lippitt

Chicago Friends School
2028: Mary Ellen Isaacs

FWCC
2026: David Shiner, Pam Kuhn, Bobbi Trist
2028: Julia Pantoga
2029: **David Shiner, Alex Lippitt**

QEW
2026: Sarah Pavlovic
2028: Chip Rorem
2029: **Sarah Pavlovic**

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Peace Resources Committee Report

This report summarizes the accomplishments, challenges, and future goals of PRC

Committee Purpose: Our committee meets monthly to discuss how we can serve as a resource to build peace within our lives as Quakers, at our Monthly Meetings, and in the wider world.

Accomplishments this year

- - Healing for the Future of America: We continue to facilitate monthly Meetings for Healing of the USA at the Downers Grove Friends virtual meetinghouse on the second Monday of every month. These Meetings bring together Friends from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and New Jersey in waiting worship and shared intentions for healing our country and its leaders.
- - Friends Weekly Call to Action: We publish a weekly guide sent to ILYM Clerks and subscribers. This publication provides practical education on peacefully protesting inequality, discrimination, and the oppression of marginalized groups.

- - Advocacy and Correspondence: In collaboration with the Downers Grove Peace and Environment & Social Concerns Committee, we drafted a letter to Governor Pritzker regarding NSPR-7 and the protection of Illinois residents' data. This letter was approved and sent by several Meetings, with others requesting templates for their own use.
- - Safety Discernment: The ILYM McNabb Campus is committed to providing a safe environment for Friends to gather for worship, business, workshops, and retreats. In the midst of a culture of violence, we are called to be a place of peace. While we seek to balance the rights of everyone who visits the property, we must also ensure safety for all.

It is our recommendation that a No Firearms Policy be adopted and that some form of signage be placed on the property. In order to legally enforce the policy, Illinois law requires that a specific sign (a gun under a red circle with a red slash) be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of a building, premises, or real property. The committee further recommends that the Meeting decide on one of the following options:

- - Posting Illinois' specific sign at the required areas.
- - Posting a sign at the entrance of the building that says “Enter in Peace.”
- - Posting signs on the property that say “No Firearms Allowed” near signs that indicate other prohibitions, such as “No Fishing.”

Future Goals

- - Conscientious Objector Training: We plan to host an online training session to address the upcoming automatic selective service registration for men ages 18 to 25 starting in December 2026. The training will cover the distinctions between registration and the draft, and how to begin document preparations for Conscientious Objection claims if a draft is activated by Congress.
- - Building Solidarity: We aim to strengthen connections between Meetings and encourage local peace committees to utilize the PRC as a resource for their actions.
- - Ongoing Assessment: We will continue to assess threats to peace both domestically and globally, seeking non-violent ways for Quakers to respond as peacemakers.

Mark Philip Masi, Committee Clerk

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Personnel Committee Report

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 our next committee meeting in Fall 2026.

Earlier this year, the Personnel Committee made the decision to move staff performance reviews 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 occurs during Annual Sessions. To facilitate these reviews, the Personnel Committee will send an email within two weeks after Annual Sessions 2026 requesting feedback or suggestions from the broader ILYM community to those committees who supervise staff. Evaluations will then be completed by the supervising committee in early fall.

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. We prioritize remaining in compliance. We

determined that the best way to do this is to seek a consultant who works in the HR field and is knowledgeable about small non-profit organizations and who could apprise us of changes and recommendations for addressing these changes. Personnel Committee recently identified someone who has this background and expertise and sent a request to Finance Committee and Treasurers that \$1,500 be allocated in the budget for the coming year for this purpose.

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Publications and Technology Committee Report

Publications

2025 Minute Books, Plummer Lectures, Meeting Directories, and 2026 Annual Sessions documents were published on schedule.

Among Friends: from the ILYM Handbook,

Among Friends is the official publication of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It has been published electronically on the website and print versions mailed to all monthly meetings for distribution to members and attenders. Its purpose is to facilitate communication among all members and attenders of Illinois Yearly Meeting and to maintain our connections with one another throughout the year. Contents have included reports about monthly meeting programs and events, communications from yearly meeting committees, information about Annual Sessions, and reflective pieces written by individuals. The editor serves ex-officio on the Publications and Technology Committee.

