

THE MINUTES

and Accompanying Documents

Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

{ 2026
June
17-21 }



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

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ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2027 Annual Sessions will be held from June 17 to 21
at the Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse

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

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

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

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2026-2027

Presiding Clerk: Julia Pantoga

Assistant Clerk: Kevin Brubaker

Recording Clerk: Marie White

Assistant Recording Clerk: Barb Lawhorn

Reading Clerk: Bruce Kanarek

Co-Treasurers: Dawn Crimson & Ted Kuhn

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

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert

***Among Friends* Editor:** Peter Lasersohn

Field Secretary: Mark McGinnis

Administrative Coordinator: Wil Brant

Youth Coordinator: Jasmine Dennis

Children's Religious Education Coordinator: Choz Howard-McKinney

Adult Young Friends Clerk: Anya Gardner

Adult Young Friends Co-Clerk: Liam Gardner

Adult Young Friends Recording Clerk: Nathan Lasersohn

High School Friends Clerk: Leighton Van Alstine

High School Friends Co-Clerk: Milo Johnson

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

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 7/2025-6/2026

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY

B-N CC Co St.L† SoI U-C

6 7 18 30 6 22
1 <1 3 4 0 1

11 22 6 37 2 44
5 3 0 4 0 0
3 42 18 76 0 73
0 0 0 0 0 0
19 67 24 117 2 117

14 64 24 113 2 117
5 3 0 4 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0
0 1 1 0 0 0
0 1 0 0 0 0
0 2 1 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 0
0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 0

Members & Attenders Statistics

Average Attendance

Adults

Under 18 years old

Membership Statistics

Resident Adult Members

Resident Young Friends

Non-Resident Adult Members

Non-Resident Young Friends

TOTAL

Total Adult Members

Total Young Friends

NEW MEMBERS

By Birth or Adoption

By Request

By Certificate of Transfer

TOTAL

LOSSES

Deceased

Released or Withdrawn

Transferred

TOTAL

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly 346
Metro Chicago 474
Wisconsin 6
TOTAL 826

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

CHICAGO-Area											WI	TOTALS
DG*	Du	Elk**†	Ev	57*	FV†	LF	NS	OaP	RV†	SB	Osh**†	
20	8	6	36	17	5	25	58	10	4	13	6	297
0	0	1	8	<1	0	8	5	0	0	4	0	35
35	12		60	14	7	53	22	15	9	19	6	374
0	1		2	2	0	9	0	0	0	3	0	29
9	0		44	35	10	61	16	3	2	14	0	406
0	0		3	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	17
44	13		109	58	17	123	38	18	11	43	6	826
44	12		104	49	17	114	38	18	11	33	6	780
0	1		5	9	0	9	0	0	0	10	0	46
0	0		0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	2		3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	12
0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2	2		3	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	15
1	0		0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
0	0		2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1	0		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	5
2	0		3	1	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	14

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

†Statistics were not received for 7/2025-6/2026: StL, Elk & FV statistics from 7/2023-6/2024; RV statistics from 7/2017-6/2018; Osh statistics are from 2021-2022.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

By Birth/Adoption

To Lake Forest: Astrid Samuel (7/1/2026)

To Lake Forest: Fritz Samuel (7/1/2026)

By Request

To Columbia: Joseph Decker (12/7/25)

To Downers Grove: Alice Farrell (7/13/25)

To Downers Grove: Becky Lucas
(3/18/26)

To 57th Street: Ben Wagner (4/19/26)

To Lake Forest: Gail Becke (4/12/2026)

To Northside: Fred Nalewajko (12/2025)

By Transfer

To Duneland: Monica Tetzloff from South
Bend

To Duneland: Hanna Laird from South
Bend

LOSSES

By Release or Withdrawal:

From Southern Illinois: Elisha Plummer
(6/30/2026)

By Death

From Downers Grove: Nancy Davis
(9/4/2025)

From 57th Street: Alice Lynd (updating
record)

From Lake Forest: Robert Crangle, Sr
(12/13/2003)

From Lake Forest: William Holcomb
(2/25/2024)

From Lake Forest: Thomas Maxwell
Smith (3/24/2026)

From Lake Forest: Lawrence Eaker
(4/9/2026)

By Transfer:

From Downers Grove: Jane Ostergaard to
Milwaukee, Northern YM (1/18/26)

From Northside: Janice Thomson to
Belguim-Luxembourg YM (8/2025)

From South Bend: Monica Tetzloff to
Duneland (2/2026)

From South Bend: Hanna Laird to
Duneland (2/2026)

RATES FOR USE OF ILYM FACILITIES

Site fee for ILYM groups: \$ 25

Fee per person, per night: \$ 5

Maximum fee per ILYM group: \$500

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

ILYM 2026 PROGRAM

Theme: *Living Our Faith*

WEDNESDAY:

1:00-3:30 pm	Registration table open
1:00-3:30	Free time/committee meetings
3:45-5:30	Childcare in play area
4:00-5:30	Opening Session: Worship & Business Meeting
5:30-6:00	Singing on front porch
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-7:30	Registration table open
7:15-9:00	Babysitting
7:30-8:45	Intergenerational Music Program
8:45-9:15	Registration table open
9:00-9:45	Snacks (dining room)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00-3:15	Free time/committee meetings
2:30-3:00	Registration table open
3:00-5:30	Childrens' activities & programs
3:15-4:30	Workshops
4:45-5:30	Worship sharing/Discussion groups
5:30-6:00	Singing on front porch
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:15-9:00	Childcare
7:30-8:45	Presentation by Cathy Walling
8:45-9:15	Registration table open
9:00-9:45	Snacks

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15-1:45 pm	Help think about next year's Annual Sessions (Childcare)
2:00-3:00	Variety Show
3:00-5:30	Childrens' activities & programs
3:15-4:30	Workshops
4:45-5:30	Meeting for Healing/Discussion groups
5:30-6:00	Singing on front porch
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-9:00	Campfire
7:30-8:45	Presentation by Larissa Gil Sanhueza

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00-3:15	Free time/committee meetings
2:30-3:00	Registration table open
3:00-5:30	Childrens' activities & programs
3:15-4:30	Workshops
4:45-5:30	Worship sharing/Discussion groups
5:30-6:00	Singing on front porch
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-7:30	Registration table open
7:30-10:00	Dancing on front lawn
8:45-9:15	Registration table open
9:00-9:45	Snack served outside during dancing

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY MORNING:

7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast
8:30-noon	Meeting for Worship/Meeting for Business (Memorials are read at Sat. MfW)
8:45-noon	Children's morning program
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch

SUNDAY

7:00-8:00	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Registration table open
8:45-9:45	Reading of Epistles
8:45-12:00	Childcare in play area
10:00-11:00	Plummer Lecture by Bruce Kanarek
11:00-12:00	Meeting for Worship
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30	Cleanup and Farewells

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

152nd Annual Sessions

Sixth Month 17-21, 2026, ILYM Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Fourth Day, Sixth Month 17, 2026

Minute 1 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 2 The Reading Clerk read an epistle from the European and Middle Eastern Young Friends Spring Gathering from March 28, 2026.

Minute 3 Clerk Julia Pantoga welcomed those in attendance.

Minute 4 Visitors and first-time attenders were introduced, including Cathy Walling of Alaska Friends Conference, who will be sharing the work of the committee of Alaska Quakers Seeking Right Relations with Indigenous People.

Minute 5 Janice Domanik introduced the Committee of Care, which helps anyone who needs assistance during Annual Sessions. Every member of the committee has a bright orange name tag. The committee consists of members of Ministry and Advancement as well as the Field Secretaries. Members are Marcia Nelson, Mark McGinnis, Bridget Rorem, Erin Taylor, Virginia Schelbert, Sarah Pavlovic, David Wixom, and Janice Domanik.

Minute 6 Janice Domanik introduced the Harassment Review Committee, which consists of Julia Pantoga (Presiding Clerk), Brandon Harrington, Janice Domanik (clerk of M&A), Mark McGinnis, and Virginia Schelbert. This committee serves for a year, from these sessions to the next annual sessions.

Minute 7 The Clerk introduced the clerks table and the Clerk's Committee, consisting of Bruce Kanarek, Judy Jager, Kevin Brubaker, and Marie White. Julia recommended that if you have trouble hearing, you can join the Zoom meeting and read the closed captions, use the RF headphones, or move closer to the front (near the speakers). Cards to send to Friends who are unable to attend Annual Sessions are on the table by the front door. Friends are invited to sign these cards. Julia described her disability and reminded Friends that her coughing fits sound scary but she has what she needs, and will recover on her own. For other accessibility needs, Friends should speak to the Committee of Care.

Minute 8 The Clerk announced that we are in need of Friends to serve on the Exercises Committee. Nominating Committee proposed an Epistle Committee consisting of Nathan Lasersohn and Becky Lucas. Bobby Trist volunteered to serve on the Epistle Committee. The Epistle Committee consisting of Nathan Lasersohn, Becky Lucas, and Bobby Trist was approved. Volunteers for the Exercises Committee should speak to the Clerk.

Minute 9 Minutes 1–8 were read and approved.

Minute 10 The Clerk announced the Naming Committee. The committee consists of Dale Gardner and Cathy Garra.

Minute 11 David Shiner reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. The committee proposed several changes to add responsibilities to various planning groups and committees to continue work undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee. The committee will bring a revised proposal to a session later this week.

The committee also recommended that the Youth Oversight Committee designate one member to be a liaison the Adult Young Friends. The following minute was approved:

The Youth Oversight Committee will designate 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.

The committee will bring a proposal to a later session to create a Programming Coordinator position. They are seeking a better name for the position, so that it is not confused with the Annual Sessions Program Planning Group. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The Minute Book description will be revised 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.” Change approved.

Adding the descriptions previously approved for the Youth Coordinator (updated) and the Children’s Religious Education Coordinator to the Handbook was approved.

Minute 13 Pam Kuhn reported for Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC). Next year the in-person portion of the hybrid gathering of the Section of the Americas will be at Quaker Haven camp in northern Indiana on March 18-21, 2027. All are invited to participate. Report accepted.

Minute 14 The Clerk reminded Friends to sign up for the afternoon and evening tasks; and to note the change in Meeting for Worship. We will meet for Worship with Attention to Business at 8:30 a.m. The first 60 minutes (approximately) will be silent worship. The Reading Clerk will read from the silence, and then we will move into our business.

Minute 15 Minutes 9–14 were read and approved.

Minute 16 The meeting closed in waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Fifth Day, Sixth Month 18, 2026

Minute 17 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 18 The Reading Clerk read the epistle from Netherlands Yearly Meeting, May 8-10, 2026.

Minute 19 The Clerk welcomed those in attendance and introduced the clerks table.

Minute 20 The Reading Clerk read the traveling minute for Maia Geneaux and Cathy Walling from Alaska Friends Conference.

Minute 21 Visitors and first-time attenders were introduced, including Nathan Kleban representing Right Sharing of World Resources. Virtual participants (via Zoom) were asked to introduce themselves.

Minute 22 The Clerk made the standard announcements, given at the first session, regarding the Committee of Care, the Harassment Committee, her disability, and other accessibility concerns.

Minute 23 The Clerk announced that we are in need of Friends to serve on the Exercises Committee. “Michael” Cunningham volunteered to serve. We need at least one more volunteer. Friends interested in serving on this committee should speak to the Clerk.

Minute 24 Daniel Lakemacher reported for the Racial Equity and Education Committee. Last year ILYM passed a minute that approved sending a letter to the Illinois State Treasurer requesting that the state divest from corporations and countries that profit from genocide and apartheid. Since that minute was passed, many people have investigated and submitted FOIA requests to the state, and the committee has learned that the state has quietly divested \$33 million from corporations profiting from apartheid. Although the policy has not been changed, this is evidence that our participation in these actions can effect change, even if it is quiet. A concern was raised about the lawsuit against the city of Evanston, Illinois regarding their recently approved reparations ordinance. This item was referred to the committee, who will bring it back to a later session if needed. Report accepted.

Minute 25 Minutes 16–24 were read and approved.

Minute 26 Bruce Kanarek lead us in some gentle movements and stretches.

Minute 27 Margie Haworth read the Nominating Committee Report for the first time. Friends are encouraged to hold the committee in the Light as they continue their work this week. A Friend shared their understanding that a request to serve should be considered a recognition of gifts that an individual might not have seen in themself.

Minute 28 Ted Kuhn presented the Treasurers' Report.