At the Spring 2026 Continuing Committee, Peter Lasersohn was named the editor of this publication. *Among Friends* was published twice a year. It has been produced and distributed in various ways over the years ranging from a 20+ page black and white version, to a full-color 6 page version, to a posting as pages on the website. For print versions, depending on the size and distribution, the cost could be between \$850 to \$1,000 per issue or \$1,700 to \$2,000 per year. The committee's annual budget no longer includes funding for *Among Friends* since publication paused after 2019, the budget having declined from \$6,000 to \$2,500 over the past nine years. Once publication resumes, Publications & Technology will need to request funding via the financial Review Committee and then request an increase in its subsequent annual budgets.

In summer and fall 2026, Publications and Technology Committee will evaluate the reprise of *Among Friends*:

- Articulate the objectives of the publication: in addition to the Handbook description, celebrate Friends, share Friends' art, etc.
- Identify the format best suited to these objectives: paper distribution, electronic distribution, hybrid, color, black & white, frequency of publication, etc.
- Develop a reliable means of obtaining regular submissions and content for each issue.
- Determine the appropriate ways to distribute the publication: to Meetings, to individuals, email, online posting, etc.
- Provide the Finance Committee with the anticipated costs of producing the magazine.

Among Friends submissions are actively being sought by editor Peter Lasersohn.

ILYM Faith and Practice: A new print run is now available for purchase and distribution. Send requests to Wil Brant and/or let him know if you plan to buy a supply at annual sessions.

A reminder of current milestones for other committees in reviewing Faith and Practice of ILYM to enable the Publications and Technology Committee publication of a decennial edition in 2030:

- 2026 Annual Sessions, appoint committee members of an ad-hoc committee for review and revision, after reviewing and gathering thoughts on potential revisions spring 2026
- Summer 2026-Spring 2027, review and gather thoughts on potential changes, consider sponsoring a workshop at the 2027 Annual Sessions

Sessions and Registration Materials: the ad hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM recommended that Publications and Technology carry forward ideas for promoting Annual Sessions. While these recommendations eventually may best be assigned to the Administrative Coordinator, Publications and Technology will discuss them in 2026-2027.

- A promotional flyer – has the same image and format as the postcard that is mailed out to individuals for announcing sessions
- Multiple additional announcements in the weeks leading up to Annual Sessions, for Monthly Meeting liaisons to use for promoting participation
- Submissions about Annual Sessions to news sources local to McNabb – though yearly meeting is a fee-based Quaker community event for Friends to enhance spiritual development, perhaps local residents could be invited to some public session, or there could be a paid calendar listing for our event
- Sessions Q&A document - a document to supplement or highlight information presented in the print and website promotional and informational materials

Technology

The fall 2025 report of Publications and Technology to Continuing Committee emphasized the ongoing evolution of hybrid electronic access to Annual Sessions. Equipment setup, operation, real time support, and breakdown have now been documented with written guides and can be managed given sufficient volunteers. Publications and Technology will continue reviewing whether hybrid Sessions are adequately managed with the current structure, and if not, seek to propose other options that would allow for proper facilitation.

At these 2026 Annual Sessions, a few workshops are offered in a hybrid format, with an understanding that it is experimental and the resulting experience will inform planning next year. Additionally, two new sessions Coordinator roles were included in the Annual Sessions Planning documents for 2026:

- A coordinator to find volunteers to set up and break down / pack up the A/V equipment
- A coordinator to find volunteers to staff the A/V table for each hybrid session and for serving as Zoom host for hybrid workshop sessions

The Administrative Coordinator's committee of support and oversight is clerked by the Clerk of Publications and Technology. Technology is adeptly utilized by our Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant, to provide a communications nexus for ILYM, including the ilym.org domain, web hosting of its content, electronic mailing lists, electronic databases of meetings and individuals, electronic registration forms, online videos, and Zoom meetings, in addition to finding online vendors for paper publications and mailings.

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

Oversight Support for the Administrative Coordinator: The Administrative Coordinator job description in the ILYM Handbook needs to be updated for the 21st century evolution of communications technology and internet-based applications for web hosting, video meetings, registration forms, database management, vendor ordering, etc. Updating this job description will heighten the technical qualifications for a future Administrative Coordinator, potentially making it difficult to find qualified candidates, but there is no going back to the days of coordinating ILYM administration exclusively on paper.

Items requested to be explicitly minuted in the 2026 business session:

- Announce the current Faith and Practice revision milestones (assigned to other committees) enabling potential publication by this committee in 2030.
- Request submissions for *Among Friends* to be sent to Peter Lasersohn.
- Request feedback from Annual Sessions participants about their experience of the processes for hybrid remote/local sessions and workshops, to be included in their Annual Sessions survey response.
- Emphasize that hybrid remote/local Annual Sessions can only be produced by filling 3-4 concurrent volunteer slots at every hybrid session; Friends are asked to volunteer, and also discern ILYM's leading to provide this service and its capacity for managing it. Comments may be provided on the survey forms.

Dawn Crimson, clerk

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Racial Equity and Education Committee Report

After bringing multiple items for discernment and approval at the last Annual Sessions, the Racial Equity & Education Committee (REEC) has deepened our connections for living out the commitments made by the Yearly Meeting, and we invite Friends to join us in this work in the year ahead. Committee members are regularly participating with Friends Peace Teams in their Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples efforts. We have also sought counsel from Indigenous folks and Quakers from the Alaska Friends Conference (AFC). AFC has done significant healing and repair within the Alaska Natives community, and it is from our relationship with Friends in Alaska that we collaborated with the Planning Committee to bring Cathy Walling to our Annual Sessions. We share these details not for the sake of play-by-play reporting, but to demonstrate that we are rooting our efforts in collaboration with others and through the often slow and unseen labor of building trust in relationships, both within ILYM and with external partners. On the 15th day of all even-numbered months, we are now focusing our longstanding Anti-Racism Cafe Zoom series on Indigenous concerns, and more ILYM Friends are getting involved through these meetings.

Please see our 2026 Spring Continuing Committee report for more detail about our ongoing involvement in divesting public funds from companies and countries that profit from apartheid, genocide, and crimes against humanity. In coordination with AFSC's Love as Action initiative, REEC has also supported ILYM Friends in participating in and hosting Quaker public witness events in Champaign, St. Louis, and Chicago.

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Youth Oversight Committee Report

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

The teens spent Spring Quake by Lake Bloomington with Blue River Quarterly. The workshop was in regard to community building skills. They discussed the events of the Quake in Evanston Illinois in the winter. Meeting new teens who have the same belief systems is something they do not experience often outside of they ILYM group. The teens discussed meeting with more Quaker teens in the future and possibly traveling to Western Yearly Meeting in November. In the Spring Quake, the teens had many conversations in regards to community building for annual sessions. Since they have a somewhat small and close-knit group, they are very focused on how to work well together and come to a greater understanding for the future of the high school group. This community building ideology will build a stronger group for ILYM. This will help meshing with other groups in November.

During the teen's time at Blue River Quarterly, they had a business meeting pertaining to workshops for the upcoming Quake in June. They are interested in a group of social justice issues. They are planning to do a few workshops surrounding themes of community service and growth in social justice. Workshops include but are not limited to; generative AI and the effects on the job market, overall climate change, and possibly a service project for Project Oz.