Minute 29 Val Lester presented the Finance Committee report, including the proposed budget. Meetings and individuals have been very generous in the past year, providing \$50,000 for the bunkhouse in addition to the \$120,000 needed for the operating budget.

The Review Committee approved two additional funding needs since Continuing Committee: \$1,500 for Children's Religious Education (CRE) for additional annual sessions expenses and \$500 for the CRE Coordinator to attend Friends General Conference annual gathering.

Finance Committee report accepted.

Val Lester presented the proposed budget. She noted that 45% of our expenses are for our staff. Our staff enable us to do the work of the yearly meeting. The Personnel budget line is expected to go up 11% this year, primarily due to the addition of the staff person proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. The rest of the increase is due to the staff pay increased by the annual COLA of 2.8%. These increases will be offset by a 29% decrease in the property insurance expense.

In a past annual session, the Finance Committee was requested to increase gifts to others to reach 10% of the budget. This year a donation to Quaker Voluntary Service has been added to the budget, as well as small increases to the other organizations supported by the yearly meeting. The Finance Committee recently received a request to add a donation to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), which will be seasoned today.

The increase in expenses will be met with corresponding increases in income. We are projecting increases in dividends from our investments, and contributions, to be finalized with the final budget. The Finance Committee will meet after lunch today at the hybrid meeting station in the dining room.

Minute 30 Cathy Garra presented the Development Committee report. The committee is grateful for the generosity of individuals and meetings who donated promptly to make the new bunkhouse construction possible. Report accepted.

Minute 31 Minutes 25–28 and 30 were read and approved.

Minute 32 Mark McGinnis presented the Peace Resources Committee Report. To legally prevent firearms being carried onto campus, Illinois state law requires the posting of a specific sign (an image of a gun under a red circle with a slash through it). The meeting considered this last year and was not in favor of posting this sign around campus. The committee proposes adding language to our materials stating that no firearms are allowed on campus. The following minute was approved: “The meeting reaffirms the policy that no firearms are allowed on campus, and this will be communicated to registrants and attendees.” Report accepted.

Minute 33 Janice Domanik presented the Ministry and Advancement Committee Report. The committee proposed that the meeting adopt the statement “Mutual Respect and Living in Community at Yearly Sessions.” Statement approved, as presented in the Advance Documents.

Minute 34 Mark McGinnis was approved to continue as Field Secretary for three years.

Minute 35 Ministry and Advancement requested that a statement be added to the Handbook to clarify the committee’s authority to modify the annual hours of the Field Secretary. The following statement was approved: “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.”

Minute 36 Ministry and Advancement proposed the creation of a paid program coordinator position for the yearly meeting, as suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. The creation of a new position, Intermeeting Engagement Coordinator, as described in the Advance Documents, was approved.

Minute 37 Ministry and Advancement presented a fuller committee description of the work of the Harassment Review Committee. The new committee description was approved and will be added to the handbook.

Minute 38 Ministry and Advancement recommended that Rock Valley Meeting be laid down. This item will be held over for additional discernment tomorrow morning.

Minute 39 Janice Domanik thanked Marcia Nelson for her deep and caring work as co-Field Secretary, and also Steve Tamara and Erin Taylor for their service on Ministry & Advancement.

Minute 40 Minutes 31–39 were read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Sixth Day, Sixth Month 19, 2026

Minute 41 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 42 The Reading Clerk read the epistle from Religious Society of Friends in France.

Minute 43 The Clerk welcomed those in attendance and announced the changes to today’s agenda.

Minute 44 Visitors and first-time attenders were introduced, including Larissa Gil Sanhueza representing Friends Committee on National Legislation, Tom Rockwell from

Western Yearly Meeting, and Jade Rockwell representing FWCC Section of the Americas and Quaker Connect.

Minute 45 The Clerk made the standard announcements, given at the beginning of the first session, regarding the Committee of Care, the Harassment Committee, her disability, and other accessibility concerns.

Minute 46 Janice Domanik presented the Ministry and Advancement recommendation regarding Rock Valley Monthly Meeting. The committee will send a letter to Rock Valley Monthly Meeting requesting that they engage in a discernment process regarding the status of that meeting. This proposal was approved and Continuing Committee authorized to act on the results of this discernment. Report accepted.

Minute 47 The Clerk announced that we are in need of Friends to serve on the Exercises Committees. Exercises Committee of “Michael” Cunningham and Pam Kuhn was approved.

Minute 48 Minutes 40–47 were read and approved.

Minute 49 Bruce Kanarek led us in some gentle stretches and movements.

Minute 50 Mark McGinnis announced that the Peace Resources Committee has Juneteenth buttons available. See him if you would like one. Bill Howenstein’s Memorial Service will be Sunday, June 28 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Tree Farm. Val Lester invited Friends to join her on a walk today after lunch to the Friends Cemetery down the road to visit the grave of Quaker abolitionist Benjamin Lundy in honor of Juneteenth.

Minute 51 David Shiner reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM. The committee made the following proposals:

Assign additional responsibilities to the Publications and Technology Committee as described in the Advance Documents was approved.

Site Services Planning Group have responsibility for securing a block of rooms in a local hotel for use during Annual Sessions, potentially negotiating a group discount, 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.

Revised the additional responsibilities for the Program Planning Group, as follows:

- The description of the Program Planning Group responsibilities in the Session Planning documents will be changed from “Worship Sharing” to “Spiritual Nurturance.”
- The Program Planning Group will have responsibility for arranging an exhibit of arts and crafts that can be presented visually to be held during Annual Sessions, and providing information about the exhibit to the Administrative Coordinator for inclusion in ILYM announcements.

All the above proposals were approved.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM is laid down at the end of these sessions. Friends are grateful for the deep spiritual work and discernment around this concern. The committee’s work represents the best of the yearly meeting, and what Friends can accomplish when we come together in love with a concern for our shared spiritual home.

Minute 52 Dawn Crimson presented the Publications and Technology Report. Publication of *Among Friends* is being reprised. Peter Lasersohn is actively seeking

submissions. The design, layout and format of *Among Friends* will be decided by the committee this year. Friends are directed to the current *Faith and Practice* revision timeline (assigned to other committees), enabling potential publication of a revised version in 2030. There is an open question about creating a Spanish translation of *Faith and Practice*. The committee requests 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. Friends are reminded 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. The Annual Sessions schedule brochure includes a QR code that opens an online version of the ILYM schedule, provides access to reports, and the ability to submit requests for expense reimbursement. Report accepted.

Minute 53 Kevin Brubaker provided an update on the lawsuit against Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). For the last 30 years places of worship were considered sensitive locations regarding the enforcement of immigration law. In January 2025, the Trump administration rescinded this protection and ICE raids in and around churches began. Friends General Conference joined with 23 other denominations in filing litigation challenging this. ILYM is a participant in this litigation via our membership in FGC. An emergency order prohibiting ICE enforcement near places of worship was denied. This order was appealed to an appeals court in Washington, D.C. which will decide the measure of imminent threat that applies in this case. The court has not yet ruled, but it is hoped that the court will rule in favor of the plaintiffs. Report accepted.

Minute 54 Minutes 48–53 were read and approved.

Minute 55 Co-Field Secretaries Marcia Nelson and Mark McGinnis reported. Marcia expressed her thanks for allowing her to serve as co-Field Secretary for the past three years. She shared about the work Mark is doing to build bridges among Friends in ILYM, and how important this is for the yearly meeting. She invited all of us to visit another meeting regularly and to make intervisitation a scheduled event. What can my meeting do to strengthen public witness and spiritual growth by working with neighboring Quakers? She shared that her work was made harder this year by dealing with behavior within meetings that violate personal boundaries. Friends need to deal with this, and recognize and address conflicts within our meetings. How do I understand harm in the context of my Quaker community and values? How do I respond?

Mark McGinnis shared his gratitude for his partnership with Marcia, and her advice, and role as a sounding board. She has advised him to speak out more, and he will try to visit as many meetings as possible, twice if possible. We have some meetings that need more support than others, and his time will be proportional to their needs. He asks us to hold him in the Light as he goes into his work this year. The reports of the co-Field Secretaries accepted.

Minute 56 Colleen Reardon presented the Personnel Committee report. Report accepted.

Minute 57 The Clerk made announcements, reminding Friends of the schedule and dancing on the lawn this evening. Tomorrow the worship time will be longer and memorial minutes will be shared. There will be a break after worship before we begin our business. Friends are reminded that if you take a bar of soap from the table, please put the payment in the envelope on the table. Friends are reminded to sign up for at least two

volunteer tasks. As Friend Cathy Walling said last night, some of the most powerful conversations happen while washing dishes together.

Minute 58 Minutes 29 and 54–57 were read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Seventh Day, Sixth Month 20, 2026

Minute 59 The meeting opened in waiting worship.

Minute 60 The Reading Clerk read the epistle from Canadian Yearly Meeting, June 12–15, 2025.

Minute 61 The Clerk welcomed those in attendance.

Minute 62 Visitors and first-time attenders were introduced, including Daniel Lakemacher representing American Friends Service Committee.

Minute 63 The Clerk made the standard announcements, given at the first sessions, regarding the Committee of Care, the Harassment Committee, her disability, and other accessibility concerns.

Minute 64 The Clerk announced that we have many reports to hear today, and we may need to move to a unity agenda for some of the reports that are in the Advance Documents and do not require action.

Minute 65 Minutes 58–64 were read and approved.

Minute 66 Chris Goode presented the Maintenance, Planning, and Envisioning Committee Report. Site Prep maintenance required the purchase of a new hot water heater, a refill of the propane tank, and repairs to the ovens.

The committee requests approval to allow Continuing Committee to take action on a potential MP&E proposal to provide electricity to some or all of the cabins. Request approved.

The committee requests approval to allow Continuing Committee to take action on a potential proposal to dismantle and salvage the barn in the southwest corner of property, beyond Clear Creek House. Request approved.

The next campus workday will be Saturday, October 3. There will be a program at lunch presented by Quaker Earthcare Witness. Report accepted.

Minute 67 Val Lester presented the final budget. Changes from the previous presentation of the budget include a request from the Committee on Racial Equity and Education to support Nia ToGoThere with \$400 which will replace the previous donation to Chi-Nations Youth Council, and a donation of \$100 to United Negro College Fund in place of the donation to Black Lives Matter (made via the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression). This revised budget includes a 6% increase in the request from monthly meetings (\$325 per resident member), as well as a 6% increase in giving from individuals. A visiting Friend shared his appreciation for the excellence of the ILYM staff, and how the staff are a gift to Friends in ILYM and beyond. Revised budget approved.

Minute 68 Daniel Lakemacher reported on behalf of the Racial Equity and Education Committee. He began by thanking the Finance Committee for the extra work that happened during Annual Sessions. The committee heard the request to investigate the lawsuit against the city of Evanston, Illinois' reparations policy, but they are not yet clear how they might respond

to this lawsuit. The committee requests approval to allow Continuing Committee to take action on a potential proposal in response to this concern. Friends were reminded that the Meeting has previously decided that in very rare situations, an emergency session of Continuing Committee may be called at the request of the Presiding Clerk. Friends approve authorizing Continuing Committee to take action on non-litigious proposals from the Racial Equity and Education Committee. If the committee determines that legal action is required, they may request that the Presiding Clerk call an emergency session of Continuing Committee.

Minute 69 Bruce Kanarek led us in some gentle stretches and movements.

Minute 70 Minutes 65–69 were read and approved.

Minute 71 Alex Lippit presented the Scattergood School representative's report. Like all the Quaker schools supported by ILYM, Scattergood fosters the development of the whole person, grounded in Quaker values. Report accepted.

Minute 72 Kevin Brubaker presented the Friends Committee on National Legislation representative's report. Friends are encouraged to attend Larissa Gil Sanhueza's presentation this evening. There is some interest in reviving an action team in the Chicago area. Interested Friends please speak to Kevin. Report accepted.

Minute 73 Cathy Garra presented the report of the Naming Committee. The committee has identified a few Friends who are willing to serve on Nominating Committee, and is talking to a few other Friends who are considering service. Continuing Committee was authorized to take action on the additional members of the Nominating Committee.

Minute 74 Margie Haworth gave a second reading of the Nominating Committee report. Names read in the first reading were approved. A few additional names were added to the slate, and will be brought for approval tomorrow morning. The committee will continue its work and was approved to bring additional names to Fall Continuing Committee for consideration and approval.

Minute 75 Environmental Concerns Committee report accepted.