They feel that it is important to discuss the future of AI regarding how they will be impacted in the workforce. We will discuss ways to use AI responsibly and stay educated on what effects generative AI might have on our near future. Furthermore, they are concerned about climate change regarding AI, large corporations, burning fossil fuels, transportation, and agriculture. Going the extra steps to stay educated on what we can do as consumers to slow the effects of climate change interests them. Lastly, a few years ago they did a service project for Project Oz. This involved the teens packing backpacks full of hygienic items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hair brushes, granola bars, etc. Project Oz is a non-profit organization in Bloomington, Illinois dedicated to supporting at-risk youth and ending youth homelessness. Further information on Project OZ is at projectoz.org. Please feel free to bring any of the above items you wish to donate.

The teens are very excited for annual sessions and would like to thank everyone for the new bunkhouse. They are very happy and excited to set it all up.

AFSC Representatives Report

This is a quote from the 2026 AFSC EPISTLE:

“Perhaps now more than ever, the world needs the action and witness of Quakers to resist the rising tides of authoritarianism, war and injustice—from the systematic atrocities in Palestine to the unconscionable war on Iran, the machinery of armed conflict—fueled by corporations who profit from war—is claiming countless lives and shattering communities before our eyes. Communities who suffer from the impacts of settler-colonialism, racism, misogyny, xenophobia and unimpeded capitalism are calling upon Friends to act in solidarity for peace, justice and dignity for all. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is answering that call with urgency.”

AFSC is focused on three strategic program areas, Just and Sustainable Peace, Just Economies and Just Responses to Forced Displacement and Migration. This past Fiscal Year 2025-2026 has been one of transition for US programs, as much of our work shifted to respond to the numerous alarming and continually evolving threats in authoritarian, illegal and immoral actions taken by the current administration, which threatened and actually caused harm to the many directly impacted communities with which we work. As a result, our staff mobilized communities in new and innovative ways.

Migration work has been significantly scaled up through emergency funding, policy advocacy, the Know Your Rights campaign, legal accompaniment and legal convening. Alongside humanitarian and legal support, AFSC has challenged the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) actions that dehumanize migrants, increase detention, deportation and fear. AFSC worked with migrants deported from the US to South America and the Caribbean region by providing humanitarian aid, information and psychological support to individuals. In 2025, AFSC committed a significant portion of Emergency Funding resources to the Stronger with Immigrants campaign. The Just Migration programs in the United States mobilized this year against massive detention and deportation machines. Five programs, New Hampshire, New Jersey Immigrant Rights, Colorado Immigrant Rights, AFSC Florida, and Oregon Project Voice (among others) have all facilitated Know Your Rights trainings in their local communities.

It is worth highlighting AFSC's work in the Gaza Strip by our Palestinian staff and AFSC work with migrants in domestic and international settings. In Palestine, our truly heroic staff put their own lives on the line to deliver hot meals, fresh vegetables, hygiene kits and blankets to thousands of Palestinians living in tents during the winter. In addition to this material support, our staff in Gaza provided psychological support services and educational and recreational activities for children. AFSC took a leading role in drafting the Joint Statement Quaker organizations discern genocide is occurring in Gaza. To date, 104 Quaker organizations endorsed the statement.

AFSC continues to combine advocacy and corporate accountability strategies in response to genocide and apartheid in Palestine and growing militarism and surveillance in the imprisonment and deportation industries in the United States. Research driven corporate campaigns have helped shift corporate behavior and has improved AFSC's role as a leader in economic activism. One successful story is helping convince Microsoft to block Israeli intelligence from using its software in the surveillance of communities (a first known case of a company voluntarily ending a government contract for human rights concern).

Amid a dangerous new chapter of U.S. Militarism, AFSC met with elected officials and organized coordinated calls to end genocides in Gaza and Sudan, U.S. Killings in the Caribbean and Pacific and attacks on Venezuela and Iran. AFSC also pushed back on rising authoritarianism in the U.S., tracking and responding to measures that limit speech, militarize communities, roll back civil rights protections and close civic space while building strategies with partners to slow the rise of fascism.

In ending, I would urge ILYM to continue and increase its financial support to AFSC in our commitments to Just Peace, Just Migration and Just Economies. Next year, we will be celebrating AFSC's 110th anniversary and the 80th receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Source: General Secretary's Annual Report to the AFSC Corporation and the Board of Directors

Nora Vera-Godwin

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FCNL Representatives Report

Gathering in November 2025, FCNL's governing General Committee adopted new policy language around Artificial Intelligence (AI). It states, "AI policymaking must be continuously probing, nimble, anticipatory, and protective." See fcnl.org/WeSeekStatement for more. FCNL also adopted a new preamble to its statement on Antiracism, Anti-bias, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Integrity to make clear its ongoing commitment to this work.

Again and again, we are witnessing the Trump administration's overreach and abuse of authority. In Venezuela, Iran, Chicago, and Minneapolis, the executive is grabbing at power and pursuing violence.

In the face of these challenges, FCNL is equipping people of many ages, backgrounds, and faith traditions to speak truthfully and strategically to lawmakers. More than 3,250 people lobbied with FCNL in 2025, on a range of issues.

In April 2026, FCNL hosted its first intergenerational lobbying conference, Friends Changemaker Weekend. This hybrid event brought together leaders and advocates from across the FCNL community to push back against this administration's unprecedented, militarized actions. Among the participants were members of its campus chapters and participants in its Diaspora Organizers program that supports members of diaspora communities to be leaders in advocacy for peace and justice. We understand that it was a successful successor to the organization's Lobby Weekend that heretofore brought young adult Friends to Capitol Hill. Staff have reported that the intergenerational aspect was meaningful for all.

ILYM's representatives to FNCL are increasingly active in the organization. Dale Gardner now serves on its Nominating Committee and Kevin Brubaker serves on its Quaker Governance and Engagement Committee.

Earlier this year, FCNL sought discernment from Friends meetings, churches, and other organizations on its legislative priorities for the 120th session of Congress, which begins in January 2027. The Policy Committee is weighing these responses and will bring recommendations to FCNL's 2026 Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington, DC and online November 12-14.

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Friends Peace Teams Representative Report

See friendspeaceteams.org for the latest news. Underlying philosophy: We believe there is good in everyone and we each have the inner capacity to heal.

“Friends Peace Teams (FPT) has been a place where Quakers and others can gather, share their ministries, and volunteer to take action or support one another in peace actions. Affiliated with Friends World Committee for Consultation, Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings offered initial administrative support. FPT has collaborated with the Quaker UN Office, the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Alternatives to Violence Project, conscientious objectors' groups, and other Quaker, Mennonite, and peace groups in the US and globally.”

Friends Peace Teams work with: Faith Communities and Civic Groups; Families, parents, teachers, librarians, and psychologists; Indigenous Communities; People Incarcerated in Prisons and Juvenile Detention Centers; Police, Law Enforcement and Prison Guards; Refugees from War or Natural Disaster; Safe Communities and Civic Groups; Schools, Colleges, and Universities; Survivors of War and Violence; Trafficked Women and Children; Girls, boys, and youth, on the street and at home or school.

Friends Peace Teams works with partners in countries across five Regional Teams with five Support Teams. The Regional Teams are: African Great Lakes (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda); Asia West Pacific (Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, and Philippines); Europe and Middle East (Caucasus, Ukraine, Kurdistan/Iraq) and Palestine); North America (United States: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples); Las Americas (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru)

Ways Quakers can support the work of Friends Peace Teams: Visit friendspeaceteams.org to subscribe to the PeaceWays newsletter, request a speaker, join a regional team, and/or join a global support team; Google “Quakers and ‘Indian Boarding Schools’ Research Network for Quaker resources and actions; Visit the National North American Boarding School Healing Coalition at boardingschoolhealing.org; To advocate for the creation of a Truth and Healing Commission on the Indian Boarding School Era, see fcnل.quorum.us/campaign/108986

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Secondary Schools Representatives Reports