Minute 76 American Friends Service Committee representatives' report accepted.

Minute 77 Olney Friends School representative report accepted.

Minute 78 Youth Oversight Committee report accepted.

Minute 79 Friends Peace Teams representative report accepted.

Minute 80 Children's Religious Education Committee report accepted.

Minute 81 Quaker Earthcare Witness representatives' report accepted.

Minute 82 The Clerk made announcements and reminded Friends to sign up for at least two volunteer tasks. Also, all are invited to contribute to the clean-up fun tomorrow. Due to the expected rain, some clean-up tasks will happen this afternoon and evening, to get as much of the outdoor work done today. Fall Continuing Committee will be October 17 at the ILYM Meetinghouse hosted by Clear Creek Meeting. A few 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are still available. Please pay with exact change in the envelope. We will convene at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning to approve the additional names brought forward by the Nominating Committee.

Minute 83 Minutes 70–82 were read and approved.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, First Day, Sixth Month 21, 2026

Minute 84 The Presiding Clerk opened the meeting and reminded Friends of the resources available for hearing assistance.

Minute 85 The Nominating Committee brought the additional names proposed at meeting yesterday. These additional names were approved.

Minute 86 The report of Exercises Committee was read and approved.

Minute 87 The epistle from the Preschool Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 88 The epistle from the Early Elementary Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 89 The epistle from the Upper Elementary Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 90 The epistle from the Middle School Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 91 The epistle from the High School Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 92 The epistle from the Adult Young Friends was read and accepted.

Minute 93 The Illinois Yearly Meeting epistle to Friends around the world was read and approved.

Minute 94 Minutes 83-93 were read and approved.

Julia Pantoga, Presiding Clerk

Marie White, Recording Clerk

TRAVEL POLICY

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

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

EXERCISES

Early in Annual Sessions, Marie Lindsay anchored our gathering in this year's theme, *Living Our Faith*, leading us in songs she chose to reflect the theme. The meetingroom was filled with a joyful noise as we sang together about hammering out justice, Quaker wordsmithing, and all God's critters. In keeping with the theme, this happy sing-a-long filled us with hope.

Hopeful too, were the bright beautiful mornings. The days have been blue-skied, sunny and surprisingly cool. Perfect for tent sleeping, the evening temperatures dropped even cooler, unusually so, to the point that a Friend was overheard asking their mother to bring a hoodie from home. Threats of rain on Friday evening did not dampen spirits. Benches in the meetingroom were moved aside to clear a dance floor for a full evening of dancing.

Messages of blessings and the caring nurture of the Good Shepherd were voiced in Meeting for Worship. Memorial minutes spoke of lives well lived, including a remembrance of Bill Howenstein, a founding member (along with his wife, Alice) of what are now Fox Valley Quaker Meeting and Quaker Earthcare Witness, a mentor and friend to many, and steadfast supporter of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Sessions of spiritual nurture: worship sharing, queries on how we care for our meetings, and a Meeting for Healing were held. The business of Illinois Yearly Meeting was conducted with a joyful spirit. All were invited to make time to visit other meetings. A new paid staff position, Intermeeting Engagement Coordinator, was created to aid monthly meetings in programming and coordination. Additional hours were approved for the Field Secretary to aid in their work. These commitments have significantly increased the yearly meeting's budget.

About 30 kids from toddlers to middle schoolers attended the children's program. The young children played games and were excited to design airplanes. Storyteller David White came and talked with the children about telling stories. A young Friend let us know they "liked how they used crafts for learning." Middle schoolers were thrilled to build their own walking sticks with David Wixom, that they put to the test on a hike at Starved Rock State Park.

Five high schoolers participated in wonderful workshops and a rock climbing trip. And although it was not fully finished, they slept in the new bunkhouse, made possible by the generous and timely donations of Friends.

Visitors from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Alaska Friends Conference joined us to share their experience of learning the history of harm caused by missionizing Quakers in Alaska, working to understand the current repercussions of those harms, building relationships, and working towards repair with Native people. They shared a video of Jim and Susan LaBelle telling their stories as survivors of Native boarding schools. On Thursday night, Cathy Walling gave a presentation on this work, "Confessions of a White Quaker Taking Unfolding Steps Toward Right Relationship with Indigenous People." Two days of workshops followed, offering time to reflect on Cathy's presentation, to further delve into understanding the trust and time needed to build relations, and to discuss how similar work might unfold here, in the Midwest. Addressing harm is heavy work, but there is also joy in this work and a primary theme of the last workshop was hope.

Larissa Gil Sanhueza, Young Adult Program Director for Friends Committee on National Legislation, spoke Saturday evening. "Lighting the way forward: advocacy through dark times," described her experience navigating the national environment of political turmoil through her 20s while continuing to practice hope and advocate in the face of despair and frustration. She concluded with the Star Wars quote, "Rebellions are built on hope."

Hope shone forth throughout these annual sessions. On the last evening, when a young Friend was asked what he would like us to say about the children's program in the exercises, his reply further anchored our time here and the upcoming return home in this year's theme, Living Our Values. First, he asked for time to think about what to say. He later returned with these joy-inducing words, "Though we are young we are deep in our thoughts about how Quakers make an impact in the world."

EPISTLES

2026 ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

To Friends Everywhere,

From our historic 1875 Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse, surrounded by cornfields as far as the eye can see, we send blessings.

We met Sixth Month (June) 17-21, 2026 with the theme, Living Our Faith. We had visitors from New York, Ohio, and Western Yearly Meetings, Alaska Friends Conference, and representatives from several Quaker bodies, including, among others, FCNL, FWCC, and FGC. Our Presiding Clerk opened our 152nd Annual Sessions with light humor, ensuring inclusiveness, attention to accessibility needs and consistent messages of care—care for our community and care for one another.

Our arrival was beset by violent rainstorms and dark skies, which stopped before meeting began, but sadly after many of us were soaking wet. Fortunately, there were no reported injuries. In the end, the rain was a refreshing baptism, in preparation for Spirit's arrival, bringing to our community three blessings—hope, affirmation, and courage—which we happily share with you in this epistle as the living proof of Living Our Faith.

We wish for you the blessing of hope. Despite all the troubles we are experiencing here in the United States, we write to assure you we have hope, derived in part from our Meeting for Healing for the USA, sponsored by one of our monthly meetings. We also have hope knowing our community is strong, committed, and actively participating in protests of inequality, discrimination, and the oppression of marginalized groups. We use a variety of methods to advocate, correspond, and raise our voices up to political representatives in support of protecting human rights, the misuse of personal data, and weaponization of our government institutions. We ask that you hold us in the Light.

Friends, in honor of Juneteenth, were led to take a walk to our Quaker Cemetery to visit the grave of Benjamin Lundy, a famous abolitionist and role model for living our faith, who had a farm near our Clear Creek Meetinghouse late in his life. Many of us, when visiting the cemetery, felt surrounded by Spirit, ancestors, and Friends.

We heard an update to a letter previously sent to the Illinois State Treasurer about the Illinois Investment Policy. The letter requested that the State Treasurer revise the policy to divest from any company or investment that supports apartheid occurring in Gaza. No action has been taken to change the policy but, it appears the state has been quietly looking into it and disclosed a 43-million-dollar reduction in such investments.

Our community continues to keep an eye on the Friends General Conference lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security to refrain from any enforcement actions near or inside a protected area, including Quaker meetinghouses. While we wait, we have hope the court will rule in the plaintiffs' favor.

We wish for you a blessing of affirmation. We also write to inform you that we leave our meeting with clear affirmation that we are on the right path. Our community is strong because we care for our community and each other. The intent and tone of the care messages given at the beginning of each session were authentic and pure. We care, therefore the loving energy from that of God in each Friend unifies the community.

As we waited in worship and conducted meeting business, the sound of children playing on the front lawn seeped in with the breeze, through the open window and into our silence, filling the room with youthful innocence and energy—a reminder that Illinois Yearly Meeting is a multi-generational meeting—that children are gifts for our community to embrace and a big part in Living Our Faith.

Our community is generous in our support of family inclusion and care of our youth community. We have a children attend free practice which makes it affordable for parents with children to attend ILYM Annual Sessions. Our youth community has been surging in the past few years. Through the generosity of our community, we were also able to fund and construct a new, simply designed bunkhouse. The time it took to fund and mostly construct the bunkhouse was approximately 10 months—a testament to the importance of caring for community sleeping quarters at various ILYM events including housing high schoolers at this year's ILYM Annual Sessions.

We wish for you a blessing of courage. Our two Field Secretaries reminded us we can never reach perfection, but we can have the courage to always aspire to be perfect. In that respect, the community was challenged to deal with concerns about monthly meetings becoming isolated by practicing collaboration, planning things together, and regularly visiting other meetings. Friends were challenged to open themselves up to more and different measures of Light by reflecting on this query that we would like to share with you: “What can my meeting do to strengthen public witness and spiritual growth by working with neighboring Quakers?”

Another spirit-led concern brought forward by the Field Secretaries surrounded a heavier frequency of interpersonal difficulties and actions that violate boundaries for behavior and cause harm to individuals and communities. We need to name this; we need to be able to respond with courage, care and clarity. Again, we share, for your use, the following query: “How do I understand harm in the context of my Quaker community and values? How do I respond?”

Admitting harm you have done is difficult. Apologizing for that harm and working to heal it takes courage. But, that is exactly what our visiting guests from Alaska Friends Conference did. Their work, “Toward Right Relationship with Indigenous People,” touched our hearts as we are sure this excerpt from their two and one-half page apology will touch yours.

At the core of our Quaker faith is non-violence, founded on a recognition of that of God in every human being. It is hard to imagine how a practice that forcibly separated families, broke the bonds of language, and attacked and undermined cultural tradition could have been endorsed and pursued by people identifying as Quakers. ... We are painfully aware that the direct harms caused by our failure remain personal, cumulative, and ongoing. We will do more than simply acknowledge the harm we have caused. We pledge to teach ourselves and our children about this wrong. We will formally and collectively ask ourselves what wrongs we may still be perpetrating in ignorance or bigotry... It is not the responsibility of Alaska Native people to help us to transform our behavior. At the same time, we see that our acting without first listening has contributed to great harm. We seek your guidance and input to ensure reparations

are done on your terms that will help your communities heal. We ask for forgiveness and pledge to walk beside you as we work together for healing and transformation.”

As you can see, when offering an apology, it is clear the words matter regardless of the language you speak.

The ILYM community commits to learning from our past in contributing to the harm of generations of indigenous people with this query: “If we are only just now waking to the injustices we participated in 50 plus years ago, what injustices might we be asleep to today?” We challenge you, our Friends in Spirit, to join us in this discernment.

Not only have we affirmed we are on the right path, we are also courageously institutionalizing recommended changes to ensure we move forward with actions that revitalize and energize our community. These recommendations come from the Ad hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM after trial use and testing in practice. The approach of integrating new and tested initiatives with existing, valued traditions and programs is expected to result in a smooth transition ensuring sustainability and adoption by the community. As the Ad hoc Committee is laid down, Friends acknowledged the courage of the Ad hoc Committee to undertake the challenge to which they were led by citing the committee as being an exceptional example of the strength of our community as well as each individual on the committee.

We leave you now, with the blessings of hope, affirmation, and courage and, the understanding that whatever happens, we are on Gods time—in which time zones do not exist.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, Sixth Month 21, 2026

Adult Young Friends Epistle

We had several new AYF attenders this year, with one coming with us on the graveyard walk. We had meeting for business in which we talked about the various things we could do if we had a budget. And then we wrote a third sentence. We conducted this meeting next to a fire that we very responsibly did not allow to burn down the whole campus. We ate cookies while writing this epistle. And then we went to sleep.

Middle School Epistle

We learned about spirit animas and singing bowls. We learned about the cardinal directions (North, South, East & West), and connecting to the Earth. We learned about the tranquility of Being in nature. We learned about declaring our negative energy that no longer serves us, and how to release it. We made spiritual walking sticks which we made with love in preparation for our walk at Starved Rock State Park on 06/20/2026. We sat in a circle in the sun and talked about our favorite foods and activities in order to get to know each other and to help decorate our walking sticks. We decorated them with symbols of things we liked and represented ourselves. We had fun using various tools to make our walking sticks. We served beverages during our gathered meals of the annual sessions. We went to St. Louis Canyon at Starved Rock to see the waterfall, rocks, sand and ferns. We helped each other navigate the paths, roots and stairs. It was beautiful! We helped each other climb the rocks and climb down. Friends of the Church of the Brethren volunteered to take our group photo. The waterfall was loud, tall, and peaceful. This is our epistle of the time we spent together. We had fun and learned a lot.