Olney

2026 – This year marks the 150th year since the Main Building opened its doors to welcome the first 45 students to attend classes at the Barnesville campus. The world has changed since 1-3-1876 when the school became part of the local landscape. Olney adapted and evolved with the times but never lost sight of the Quaker values and community spirit that make it such a unique and valuable institution. Check out their website: olneyfriends.org (Independent - Day and Boarding School in Barnesville, OH, Grades 9 – 12, College Preparatory Education, 3:1 Student Teacher Ratio, 100% College acceptance rate, Organic 350 acre campus)

Spending the high school years here means living at a completely different pace than most teenagers do. Less noise; more space to think and avoid constant pressure that can come with living in a bigger, louder place. Experience the rewards of working the land and join our Farm Team to learn about organic farming, animal husbandry and sustainable practices. Students work the land, tend cattle, goats and chickens, producing much of the food students and faculty eat.

What does the farm contribute to the community's food supply? Green beans, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, peas, greens, free-range eggs, broiler chickens, corn meal, sweet sorghum syrup, onions, garlic, cabbage, broccoli, grass-fed beef. A member of the Farm Team said, "Farm Team is awesome. I love telling people I am on the Varsity Farm Team!"

Though much has changed through the years, what has never changed is the Olney Spirit along with long-standing traditions. "These traditions matter because they teach students how to live together, take responsibility for organizing a major event in school life, and find joy in shared effort." Christian Acemah, Head of School.

Children of all faiths from around the world are welcome. This year there are students from seven states, plus from five different countries. Students complete their studies at Olney and depart with hopes of making the world a better place.

To learn more about Olney Friends School, go to olneyfriends.org, call 740-425-3655 or send mail to 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd, Barnesville, OH 43713. Or ask Olney alumnus and ILYM member, David Wixom, next time you see him!

Scattergood

The mission of Scattergood Friends School and Farm (SFS) is to challenge students with a college preparatory curriculum, farm experiences, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith. As a middle to high-school program, the school is unique in the Midwest with boarding and day students, largely nourished by a certified organic farm on campus. With their teachers, students utilize the school, farm, pond and prairie as living laboratories for study and experimentation. SFS integrates the middle school and high school for a 7-year education including shared projects and classes, and upper school mentors for all middle school students.

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

Scattergood provides a safe and nurturing environment embracing all from LGBTQIA students to students of color to neurodivergent students (example, those on the autism spectrum).

In this second school year of the Focus Program (2025-26) SFS has implemented the Focus Program to highlight Scattergood's great strengths. Built on a solid college preparatory foundation, each student had the opportunity to dig deeply into one of the following: Arts and Craftsmanship, Sustainable Agriculture, Peace and Social Transformation

Four students participated and each completed a capstone, including producing a sustainable mushroom farm; writing a novella; and a one-act play and a vocal/piano concert, both of which were performed at the James Theater in Iowa City.

In its 135th year, SFS life remained rich and vibrant with 31 High School students and 9 students in the Middle School Day program. Students came from across the United States and included students from Colombia, Afghanistan, Germany, China and Taiwan. Graduating seniors have been accepted into respected colleges, some going on into enriching gap years before attending college. There were 6 seniors who graduated, two of whom had come to Scattergood in 7th grade, as well as three rising 8th graders, all three who will be returning in fall as freshmen.

The Roots and Wings capital campaign has reached its goal of \$3.5 million. However, because of new requirements related to the geothermal project, the school will need to continue fundraising to cover the total of \$3.63 million. Solar and a new well are implemented. Geothermal and dorm water sprinklers will be completed this summer.

2025-2026 accomplishments included: The high school performed the Rent musical; The middle school performed the hilarious Tragedy at Burger Palace to open the return of Harvest Fest on October 11, 2025 (first time since Covid) - 250 people attended; Great field trips were undertaken including one to Nova Scotia in the spring; SFS was included in the book *Elevate: 16 Boarding Schools and the Practice of Holistic Education*; There continued to be a lot of interactions between Scattergood students and Northern Yearly Meeting and Midwest Friends youth which SFS has faith will be ongoing and growing: NYM Youth Retreat in MKE in February - 4 SFS students attended with 14 other Quaker youth, and Welcomed 17 youth to Scattergood in April 2026, including 6 from Scattergood, 5 from nearby Maharishi School, and 6 from MN/WI/IA.

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FWCC Representatives Report

It has been another good year for the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Evan Welkin successfully completed his first full year as Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas. He has been able to visit various places around the Section, including a much-appreciated trip to visit Friends in Cuba.

FWCC alternates the annual section meeting from hybrid to online only. This year's online section meeting took place on March 21, 2026, with over 150 Friends attending. The theme was Love Your Neighbor. They started by sharing with each other in our home groups. They moved on to their business, including nominations and financial reports. Their blended worship included beautiful hymns. The keynote speaker was Colin Saxton, who demonstrated the theme by referring to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), introducing new insights into the ways in which loving one's neighbor are demonstrated in the story.

In 2027, FWCC is coming to nearby Northern Indiana for the hybrid section meeting. They are planning to meet at the Quaker Haven Camp in Syracuse, Indiana (between South Bend and Fort Wayne) on March 18, 2027. All Friends are invited. It will be a great opportunity to learn about Friends from Alaska to the Andes.

This is the second year of the exciting new Quaker Connect program. This year, Lake Forest Friends are participating. The program helps Friends to look at their meeting and its environment in new ways, as well as giving participants an opportunity to share with Friends from other meetings.

World Quaker Day will be the first Sunday in October as always. This year it falls on October 4. The theme is Let Peace Be Among Us, based on the Bible passage in Hebrews 12:14 which reads "Make

every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy.” FWCC is planning a massive online Meeting for Worship, bringing together Friends across borders, time zones, and Quaker traditions with a shared focus on peace. Posters and planning ideas are available at WorldQuakerDay.org.

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Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report

There are many consequential concerns begging for our attention at this moment in time. Quaker Earthcare Witness gathers and organizes Friends who feel led to put time and energy into spirit-led action toward ecological sustainability and environmental justice. We can see today the effects of climate change—changes in weather patterns, sea level rise, changes in growing seasons—and the disruption those things can mean for human communities. Recognizing the relationships among earthcare, justice, and peace is at the heart of the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

QEW recently identified three goals to focus on:

1. To explore ways that Quaker institutions could move money out of the stock market and into real communities and the Earth.
2. To focus on policy issues at the state level, addressing such concerns as pollution, energy, and conservation.
3. To continue building climate resilience in Quaker communities, and to share their work through an online Earth Action Map.

Other recent initiatives include exploring the creation of a Quaker Earthcare hub in Kaimosi, Kenya, to help promote climate resilience actions among Quaker communities there. There are plans for coordinated “days of action” to empower local communities to take action. Another idea bubbling up is to encourage more North American Quaker groups to develop ongoing relationships with Quaker groups in Kenya, Rwanda, Bolivia, and others to share ideas and resources. Might this be a fit for your meeting?

Between QEW’s twice yearly gatherings, committees and working groups meet, funds raised to support “Mini-grants” are sent to applicants in the US and around the world, QEW hosts a variety of online speakers, and the quarterly newsletter *BeFriending Creation* is published and distributed, to name some of the ongoing work of QEW.

With the new projects and energy, as well as increased funding, QEW has grown in the past year from having a staff of two to a staff of four, including General Secretary Keith Runyan, Operations and Engagement Coordinator Sofia Di Pietro, Quaker Voluntary Service fellow Jonny Costello, and a Media and Publications Coordinator.

ILYM’s representatives to the QEW Steering Committee currently are Chip Rorem and Sarah Pavlovic. Chip serves on the Nominating Committee. Sarah is Co-clerking the Mini-grants Working Group. Both representatives attended QEW’s fall gathering in person at Powell House in New York in October 2025. The spring 2026 gathering was held online in April.