Participants: Bea, Tony, Owen, Vivian, Tristan, Allen, Oliver, Fiona, Lillian, Trixie, Marlow, Gavin, Pippa. Teachers/Helpers: David, Sarah, Chip, Julian

Upper Elementary School Epistle

We made airplanes and skyplanes. We read “The Little Cowherd Brother,” and we might have read another. Racing the clock, we found some rocks. We painted a rock to look like a sock, Games were taught and we undid a knot. We got tatoos, with no boo-boos. We scratched some bookmarks. And took away the dark. We made the bowls sing by doing the thing. The goal of the bowl was to clear the fear near our peers. Then we made some shirts, and wet the dirt. With our remaining time, we wrote these rhymes.

Participants: Alaini, Eliza, Poppy, Elah, Pippa, Green, Jon, William, Tony. Teachers: Dale, Sharon, Nathan. Guests: Rachel, David

Lower Elementary School Epistle

On Wednesday we read about stone soup and how everyone came together to make a feast. We then worked together to make trail mix. Thursday we read about the invisible boy. We then painted portraits of each other so no one was invisible. Yesterday we read about Wangari and how she helped her community by planting trees. We made our own trees and on the leaves we wrote about what we do to help our community.

Participants: Xyla, Alexander, Rennard, James, Isaac, Maggie. Teachers: Lindsay, Rebecca

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR ILYM ANNUAL SESSIONS 2026

Total Registration: 202 (2025 total: 185)

Significant increse in fully virtual attendance

Fully Virtual: 22 (9 in 2025)

Mixed Virtual and In-person: 7 (7 in 2025)

Fully On-Site: 173 (169 in 2025)

Registration by Quarter/Geographic Grouping:

Blue River	52 Adults	
	16 Young Friends	Total: 68
Chicago North	59 Adults	
	11 Young Friends	Total: 70
Chicago South	39 Adults	
	6 Young Friends	Total: 45
Other	18 Adults	
	2 Young Friends	Total: 20

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - BALANCE SHEET

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

	6/30/2026	6/30/2025
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
Checking Account	93,493.88	92,784.08
Friends Fiduciary-Temp. Restrct Proprty Imp	10,321.72	40,481.47
Friends Fiduciary-Unresetricted Designated	<u>676,422.25</u>	<u>610,606.55</u>
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	780,237.85	743,872.10
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	<u>18,480.00</u>	<u>6,659.14</u>
Total Current Assets	18,480.00	6,659.14
Total Assets	<u>798,717.85</u>	<u>750,531.24</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	9,363.05	12,871.28
Payroll Taxes	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(36.66)</u>
Total Liabilities	9,363.05	12,834.32
Net Assets	FY26 Net Income	
Unrestricted Undesignated		
1 General Operating	<u>60,000.00</u>	<u>60,000.00</u>
Total Unrestricted Undesignated	60,000.00	60,000.00
Unrestricted Designated		
2 Unrestricted Reserves	550,754.02	61,407.79
3 Campus Accessible	1,300.00	1,300.00
4 Payroll Reserve	46,200.00	7,350.00
5 FWCC World Mtgs	2,000.00	1,000.00
6 Maint. Reserve	<u>103,353.24</u>	<u>6,287.96</u>
Total Unrestricted Designated	703,607.26	627,561.51
Temporary Restricted		
8 Property Impr.	<u>25,747.54</u>	<u>(24,387.57)</u>
Total Temporary Restricted	25,747.54	50,135.11
Total Net Assets	<u>789,354.80</u>	<u>51,658.18</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>798,717.85</u>	<u>750,531.24</u>

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

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

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

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

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Income							
Support from Meetings	98,975.00						98,975.00
Support from Individuals	47,461.52						47,461.52
Support from Migs Restrictd PIF						24,500.00	24,500.00
Support from Individuals. Restrictd PIF						29,062.90	29,062.90
Interest & Investment Income	18,717.72					609.28	19,327.00
Other Income	1,577.00	149.55					1,726.55
Gatherings-Retreats							
Annual Sessions Registrations	20,726.00						20,726.00
Gifts-Annual Sessions	5,460.00						5,460.00
Total AS Income	26,186.00						26,186.00
Women's Weekend Registrations	305.00						305.00
Gifts-Women's Weekend	326.26						326.26
Total WW Income	631.26						631.26
Total Gatherings-Retreats	26,817.26						26,817.26
Total Income	193,548.50	149.55				54,172.18	247,870.23
Operating Expenses							
Personnel & Office							
Employee Direct-Indirect	72,779.78						72,779.78
Staff Travel	9,788.50						9,788.50
Office Expenses							
Corporation Fees, Registration	10.00						10.00
Office Supplies, Print, Postage	144.95	1,898.80					2,043.75
Webhosting, Electr. Comm.	738.62						738.62
Transaction Fees on Donations	265.91						265.91
Financial Asset Management Fees	869.80						869.80
Officer-Employers Liability Ins	647.00						647.00
Total Personnel & Office	85,244.56	1,898.80					87,143.36

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (continued)

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
YM Travel Support							
ILYM Reps Travel	929.32						929.32
ILYM Committee Travel	<u>668.31</u>						<u>668.31</u>
Total YM Travel Support	1,597.63						1,597.36
Site & Property Expenses							
Ann. Services-Propy Taxes	2,042.95						2,042.95
Mowing, Tree Trimming	6,673.10					900.00	7,573.10
Repairs & Maintenance	4,005.06				350.00		4,355.06
Work Weekend	559.23						559.23
Urgent Maintenance	1,750.00						1,750.00
Site Insurance Expense	13,792.00						13,792.00
Caretaker Expenses	1,475.00						1,475.00
Major Equipemnt					7,192.04		7,192.04
Building Projects					2,070.00	80,000.00	82,070.00
Utilities	<u>4,539.41</u>				<u>9,612.04</u>	<u>80,900.00</u>	<u>4,539.41</u>
Total Site & Property	34,836.75				9,612.04	80,900.00	125,348.79
Gatherings-Retreats Expenses							
Annual Sessions (AS) Expenses							
AS Site Prep Expenses	1,581.25						1,581.25
AS Infrastructure Coordination	6,799.58						6,799.58
AS Fee Reductions	1,170.00						1,170.00
Transaction Fees on Registration	493.51						493.51
AS Program Expenses	3,148.94						3,148.94
AS Cooking & Food	9,760.53						9,760.53
AS Children's Program Expenses	<u>2,978.75</u>						<u>2,978.75</u>
Total Annual Sessions	25,932.56						25,932.56
Other Gatherings Expenses	<u>2,970.01</u>						<u>2,970.01</u>
Total Gatherings-Retreats	28,902.57						28,902.57

ILYM Income Statement 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (continued)

	1 Operating	2 Reserves	4 Payroll Resv	5 FWCC	6 Maint.	8 Property	Total
Committee Expenses							
Committees-General	493.93						493.93
Development	462.45						462.45
Publications & Technology	1,506.62						1,506.62
Youth Oversight	<u>2,262.65</u>						<u>2,262.65</u>
Total Committee Expenses	4,725.65						4,725.65
Support to Others	16,650.00						16,650.00
Total Operating Expenses	171,957.16	1,898.80			9,612.04	80,900.00	264,368.00
Operating Income (Loss)	21,591.34	(1,749.25)			(9,612.04)	(26,727.82)	(16,497.77)
Other Income / (Expense)							
Unrealized Gain/Loss		65,815.70				2,340.25	68,155.95
Transfers							
Transfers - Budgeted							
Transfers - FWCC World Mtgs	(1,000.00)			1,000.00			0.00
Transfers - Maint Reserve	<u>(15,900.00)</u>			<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>15,900.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Transfers - Budgeted	(16,900.00)			1,000.00	15,900.00		0.00
Transfers - Payroll Reserve		(7,350.00)	7,350.00				0.00
Transfers - Net Operating	<u>(4,691.34)</u>	<u>4,691.34</u>					<u>0.00</u>
Total Transfers	(21,591.34)	(2,658.66)	7,350.00	1,000.00	15,900.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income (Loss)	0.00	61,407.79	7,350.00	1,000.00	6,287.96	(24,387.57)	51,658.18

ILYM Funds

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

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

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING - MONTHLY MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026

	General	PIF Bunkhouse
Blue River Quarterly		1,000.00
Bloomington-Normal MM	2,320.00	
Clear Creek MM	5,500.00	10,000.00
Columbia FM	2,000.00	500.00
Downers Grove FM	7,000.00	2,000.00
Duneland FM	3,660.00	
Evanston MMoF	17,695.00	10,000.00
57th Street MoF	4,880.00	
Fox Valley QM	700.00	
Lake Forest FM	19,900.00	1,000.00
Northside FM	5,800.00	
Oak Park FM	6,000.00	
St. Louis MM	8,700.00	
South Bend FM	5,510.00	
Southern Illinois QM	610.00	
Urbana-Champaign FM	8,700.00	
Total	98,975.00	24,500.00

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

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

OPERATING BUDGET 2026-2027

	2026-2027 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Actual
Income			
Contributions-Meetings	115,700	107,850	98,975
Gifts-Individuals	44,575	42,000	47,462
Bank & Investment Income	18,000	15,000	18,718
Misc. Income	0	0	1,577
Gatherings-Retreats	27,500	26,000	26,817
Total Income	205,775	190,850	193,549
Operating Expenses			
1 Personnel & Office	92,400	77,700	85,245
2 Yearly Meeting Travel Support	4,000	5,500	1,598
3 Site & Property Expenses			
Annual Services-Property Taxes	3,000	3,000	2,043
Mowing, Tree Trimming	5,000	4,500	6,673
Routine Maintenance & Repairs	5,000	4,000	4,564
Urgent Repairs	2,000	2,000	1,750
Insurance	15,000	21,000	13,792
Caretaker Expenses	1,300	1,300	1,475
Utilities	4,350	3,500	4,539
<i>Total Site & Property</i>	35,650	39,300	34,837
4 Gatherings-Retreats (AS=Annual Sessions)			
AS Infrastructure (oversight: Admin Coor)	9,000	9,000	8,463
AS Cooking-Food (oversight: Planning Grp)	11,000	10,600	9,761
AS Aft/Eve Program (oversight: Planning Grp)	5,500	5,000	3,149
AS Children's Program (oversight: CRE Comm)	4,000	2,750	2,979
AS Site Preparation (oversight: Planning Grp)	1,750	1,750	1,581
Other Gatherings	0	0	2,970
<i>Total Gatherings-Retreats</i>	31,250	29,100	28,903
5 Committees			
Miscellaneous Committee	400	400	494
Development	400	400	462
Personnel	1,500		
Publications & Technology	2,500	2,500	1,507
Youth Oversight	2,400	2,400	2,263
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	7,200	5,700	4,726
6 Support to Others			
Quaker organizations that support the yearly meeting			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	5,600	5,400	5,400
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	5,600	5,400	5,400
Quaker organizations that Nurture ILYM Friends			
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	325	275	275
<i>Friends Journal</i>	325	275	275
Regional Quaker educational institutions			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	375	325	325
Scattergood School and Farm	375	325	325
Earlham College	375	325	325
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	375	325	325
Olney Friends School	375	325	325

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING, OPERATING BUDGET 2026-2027
EXPENSE LINE ITEM DETAILS (CONT.)

	2026-2027 Budget	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Actual
Quaker organizations that support our testimonies			
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	575	525	525
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation (FCNL)	575	525	525
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	425	375	375
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	575	525	525
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	425	375	375
Project Lakota/Ville	425	375	375
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	425	375	375
Quaker Volunteer Service	425		
Organizations that support the work of our committees			
National Relgs Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	100	100	100
NABS Healing Coalition	100	100	100
Nia To Go There (Indigenous Trainer)	400		
United Negro College Fund	100		
Chi-Nations Youth Council		400	400
<i>Total Support to Others</i>	18,275	16,650	16,650
Total Operating Expenses	188,775	173,950	171,957
Transfers			
To Maintenance Reserve	16,000	15,900	15,900
To FWCC World Meetings	1,000	1,000	1,000
Operating Surplus/Deficit to Unrestricted Reserves			4,691
<i>Total Transfers</i>	17,000	16,900	21,591
Total Expenses + Total Transfers	205,775	190,850	193,549
Net Income/Deficit	0	0	0

**MONTHLY MEETING
RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION
PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER
IS \$325.**

ILYM REPORTS

CHILDRENS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minute 80)

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

ILYM CRE has prepared a stimulating Children's Program this summer. We have a particularly large middle school group that David Wixom, Sarah Pavlovic, and Chip Rorem are taking charge of with an environmental focus. The upper elementary group have Dale Gardner, Sharon Haworth, and Nathan Lasersohn with stories and crafts. A hundred year old Quaker story collection will be featured. The lower elementary led by Rebecca Golden Trist and Lindsay Rabbe have their own fun activities planned. The preschool group is led by Katherine Young and Lorelei Taylor West with Faith and Play activities featured. Up to 4 babysitters are watching over children in the afternoons and evenings, helping out as needed during morning program.

Stipend Policy: All CRE appointed teachers and helpers for the ILYM children's program will have available a stipend of up to \$200 or an equal proportion of the available stipend money. This year that total is \$1,000.

We are trying to institute policy for our babysitters, limiting phones, wearing the reflective vest, and empowering them to deal with issues as they come up. Babysitters should be considered Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs).

We are starting parent orientations, with a Zoom meeting in early June or face to face as families arrive. There must always be a responsible adult for each child on campus. Parent/guardians must be in regular communication with babysitters and teachers. And all adults are encouraged to watch out for unhealthy interactions among the children, reporting problems to the Children's Religious Education Coordinator or a CRE Committee member, as well as intervene appropriately as they feel led.

We are anticipating another good session, and new membership on the committee going forward.

Dale Gardner, Clerk

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (See Minute 30)

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (See Minute 75)

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minutes 29, 67)

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)

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE (See Minute 12)

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	10%	Reports/Committee Meetings
30%	Communications	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.

MAINTENANCE, PLANNING AND ENVISIONING COMMITTEE & STEWARDS (See Minute 66)

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

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE (See Minutes 33, 39, 46)

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 over-arching 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 135-136 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

CO-FIELD SECRETARIES (See Minute 55)

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See Minutes 27, 74, 85)

Following are those being nominated and their terms:

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

Assistant Recording Clerk: Barb Lawhorn (assists 2027, records 2028, 2029; assists 2030)

Stewards: Grayce Haworth Mesner (2029) Mark Robinson (2029)

Among Friends Editor: Peter Lasersohn (2029)

Children’s Religious Education: Dale Gardner (Clerk); Bobbi Trist & Lindsay Rabbi (2029)

Development: Cathy Garra (Clerk); Jasmine Dennis & Brandon Harrington (2029)

Environmental Concerns: Chip Rorem & David Wixom (2029)

Finance: David Shiner & Kevin Brubaker (2029)

Maintenance, Planning, & Envisioning: Diane Dennis, Carol Bartles, Marie White, Noel Pavlovic (2029)

Ministry & Advancement: Janice Domanik (Clerk); Janice Domanik, Colleen Reardon & Beth Carpenter (2029)

Peace Resources: Gwen Weaver (2029)

Personnel: Sharon Haworth (Clerk); Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth & Becky Lucas (2029)

Publications & Technology: Ted Kuhn (Clerk), Ted Kuhn, Lilith Swygert (Tech), Dawn Crimson & Jared Forsythe (2029)

Racial Equity and Education: Clerk open, Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher & Kyr Eschler (2029)

Youth Oversight: Charles Howard-McKinny (2029)

AFSC: Mike Dennis & Fariba Murray (2029)
FCNL: Dale Gardner, Garnet Fay, David Wixom (2029)
FGC Central Committee: Kevin Brubaker (2029)
Friends Peace Teams: Val Lester (2029)
FWCC: David Shiner, Alex Lippitt (2029)
QEW: Sarah Pavlovic (2029)

Ad Hoc to review Faith & Practice: 2029: Marcia Nelson, Erin Taylor, Kevin Brubaker, Bridget Rorem, Janet Fair

Peace Resources Committee (See Minutes 32, 50)

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, Clerk

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (See Minute 56)

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.

PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (See Minute 52)

Publications

2025 Minute Book, Plummer Lecture, Directory, 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 timelines 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 attenders. You will also get a host key code and instructions, which will be only for the person hosting/facilitating the meeting. The host key code allows you to claim the host function of the meeting without needing to log into the Zoom account.

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

RACIAL EQUITY AND EDUCATION (See Minutes 24, 68)

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.

STEWARDS (See Minute 66)

Combined with the Maintenance, Planning and Envisioning Committee report (p. 32).

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 78)

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.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

AFSC REPRESENTATIVES

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

FCNL REPRESENTATIVES

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 FCNL 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.

FPT REPRESENTATIVE

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 fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/108986

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES

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.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS REPRESENTATIVE

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.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES

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!

Grayce Haworth Mesner

Scattergood

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

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

Scattergood provides a safe and nurturing environment embracing all from 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.

Alex Lippitt

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Ad Hoc Committee on Discerning the Future of ILYM (see Minutes 11, 51)

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)

MEMORIALS

Nancy McLain Davis (1944- 2016)

Nancy was born on December 20, 1944 in Glendale, California and passed away peacefully at home in Villa Park, Illinois on September 4, 2025. She grew up on a small farm in Apple Valley, California with her parents and brother. From an early age she lived her life fully and energetically. She learned to ride horses and when she was given her own, she broke him herself and always rode bareback. She was very close to her parents and grandparents. She would frequently attend church with her grandmothers, and those experiences helped shape her understanding and thoughts about religion.

She attended Grants Pass High School in Oregon earning a nomination as a National Merit Finalist. Nancy attended the University of Oregon where she met her soul mate David who was from southern California.

Nancy and David lived for a short time in Albuquerque, New Mexico before eventually settling in Pasadena, California where their three children, Ben, Patty, and Sarah were born. The family moved to the Chicago area in 1972, and Nancy began a 30-year career with IBM, becoming one of the first female Customer Engineers in Chicago. She was proud of being a woman in a traditional man's role and loved to recall incidents from her career where one of her clients included the Chicago Tribune. The family attended and became members of Downers Grove Friends Meeting in 1972. Nancy taught First Day School and served on the Library Committee for many years. She enjoyed attending Annual Sessions of the yearly meeting and always took part in site prep and childcare. Additionally, she was a sought-after cook because Friends loved her food. Her hobbies included knitting, reading, jigsaw and crossword puzzles, and cooking.

Her daughter Patty describes Nancy as kind, strong, generous, intelligent and known as a woman of integrity. She encouraged her children to make their own choices, keep their priorities straight, follow their own interests, and to be confident. She encouraged them to try new things, make friends, ask questions, and challenge the status quo if they believed it was wrong. She always stood up for what she believed and always had their backs when they did so.

Nancy loved languages and was fluent in French. She often told the story of being in a taxi in Paris and the taxi driver complimenting her on accent. She always credited her high school French teacher. Nancy and her daughter took sign language classes together at the local library and signed together up until the very end of her life. For several years Nancy and David spent a month on the island of Molokai, and she especially enjoyed being in such a beautiful, remote location with David.

Nancy was a voracious reader and passed the love of reading on to her children. She liked to read all sorts of things—from funny novels to Proust and Harry Potter. She also loved poetry and was happy to recite her favorites if an opportunity opened up. Her favorite poet was Ogden Nash and in particular his poem about woolen socks.

She loved putting things together—jigsaw and crossword puzzles, knitting, and foods. She taught herself to knit and every year her family members received beautiful hats, gloves, scarves, and sweaters for Christmas. Her grandson wore one of the scarves she knitted for him in his college colors at her memorial service.

Her grandkids were one of the greatest joys of her life, and she was the very best grandma. She played with them, loved everything they did, and was convinced that each and every one was the most perfect human ever born. She also broke all the rules she so

steadfastly made her children adhere to—grandkids got to have dessert before dinner, did not have to eat if they were not hungry, were allowed to watch movies their parents had not been allowed to watch, and basically could do no wrong.

Nancy is survived by her husband David; loving children Patty (Mark) Erickson and Sarah Knake; devoted grandmother of Fred, Nikolas, Michael, Elijah (Molly), and Miles; fond sister of the late Tim McLain and aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son Ben.

Carolyn Louise Doll (1930-2024)

Carolyn Louise Doll was born in Havre, Montana on Dec 21, 1930. Carolyn learned to play the piano and to read books at an early age and these became past times she loved all her life. She met and married her best friend, Jack Doll, while they were students at Bozeman State College. Over the next 11 years, their six children were born and the family moved to Iowa, Tennessee, and California and eventually to Columbia, Missouri following her husband's academic career. Carolyn started attending Columbia Friends Meeting in 1966.

She participated in Friends meetings across the country and even attended meeting at the Hague, in Holland. For two years she attended West Falmouth Preparative Meeting as part of the Society of Friends at Sandwich Massachusetts, which was the oldest continuous meeting in America at the time. She also participated in meetings in Boulder Colorado and for seven years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. While there, she was arrested and jailed for a short time for participating in an anti-nuclear demonstration. Carolyn easily created a community of friends in each place and stayed in contact with many of those friendships wherever she and Jack lived.

A major appeal of Quakers for Carolyn was her belief in "pacifism." She trained to become a draft counselor in 1969 and counseled several young men during the Vietnam War. Starting in 1970, she was a regular at the weekly Quaker peace vigils outside the Post office. In her last year, at age 94, she continued to participate in monthly vigils at the meetinghouse.

Carolyn also loved the simplicity testimony and the idea that one "can worship anywhere." She said she felt comfortable in Friends meeting because she was "recognized as a real, complete person," not as Mrs. Jack Doll. She believed in equal rights for women and the right for women to preach. She attributed being able to speak without stuttering for the first time while speaking in meeting. She said she loved the Columbia meeting and very often felt "the presence in the silence."

Carolyn let her voice be heard by writing letters to her representatives and the local newspaper. She loved spending time with family and friends, playing bridge and scrabble with other meeting Friends, painting with watercolors and reading. She was one of Columbia Friend's oldest, most respected and loved members. She served as clerk and on many committees over the years. Especially in her later years, Carolyn frequently spoke during or after worship, giving us words of wisdom and funny or interesting stories. She had a ready laugh and loved to talk with anyone she would meet. She had an endless well of forgiveness, love and acceptance for all of humanity, which came naturally as a part of her deep Quaker faith.

Near the end of her life, she spoke of her preparation for her approaching death. She often reminded us that "loving one another is what is really important." It was a privilege and a joy to have her in our midst for nearly 70 years. She passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 6, 2025.

William (Bill) Howenstine (1925 - 2026)

Bill Howenstine died January 23, 2026, at age 100, on the farm where he and Alice, his wife of 72 years, and their children Chuck, Debra, and Erick had lived since 1970. Alice died about two years before. In 1951, Bill and Alice joined the Religious Society of Friends and were married in Hiram, Ohio under the care of the Cleveland Friends Meeting. Throughout their lives the couple shared a deep commitment to peace, protection of the natural environment, and recognition of the interconnectivity of all things. Bill registered as a conscientious objector during WWII. In 1970, Bill and Alice were among the founders of McHenry County Friends, which later became Fox Valley Quaker Meeting-ILYM, and which continues to meet at their home and farm.

At Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in 1992, Bill presented the Johnathan Plummer Lecture. In it he describes the early influence of his loving, supportive family, a long childhood illness, natural areas near his home, and meaningful summer camp experiences. His life increasingly centered on people's relationships with nature. The title of his lecture is "Loving the Universe," and is accessible at quaker.org/legacy/iym/plummer/1992.html.

Bill was an active participant and contributor to ILYM. He has been remembered there as an elder; his voice was often a voice of wisdom and Spirit when needed. He and Alice were at one point the heart of the ILYM Environmental Concerns Committee, and Bill was always looked to as a role model even when others led the committee. He brought an environmental perspective to the ILYM Site Envisioning and Building Committee and planted trees on campus, including a row of redbuds near the campground. Up until his 90's, Bill and Alice camped in a tent each year. One Friend considered them "grandparents to the whole yearly meeting."

In the summer of 1964, Bill and Alice were directors of an American Friends Service Committee community service project in the state of Tlaxcala, Mexico. A year later they spent 13 months in Peru as directors of an AFSC community development program working in a low-income settlement in the desert outside of Lima.

Bill and Alice were among the founding members of what is now Quaker Earthcare Witness, an international network of Quakers working toward ecological integrity and environmental justice. In cooperation with the Quaker community in Monteverde Costa Rica, they were instrumental in launching and supporting Finca la Bella, a collective farm that pioneered ecological land use.