There are many opportunities for everyone to be involved with QEW. You can attend online events, receive *BeFriending Creation*, put your meeting on the Earth Action Map, or apply for a Mini-grant. The website is a great place to start. And your QEW reps are always glad to tell you more.

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Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting developed out of a subcommittee of Maintenance Planning and Envisioning that began its work in October 2023. That subcommittee was formally converted into an ad hoc committee of ILYM at the 2024 Annual Sessions, with its responsibilities delineated in Minute 43: “The ad hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of Illinois Yearly Meeting is charged with engaging in outreach to ILYM monthly meetings, worship groups and individuals; conducting additional research as needed; reporting on its progress at Continuing Committee during the 2024–2025 year; and bringing proposals concerning the future of ILYM to annual sessions in 2025.”

The committee subsequently undertook a number of initiatives designed to better understand the needs of the yearly meeting and prepare it for the long term. We hosted well-attended workshops on that subject at the 2024 Annual Sessions. We researched the ongoing status of yearly meetings throughout the US. We held committee meetings each month to share and practice discernment about what we had learned. That discernment led us in two general directions: one, providing additional outreach and resources to encourage Friends to attend Annual Sessions and other ILYM events; and two, helping to strengthen ILYM’s component meetings and the relationships among them. Upon learning that the ad hoc committee could not accomplish as much as it had hoped for in both of these areas in a single year, the yearly meeting extended the committee’s tenure by an additional year during the 2025 Annual Sessions.

Our work has continued in much the same vein during the past year. In recent months we have considered how the initiatives we have undertaken may best be continued after our committee is laid down. With respect to those that involved encouraging Friends to attend the Annual Sessions of ILYM, we drafted several proposals for adding responsibilities to various planning groups and committees. We presented these proposals at Spring 2026 Continuing Committee, and the response was uniformly positive. We now request approval for them by the Yearly Meeting.

- 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 local (Putnam County) news sources; and (3) sending regular email blasts to ILYM members and attenders encouraging them to attend annual sessions, starting a few months in advance.

The committee has been carrying a concern for encouraging the participation and involvement of Adult Young Friends (AYF). To that end, after consultation with the Clerk of Youth Oversight, we propose that that wording in the Youth Oversight Committee section of the ILYM Handbook be amended to the following: “The Youth Oversight Committee designates one member of its committee to be a liaison with Adult Young Friends (ages 18-35). AYF may or may not have a program. When they do function, Youth Oversight provides support.”

In line with our desire to strengthen the yearly meeting by helping strengthen its component meetings and relations between them, our committee hosted several well-received small-group gatherings during the 2025 Annual Sessions. In March of this year we hosted a “Nurturing Our

Meetings” retreat for clerks of ILYM meetings and representatives to ILYM at Clear Creek House, in which co-Field Secretary Marcia Nelson generously took a major leadership role. It gave 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 their meetings. We were gratified that 28 Friends, collectively representing almost all of our meetings, attended and participated enthusiastically. We hope its success will encourage the formation of other such events in future years, as well as fostering more robust connections between ILYM meetings.

The hunger for such connections was palpable to the committee during the retreat, as well as in some of our earlier activities. Recognizing that fostering such events and encouraging other initiatives related to the health of ILYM and its member meetings is not the primary responsibility of any ILYM officer or committee, we have seen fit to recommend a new part-time paid position, Programming Coordinator, to the Ministry and Advancement Committee, which has included their endorsement of that position in its report. We asked the Finance Committee to fund that position for up to \$5,000 for the coming year in case it is approved by the Yearly Meeting. Finance committee is including this request in their proposed budget.

The ad hoc committee now regards itself as having completed its work. With deep gratitude for having been given this opportunity to serve the yearly meeting, we ask that our committee be laid down at the rise of this year’s Annual Sessions.

Beth Carpenter, Chris Goode, Bruce Kanarek, Colleen Reardon, David Shiner (Clerk)

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