Bill's life included a rich mix of formal and experiential education. While completing a PhD in Conservation at the Univ. of Michigan, he built and directed an outdoor education program for Cleveland Heights (OH) Public Schools. He and his family moved to Chicago for a position with a new and innovative teachers' college—now Northeastern Illinois University—where he taught Environmental Studies and served within the administration for nearly forty years.

He had a gift for helping disparate groups find common ground and reach consensus. He did this in classroom discussions, in casual conversation, in community organizations and as Dean of Students during the turbulent 1960's.

In 1970, the Howenstine family moved to a farm near McHenry, IL, and developed an organic cut-your-own Christmas tree business. The farm serves as a place where people of varied backgrounds come together to enjoy outdoor experiences and find connection with the natural environment.

Bill and Alice were instrumental in the early years of the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. While Alice was considered the driving force behind the county's

recycling efforts, Bill played key roles in a number of regional groups focused on land conservation. He was among the founders of the McHenry County Conservation District, twice serving as Board President. To date, MCCD has preserved over 25,000 acres of open space.

Bill was thoughtful, kind, caring, and honest. He consistently lived his values; love was his driving force. He was a dear friend, inspiration, and mentor to many. He will be remembered, loved, missed, and carried forward in the hearts and lives of his family, friends, and those he impacted during his extraordinary life.

Sten Johansen (1952-2025)

Stenford (Sten) Johansen was born on January 14, 1952 in Urbana, Illinois. He died on June 30, 2025.

Sten was one of five children, born to Christian and Bernice Johansen. He attended Urbana schools, but he completed his last two years of high school at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where he played the French bassoon. About his love of music, a friend wrote, “Sten was so knowledgeable about orchestral repertoire from his days at Interlochen and listened to it intensely throughout his life.” Sten went on to earn a bachelors degree in music and a master’s in library science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

After graduate school, Sten worked as an assistant professor in the music library at UIUC, a perfect match for his interests. Unfortunately, he was dealt some hard blows in his life, which affected the trajectory of his career. He was diagnosed with oral cancer and had to have major surgery to remove a portion of his jaw and teeth. Years later, he underwent chemotherapy and radiation to treat esophageal cancer. In addition to these health challenges, Sten had serious issues with depression. As a result, he was unable to continue working at the UIUC music library, but he found a way to make a living doing a variety of interesting jobs, including as a disco DJ at a downtown bar, a real estate agent, a manager in local restaurants and gourmet food stores, and most recently as a cashier in a grocery store.

In the late 1990’s, Sten started attending a support group for people with depression, which later became DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance). The group met once a week in the basement of one of the hospitals in Urbana. At his fifth meeting, the facilitator of the group, who was then in his late 80’s, asked Sten if he would take over as facilitator. Sten asked his mother if she thought it was a good idea, and she said, “Yes”, and so he did. During Sten’s tenure, the group has expanded from one meeting a week to three. Sten continued to facilitate the Tuesday group until the last few months of his life. What a legacy!

In addition to facilitating the support group, Sten organized a social time for group members at a local cafe on Sunday evenings. The gathering built a sense of belonging and community for the people attending.

Unlike social workers and therapists, Sten was on-call day and night to support folks in the group. Many times, he escorted people who were suicidal to the emergency room, advocated for them and insisted that they receive appropriate medical care. Sten started attending U-C Friends Meeting around fifteen years ago. He participated in committee work and was a member of the “Q Men”, who met for lunch once a month. The Q Men often got involved in Sten’s mission to help members of the support group. Sten had a large, old Chrysler, big enough for folks with disabilities to get in and out of. One Friend

recalled Sten calling him when his car would not start. The Friend met Sten in the parking lot where his car was stalled and proceeded to try to jump start it. Sten said, “No! No! We don’t have time. I need you to take me immediately to rescue someone who is in dire straits.” They left the car where it was, partially blocking the path of other cars in the lot, to attend to the urgent situation.

Friends held a memorial meeting for Sten at the meetinghouse on July 19, 2025. Many of Sten’s family and friends attended, along with a large number of members from the support group. More than one person talked about Sten’s calm voice and how they felt welcomed and comforted by him during the support group meetings. Sten continued to struggle with depression throughout his life, but caring for others gave him a purpose for living.

Audrey Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Oldham (1930-2025)

Audrey Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Oldham, (April 21, 1930-November 4, 2025) died peacefully at the age of 95. She is survived by her children, Mark Oldham of Saint Louis, Kate Oldham of New York City, Dominic Oldham and his wife Heather of Saint Louis; and her grandchildren, Luke, Rhys and Claudia. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Gwynneth and her eldest son, Matthew.

Liz was born in Bradford, England to Lilian and Fred Oddy. Her passion for adventure led her to join the Women’s Royal Naval Service in her early 20s which brought her to Northern Ireland and on to Egypt where she met her former husband, Francis Oldham. Together, they built a life that crossed England, Canada, and finally led them to St. Louis in 1967. Liz was a passionate horse woman, avid tennis player, and a generous volunteer.

Liz loved her animals, her plants, and her friends. She continued to study languages with a group, was a devotee of peace activities, and was committed to her and supported the International Institute, particularly their international lunches. Liz was an insightful contributor to the OASIS women’s political round table. She wrote a memoir filled with her humor: *How Did I Get Here: It’s only three weeks ago that I was twenty.*

She became active in the St. Louis Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. She served on the library committee, finance committee, and building committee and helped out in many ways. Liz participated in Meeting for Worship. As her hearing deteriorated, she worked to find assistive devices that could help all who had trouble hearing in meeting.

She became a trainer for the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) and helped to get a program into a Missouri prison. Liz saw that of God in every inmate she worked with in the AVP program she facilitated at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Facility for about 9 years. She easily warmed those who were withdrawn or skeptical with her expressive honesty, sharing, and her genuine interest in them. There were men who came across as rough; she drew them out enough to show the connection between their early experiences, attitudes, and actions; she helped them see change and hope were possible. Sometimes her humor, British accent, and charming expressiveness carried the day. It may have only been her difficulty hearing that led her to stop.

She then volunteered at the St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center, mostly as a tutor. She did a lot more than tutor math or English. She was tutoring teenagers on what was important in life, not by lectures but by her interest and example, her little quips, and humor and encouragement. She was exasperated by the rough things kids had to deal with and said so, which validated them. As best she could, she watered the seed of God in them.

Liz will be long remembered by her large network of friends for her generosity, humor, and love.

Wilmer ‘Wil’ Rutt (1934-2025)

Wilmer Mellinger Rutt died, at age 90, on May 26, 2025, in Chicago. A deeply connected family man, Wil will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who treasured family reunions.

Wil was born on August 20, 1934, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, as an 11th generation Rutt in America (prior to USA), descended from Mennonites given land to settle on from William Penn. Wil grew up on a family tobacco farm that planted a life-long love of gardening and horticulture. Wil graduated from Goshen College and Jefferson Medical College. He married nurse Lois Swartendruber, and they took their growing family to serve for several years in Haiti as medical missionaries with Mennonite Central Committee. Their experiences in Haiti informed much of their life thereafter, with return visits through the years. Wil helped found the Oak Park, Illinois, Ten Thousand Villages nonprofit store featuring fair-trade crafts from around the world.

During Wil’s medical career, he was particularly proud of setting up the first dialysis unit in Gratiot County, Michigan; creating a comprehensive model program for smoking cessation; and serving as founding director of The Center for Clinical Effectiveness at Henry Ford Health System. As Wil moved into health care management and research, he always maintained a patient practice, to keep grounded in and centered on ever-improving patient care and outcomes. Wil’s management philosophy was exemplified by his saying, “You can get a lot done if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

Wil was always involved in social justice activities and community service. Two of his favorites were Bread for the World and Friends Committee on National Legislation. He served as ILYM and Northside’s representative to FCNL for many years. He was diligent in lobbying Illinois legislators about issues regarding our Quaker testimonies and encouraging others to do so. He faithfully attended FCNL annual meetings when possible. Even in his final days, he followed national and global news, eager to discuss events with visitors.

In retirement, Wil came out as gay/bisexual. He and Lois had dealt with this for decades. They sent a letter announcing this, and their divorce, to a large circle of friends, and Wil was pleasantly surprised with the level of acceptance and support they received. They eventually became known, by many, as the most amicably divorced couple they ever knew. Wil had a partner, Leslie, a symphony conductor, for ten years, making Annapolis, Maryland, and Berwyn, Illinois, their home, and traveling the world.

Wil was delighted to be Dean Peerman’s “September Romance.” Dean was a juggernaut of an editor at The Christian Century for 62 years, as well as a perennial actor. Wil and Dean were married in 2011. They were founding residents at the Admiral at the Lake in Chicago, a senior living high-rise overlooking Lake Michigan, offering abundant community.

Wil was raised a Mennonite, spent much of his life as a United Methodist, and lived the last quarter of a century as a Quaker/Friend. When he and Leslie moved to Annapolis, they visited the Methodist Church, and quickly determined that this parish was not for them. Quakerism had always appealed to him, so they visited the Quaker meeting and he said, “That was that.” And thus began his journey in Quakerism.

In 2004, Wil transferred his membership from Annapolis Friends to Oak Park Meeting, serving as Clerk and many other capacities there. After moving to the Admiral, he transferred his membership to Northside Friends. Wil was a valued member of the meeting, serving on Ministry and Counsel and other committees. As House Committee Clerk, he delighted in setting up Northside’s library and a Sunday literature table; trying various ways to make the worship space welcoming and homey; and developing a strong

bond with JASC's executive director. He also founded a mid-week worship at the Admiral on Wednesday mornings, under the care of Evanston and Northside Meetings. After worship, he enjoyed taking attenders to the café for breakfast where they heartily discussed world events. He was a light to live by.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.

I awoke and saw that life was service.

I acted and behold, service was joy.

-Rabindranath Tagore

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

Friends in Bloomington-Normal Monthly Meeting feel the inspiration of the Spirit in our worship. A wider variety of voices have offered up messages. During the last year, having more visitors has brought our meeting new life and vibrancy.

We have been giving loving support and funds to help two families with emergency needs. Our close-knit community of Friends has plenty of support, love and Light to share with more new Seekers. We have recognized that we could be doing more to bear witness as a group in the Bloomington-Normal area and to be easier to find.

One area of fruitful outreach has been the local Advocacy Team working with Friends Committee on National Legislation. The group is growing connections to other local faith communities and sharing our values with legislators.

The Women's Meeting for Eating is a joyful fellowship that meets monthly, sharing both food and the sustenance of friendship.

Our First Day School energizes the meeting. All generations in the meeting explored Quaker history with the stories in the book Quakers on the Move. Children are showing commitment to the gathering and the current lessons focused on stewardship and sustainability from Quaker Earthcare Witness Earthcare for Children. Discussions around seeds and growth parallel our meeting's growth in the Spirit. The enthusiasm of the youth is inspiring to the adults of the meeting. We are contemplating how to go forth with First Day School when some young Friends reach high-school age.

Some Bloomington-Normal and Clear Creek attenders had deeper discussions about faith and Quaker practices in a Q101 class led by yearly meeting co-Field Secretary Marcia Nelson. We look forward to further learning about history and further spiritual nurture in the upcoming Q102 class with Marcia.

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

The Burlington Worship Group has been meeting for over ten years. During the pandemic, we continued to gather via Zoom. In the past year, two attenders became members of Clear Creek, our monthly meeting. Once a month, Friends from surrounding areas join us for worship, often followed by a potluck meal. We are considering adding a time of singing prior to worship. We have also seen an increase in attendance.

We are grateful for the steady sense of community that has developed among us and for the ways in which new attenders have enriched our worship. At the same time, we continue to seek ways to deepen our spiritual life together.

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Clear Creek is a small, tight-knit community. Since most of us live at a distance from the meetinghouse, we tend to arrive early for worship in order to have time to visit, then continue that activity over sack lunches after worship. In this way, we keep up with what is going on in each other's lives—the joys and the concerns—and support each other in any way we can, whether that is through hugs, listening, food or Light-holding. We know we can count on each other for spiritual support.

We welcomed Friends from several other meetings and worship groups including a number of children who enjoyed an indoor egg hunt in the meetinghouse due to rainy weather outside. Our potluck, as always, provided an abundance of delicious food. This annual event typically marks our return to worship in the meetinghouse rather than Clear Creek House, a welcome sign of spring and a renewal of activity on the campus and a lift to our spirits.

We continue to see benefits from our March 2025 retreat, “An Introduction to Quaker Meditation,” which was led by Marcia Nelson. One of the participants has become a frequent attendee at worship. Several area residents who saw the newspaper advertisement about the retreat but who were unable to attend have also visited us, and we have had other visitors as well including two who now attend worship regularly. Among these other visitors were a couple walking across the country via the American Discovery Trail and a couple traveling around the US and Canada in a travel trailer. Visitors always add to our depth of worship, and we are grateful for those who keep coming back becoming part of our community. Two of our attendees participated in the Quaker 101 sessions led by Marcia and hosted by Bloomington-Normal Friends. We appreciate BN letting our Friends “crash” these sessions.

We have had an increase in membership as well. With the laying down of Spoon River Quaker Meeting, three of their members transferred to Clear Creek. In addition, two long-time attendees of the Burlington Worship Group (under the care of Clear Creek) applied for membership and were welcomed to our meeting.

Illness and injury have plagued our numbers this year. Rose Dennis Johnson was injured at work in August and continues recovering at home. Both Marydale Stewart and Rachel Mershon fell in the winter and are currently in rehabilitation facilities in Spring Valley and Peru, respectively. We hope they will eventually be able to return to their homes and join us for worship. While there is not much we have been able to do for these Friends, we have visited when we can and continue holding all of them and their families in the Light.

June brought us Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, marking the 150th anniversary of ILYM. It was glorious to see so many Friends come to campus, many of whom we had not seen in several years. In July, we hosted the wedding of Claire Gunnell Goode and Jay Farris. Claire had grown up in Clear Creek Meeting, and we were pleased to provide clearness for the couple and have the wedding in the meetinghouse. The wedding was followed by a dinner under the maple trees and dancing on the lawn.

We are excited to have hosted the ILYM Clerks and Continuing Committee Representatives Retreat, “Nurturing Our Meetings,” which was held on March 28. It was a valuable opportunity for meetings to connect and share ideas. This was the first use of the campus this year and will usher in a new season of events, bringing much appreciated activity and guests to us.

This winter's weather has been hard on attendance. We have had to cancel worship no less than four times due to cold and snow which makes travel for many of us unwise. We are looking forward to the return of spring, and to the return of activities to the yearly meeting campus.

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

Our meeting's worship sees a constant core of attenders both in person and on Zoom for our hybrid meeting. We also have a steady influx of visitors, many of whom are first time attenders. At times, we experience gathered meetings which nourish our spirit. We also have a culture where people feel comfortable and supported sharing their struggles and concerns during worship and at the rise of meeting. Our children join us for the last few minutes of worship and are invited to share what they have learned in first day school. This brings us all joy as their messages can be spirit led and inspiring. We have an active Meeting for Learning program that has led study sessions on Quaker worship and books of various religious traditions. Our midweek meeting on Zoom has kept us connected to Friends who have moved away, as well as to our ILYM field secretaries. An Earth Care Witness member also regularly hosts an outdoor meditation, which is joined by people from Show Me Dharma and the Unitarian Universalists.

Our current location gives us visibility and a space for children to play and gardens to grow. Twelve of our households are close enough to walk to meeting, all of which helps to support our sustainability testimony and helps to build our community.

We have members who feel led to take action for justice through providing meals for unhoused people; we encourage people to voice their concerns to their political representatives; we continue to hold a small monthly peace vigil; and individuals participate in larger organizations and demonstrations for social justice.

We lost one of our elder and beloved members of meeting at age 94. This year also saw us welcoming one new member, and we look forward to their marriage under the care of meeting. Many of our younger families and attenders share deep friendships and support one another through difficult times. They have built a strong community and help to maintain the large vegetable garden, and enjoy many activities together, including pizza and movie nights at the meetinghouse. Meeting has also formed strong ties to the family who lives in and cares for our meetinghouse, as they sojourn with us from Myanmar. We look forward to the spirit working to guide us with hope and strength to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

The expectant waiting in silence and openness for messages from the Divine in meeting for worship continues to nourish the life of the meeting. It is often the same few Friends who share spoken messages, and some yearn for more Friends to feel led to speak. But silent worship can lead to a sense of a shared spiritual experience uniting with each other to make possible the work of the Spirit.

We live our faith interpersonally and in community with others who engage in activities rooted in our testimonies of peace and equality, i.e., protests of immigration treatment, contributing to the work of a county-wide organization that teaches English to immigrants, works to improve the safety of our streets, and advocacy with politicians.

We have opportunities to grow spiritually through fellowship activities in the meeting and through inter-meeting and yearly meeting activities such as programs, discussions, Quaker 8s, and time to worship together. Our woodland labyrinth provides a place for walking worship alone or in community. We are now in a long-term trial of all hybrid meetings for worship so that the experience is accessible, inclusive, and enabling connection and community for all who are present.

The meeting is vital in terms of numbers attending weekly. We are coming together into a growing community. During fellowship after meeting for worship, newcomers are made to feel welcome. However, we have difficulty retaining visitors, especially younger attenders. We currently have only one child in the meeting.

The core of the meeting is aging and that makes it difficult to find Friends to do the work of the meeting. The problem is that too few Friends do most of the work. For many, the idea of doing work in their house of worship or using their gifts and skills to serve on a committee is an unfamiliar concept. Many are also very busy personally or live at a considerable distance from the meetinghouse. In contrast, the heart of our community is most fully realized during projects when numerous people are involved, such as on landscape workdays and through the dedicated work of our committees. At times like this, working together deepens the spiritual vitality of the meeting for all.

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Duneland Friends Meeting (DFM) continued in 2025 to be vibrant while small, meeting twice a month at the Timberbridge Condominium Clubhouse in Valparaiso, Indiana and every Wednesday by Zoom. Duneland Friends Meeting showed both signs of strength as a faith community and signs of fragility in 2025. We are held together by the joy found in meeting and visiting with one another. Members share servants' hearts and a genuine care for each other. Our community of highly educated individuals remains eager to learn and continues to participate actively in adult education. In the view of one member, we are people of great ambition, yet without ambition to be great. Our fragility was apparent as several members experienced health issues, and in-person attendance on 2nd and 4th Sundays waned for a time. We even discussed whether we should renew the agreement for our meeting space for 2026. The result of the discussion was that we fairly quickly found unity to renew it, especially since a visitor had recently found us at our meeting place. In addition, we welcomed two new members: Philip May and Daniel Freire. Even as numbers may change over time, the depth of experience, wisdom, and compassion within the meeting remains a strength.

Thanks to the Zoom program, we continued our weekly midweek meetings which serve as a time for fellowship, adult education, and our monthly business meetings. For adult education, we took the suggestion of one member that we consider the topic of "The Light" from a variety of angles. At least six of us offered to each lead a session, and this topic engaged us through the end of the year, with other sessions planned for 2026. The willingness of Friends to prepare and lead sessions, to listen to a variety of perspectives, to respond in worship sharing affirm our strength as a community committed to our spiritual growth.

Friends have long resisted reducing their faith to a single defining statement. Our testimonies—peace, equality, integrity, simplicity, stewardship, and community—along with commitments to social justice and walking cheerfully over the earth as led by the Light and truth, are understood and lived out in diverse ways. These varied leadings may move individuals in different directions, yet they are united by a shared intention to do good. Though our resources are limited and our efforts modest, a small group doing a little good faithfully is, indeed, enough.

There are many opportunities to serve locally by meeting smaller, tangible needs, and these offer a natural focus for the meeting. While drawing attention to ourselves is never the goal, responding lovingly to local needs can quietly demonstrate who Friends are and what we value, often leading others to take notice. Through such grounded service, the meeting can continue to express its care for neighbors while remaining clear about its limits and trusting larger challenges to others. We continued to view our meeting funds as a way to put our faith into action. We used our Sufferings Fund twice to help meeting families in need. We made special donations, beyond our planned

contributions, in response to our concerns for the consequences of immigration enforcement and for food security in Valparaiso. We are also strengthened by our connections to Illinois Yearly Meeting with five Friends attending Annual Sessions, intervisitation with Elkhart River Worship Group, participation in the Environmental Concerns Committee, Racial Equity and Education Committee, Ministry and Advancement Committee, and the wider Quaker world.

None of us is promised tomorrow, yet this awareness can invite us into deeper faithfulness today. Though numbers may change, the meeting's purpose need not diminish. By remaining present, attentive, and open to the Light among us, Duneland Friends Meeting can continue to live its witness—however small it may seem—with integrity, hope, and love.

ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE MEETING

Friends have often spoken this year of coming to meeting with a heavy heart, or of coming with an experience of inner or outward turmoil. Meeting has been a space to untangle the threads and thickets of our human experiences, and the fruits of these insights are often shared with one another.

We have had changes in those attending regularly due to family life circumstances, people finding a home in other faith communities, as well as welcoming newcomers to become regular parts of our group.

Our regular potluck after Meeting for Worship has consistently nourished our love and fellowship for one another, and we have been grateful for the ways we have been able to show up for one another with committees for clearness and support. We meet for worship at Faith House, a ministry of a local Mennonite congregation, and it has continued to be a place of security for us. Meeting outdoors for worship in warmer months has been a treasured experience among us. Messages have often come to us from the trees and other nature beings in the Faith House backyard.

We have tended conflicts as they have arisen, often finding ways forward together and sometimes allowing relationships or practices to shift.

As a worship group, we have been mindful of our gifts and limitations and have kept our structures and commitments aligned to our size. While we no longer have First Day School programming, we welcome and support young people in participating in a variety of ways in our worship: drawing, crafting, and always snacks. Wider Quaker activities have been especially important to the teens who are connected to our worship group.

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING

Evanston Monthly Meeting is continuing its practice of in-person and virtual attendance and also dividing our meeting room into masked and unmasked sections that we initiated on or about 2022 in response to the COVID epidemic. Like the rest of the country, our meeting is aging, with 58% of our members over the age of 70. One of our members formed a monthly seniors lunch group which is providing valuable support for this age group. At the other end of life, we maintain a First Day School with supervision by paid staff, and we are currently seeking applications for a recently vacated position. Over the years, the First Day School has tended to operate independently of the adult Meeting for Worship, so a number of intergenerational events to integrate the two age groups has been arranged, such as a fire pit, a pizza party, sandwich making for distribution to homeless youth and re-planting our Memorial Garden. Another ongoing concern is the poor sound transmission in our high-ceilinged meeting room; an ad hoc committee is looking into solutions.

Attendance has remained stable over the past year. We lost one member through transfer but joyfully welcomed three others into membership. The Ministry and Worship Committee is contacting inactive members to discern their intent, resulting in the release of one person. We are still defining the roles of M&W and Care and Counsel Committees after they were split from the original Ministry and Counsel Committee last year.

As part of the Evanston faith community, we regularly participate in interfaith activities, such as collecting needed items for SNAP recipients, joining the pride parade as part of the Coalition of Welcoming Churches and the winter Walk for Warmth, and collaborating with other local faith organizations to support immigrants. Within our own Quaker circles, we hosted teen-agers from three yearly meetings for the Quake that Rocked the Midwest on January 16-18 and we are regular supporters of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. In celebration of World Quaker Day, we gathered on our front steps to cheerfully sing the George Fox song and shared the recording with Friends everywhere.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

We are a small but deep meeting, working together with what we have and bring to each other. We have a sense of the Spirit leading our worship and our caring for each other. A Friend describes our meeting as a highly nuanced biome taking its form according to who is present. Every new element can form and enrich the composition. We see present Light and Spirit in our worship and fellowship. We are happiest when we feel like family. This has developed a spiritual unity among seekers feeling themselves in worship throughout the whole week.

Attendees appreciate that we do not put on and take off our identities like “Sunday clothes.” It is a joy to see visitors come back again. As they ask themselves whether they belong here, we hope they feel “You are all holding me in the Light.” We are touched by those who pass through. Our watchword is awareness of that of God in others among our numbers and in the wider community.

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

We are a small meeting with regular involvement at Meeting for Worship of 6-9 people, mostly members, at Pioneer Farm in McHenry. We miss Bill Howenstine, but feel connected to him and Alice during worship. We are glad for a new member, regular attendees and we have visitors we hope will return.

Our meetings are quiet and deep, the sharing is sustaining, whether spoken during worship or following it. Two Friends maintain contact with those who have moved away. Our social action is individual (recycling, community gardening, etc.) rather than corporate, but we usually see each other at the local peaceful demonstrations for democracy. Our non-resident member, Mark McGinnis, ILYM co-Field Secretary, faithfully attends our Meetings for Worship for Business and keeps us updated on ILYM matters. On First Days, we post the Quaker sign out by the road, welcoming all. We are returning to our practice of worship outdoors on the ‘Quaker slope’ as Bill called it, when weather permits.

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

Our spiritual center is meeting for worship—an opportunity to center, empty the mind, and listen for the promptings of the Spirit. Lake Forest Friends Meeting has a tradition of waiting worship that is deeply valued. Friends also value vocal ministry, but perhaps would like more. We are always looking for more in terms of deeper spiritual connection.

All meetings try to live out Quaker values in times of political turmoil. LFFM is struggling with this. How are we addressing distress, angst, anger, and a desire for action?

One opportunity to address such feelings and leadings is through a weekly protest at the corner of Route 41 and Old Elm Road. Another is by sharing potluck meals where people can discuss anything, including concerns and feelings stirred up by political or other events. Members are also participating in political activism outside of the meeting, including events led by American Friends Service Committee and non-Quaker organizations.

To promote spiritual deepening during the past year, a Bible study based on George Fox was offered at LFFM. The meeting held a newcomers group and an opportunity to participate in an extended meeting for worship.

The meeting has regular events that provide more opportunities for sharing spiritual experiences, including the handwork gatherings, midweek meeting for worship, and adult reading group. Friends also gather regularly for music and to play games.

LFFM does community outreach in several ways. We provide meals for Lake County Haven and support refugee families in the Chicago area through Exodus World Service. We also host an annual fundraiser for F.O.C.U.S., which provides the Justus D. Howell Scholarships for students attending the College of Lake County.

The children's and teens' programs are vibrant and contribute mightily to LFFM. They show leadership in community outreach, having initiated a twist on potluck Sundays: they've made soup for everyone and asked people to donate to a food pantry instead of bringing a potluck dish to share. The children have also prepared meals for Lake County Haven and gathered provisions for refugee families. At the rise of meeting, the children report on what they did in First Day School. The report causes children to reflect on their morning and it creates a bridge between children and adults at meeting.

We are grateful for each other and for our well-loved meetinghouse. Despite the challenges of this particular time in history, we keep the words on the FCNL bumper sticker in our hearts and minds: "Love thy neighbor (No Exceptions)." It sums up what we want to do as Friends.

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

Frequent themes in our listening sessions this year were noise, movement, and growth.

Northside has moved twice since this time last year. In March 2025 we learned that we would need to move out of the space we had shared with Chicago Friends School. An ad hoc committee quickly began exploring options and we decided to move to Edgewater Presbyterian Church (EPC). It is located not far from our previous location, and is close to the "L" Red Line, which is used by many of our attenders. We started off in a small room that barely fit us; through the positive partnership we developed with EPC, we were able to move a few months later to the larger space where we now meet. First Day attendance now averages 55 Friends (including approximately 9 online). Our moves have reinforced our belief that the meeting is the people, not the space.

In the past year we have made a joyful noise, be it with very active vocal ministry, the open and vulnerable sharing during Joys and Sorrows, or the activities of Friends at demonstrations and vigils around the city. We are discerning leadings regarding anti-racism work and social justice, and have been challenged when seeking unity. We grieve the war and strife in today's world. Friends seek to engage our communities for positive change and provide sustenance for activists and resisters.

An influx of families with young children and a small baby boom have motivated a re-formed Children's Committee. A First Day Program is offered once a month, with childcare provided by volunteers on other First Days. One Friend described the childcare space as a room with a "good, peaceful, fun culture." A welcoming for two babies born last year will be held in early May.

Meeting for Worship continues to be enhanced by technology. This year Technology Committee introduced handheld microphones to worship, as well as new in-room speakers. These improve accessibility for both Friends attending online and in person.

The meeting continues to experience an influx of new seekers, and is enriched by all they bring us. Many are younger people with little “church” experience, or those who are moving on from their church of origin. Queer and transgender seekers find comfort and community in meeting. Seasoned Northsiders enjoy introducing new attenders to Quaker practice. We were reminded of the distinction between guests and hosts in Quaker meeting. It is a joy to watch Friends move from being a guest to a host, and a challenge to older Friends to respectfully share hosting. In response to this influx, a new Community Inreach Committee was formed to encourage fellowship and community, and welcome newcomers.

We lost two Friends last year. Wil Rutt, who had contributed so much to Northside over many years, passed away at age 90. Wil believed in us when we were at our smallest, and encouraged us to take steps to stabilize and grow. His stalwart faith and friendship are greatly missed. Our other loss was young Henry “Hank” Sullivan, who died just before his third birthday. Hank was a sparkler who brought joy and a love of Elmo and chocolate croissants to our meeting.

In September we held a weekend retreat at Clear Creek House in McNabb. About 15 Friends attended the intergenerational weekend that included Story Theology led by Beth Burbank and Spiritual Journey sharing. We held our annual summer picnic in late August. We took advantage of having access to our space full-time (a first in Northside’s history!) to hold our holiday party on a Saturday morning. The Community Inreach Committee provided activities for all ages, and carol singing was accompanied by guitar, ukelele, and many hand-held percussion instruments.

“There’s a continuity from when I was a child in this meeting until today, and it’s not the people, it’s the spirit of the meeting.” We continue to listen for the Spirit in worship, Meeting for Business, and our daily lives. New attenders join us for community, silence, and for service. Our attenders have a diverse range of beliefs, and one Friend asked, “How do we maintain a center for what is Quaker in our Meeting?”

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

Oak Park Friends Meeting continues to be an accepting and supportive community. We learn from each other’s wisdom. We feel that we have had more vocal ministry this year, while maintaining a good balance of silent worship as well. For the past few years we have had a sense that we were shrinking, but this past year we have had many visitors, some repeat visitors, and one or two new attenders who attend on most weeks and fully join in the life of the meeting. We have also had a few children who visited the meeting, including the one-year-old great-grandson of one of our members.

We are blessed with the faithful service of long-term co-clerks, treasurer and recording clerk, as well as the participants in the various committees. The String Academy has been a friendly, responsive landlord, and we plan to share a booth with them at the annual “A Day in Our Village” event in Oak Park in early June. We have placed a large sign in the front window saying “Quaker Meeting 10 a.m. Sundays” with a dove logo.

We participate in the wider Quaker world and have relationships with Chicago Friends School, Care Children's Academy (a Quaker school) in Uganda and with Scattergood Friends School. With the stewardship of our Peace, Justice & Environment Committee, we donate to various Quaker organizations. In addition, during this time of national and worldwide turbulence, members and attenders are individually active in various peaceful expressions of speaking truth to power.

We were pleased to host two visitors with meaningful presentations this year. The first was Michael Luick-Thrams, an American historian who has lived in Germany for many years and presented information on Germans and Quakers during World War II. He spoke mainly about a group of 185 Jewish and political opponents of Hitler that were housed at Scattergood Friends School in Iowa during the war. He is the executive director of TRACES which oversaw the creation of an exhibit on the subject and there was also a documentary on it produced by Iowa Public Television.

More recently, we were delighted to have Candy Boyd of St. Louis Friends Meeting visit us to share information on Project Lakota-Ville, one of the Quaker projects that we donate to annually. Project Lakota-Ville works on housing and other needs on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota and the historic Ville neighborhood in St. Louis, which was severely damaged by a tornado last year. Candy brought pictures of the tornado destruction and spoke about her activities and insights in working with this project.

We have an ongoing spiritual group called Quaker Share that meets 3 times a month. The Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee holds monthly events using a Quakerism 101 theme. Currently we are reviewing the SPICES testimonies, which has led to fruitful discussions.

On months with a 5th Friday we gather at a Friend's home to make lunches for Housing Forward, the local housing/homelessness organization. Our weekly e-newsletter keeps friends and visitors abreast of monthly and yearly meeting activities, as well as of events in the wider world.

We plan to continue welcoming visitors and endeavoring to uphold our members and attenders. We feel that the state of our monthly meeting is progressing in a positive direction, and plan to discern ways to keep on this course.

ST. LOUIS FRIENDS MEETING

In many ways, our meeting seems the healthiest it has been in years. We have had many new attenders in the past year, and many of them have become steadfast in their attendance. Alongside long-term members and attenders, there are a lot of full pews each First Day! At our April Meeting for Business, we welcomed our newest member, and the clerk read two more letters requesting the next steps for membership.

A focus on building repair has energized the meeting. Our building received some (small, compared to many buildings in North St. Louis) tornado damage last May 16. Looking into repairs revealed many more issues that had gone unresolved, which compromised the integrity of the building, but would cost large sums to repair, and a lot of time to arrange for repairs and allocation of funds. A threshing session about our building revealed that most Friends value the spiritual benefits of keeping the building, and keeping it in good repair. Thus our property and finance committees have been very active this year, and the meeting at large is so appreciative. Ministry and Caring Committee notes that having a building that looks as if it is being maintained creates a feeling of security for new attenders—that this new spiritual home will not soon crumble.

We have gone from years of mostly completely silent meetings, to Meetings for Worship with a good balance of silence and a few messages delivered each week, from a diversity of speakers and a variety of traditions or viewpoints. Usually one or another will “speak to one’s condition.” At the rise of meeting, people greet each other and discussions continue from messages. Some messages are intentional or unintentional queries. Some Friends say the meetings feel “gathered” in the silence. Hearing the leadings of others enhances our own path.

In these times of political turmoil, injustice, and war, many are seeking spiritual refreshment, solace, and community and finding it among Friends at our meeting. We

have an active Peace, Justice, and Community Concerns (PJCC) committee, and many Friends are socially engaged in the St. Louis area and beyond. Some examples: our meeting continues to spiritually and financially support Project Lakota-ville with time, labor, and funds, this year primarily assisting victims of the St. Louis May 16 tornado. (Project Lakota-ville works under Lakota and Black leadership assisting with a variety of community projects.) PJCC participated in a vigil with our local AFSC chapter on ending youth incarceration. Several Meeting members/attenders volunteered at the first Get Outdoors Day in Fairground Park, supporting children in North St. Louis who have limited access to nature.

St. Louis Friends Meeting has ongoing and intermittent ways outside of Meeting for Worship to support its members and attenders on their spiritual path. We have weekly First Day school for children with two or three or regulars and occasionally up to five or six children. Our youngest Friends are exposed to Quaker testimonies and are encouraged with love and patience along their own path as Seekers of the Light. There is an ongoing Friendly Dozen group and smaller Spiritual Direction groups that have been meeting for spiritual sustenance for years. A Reading Group meets regularly and Adult Religious Education is robustly attended. This year, we hosted an Introduction to Quakerism series. New attenders have mentioned feeling welcomed personally and appreciative of the literature for newcomers at the entrance. Our annual attender's dinner has been announced for May. Committee work also helps people in our meeting feel engaged with each other in the community and wider world. Our work together helps us grow in humility, collaboration, and patience.

There is work to be done in the world, in our meeting, and within ourselves. We bring our wider cultures and flaws with us. Our processes are often opaque to newcomers. Valuing simplicity in a digital age can lead to some communication and outreach challenges. While our Committee for the Unhoused continues to find ways to support this community, some of our meeting mourn the lapse in using our meetinghouse as a winter shelter. Finally, we hope more attenders are moved toward committee engagement and membership.

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

South Bend Friends has crested and is coming down the other side of a generational transition, with some of our more seasoned Friends stepping back from active participation in committees and newer Friends stepping into leadership and committee roles. This transition has prompted us to be increasingly intentional in having gathered ways of working together. We continue to reap the benefits of monthly potlucks and snacks at the rise of meeting, both of which we restarted last year after COVID, as Friends continue and deepen conversations rising out of worship.

We have a vibrant community of young Friends and parents. In December, Young Friends presented a "friendly beasts Christmas pageant." We are grateful for the technology that allowed us to record and share the pageant virtually within our meeting. Many Friends who could not attend meeting that day expressed joy at being able to experience the pageant in this fashion. More recently, young Friends painted wooden eggs for Easter, and older young Friends hid them outdoors on a beautiful Sunday for the youngest Friends to find.

Meeting continues to partner with local organizations such as We Make Indiana, a local multi-racial, multi-faith movement working with local public officials on policy changes to ensure that all can thrive. We have continued to express concern for accompanying our immigrant neighbors, and a small group of Friends have started to volunteer with Neighbor

to Neighbor, an organization that works with immigrant families, to partner with an immigrant family to help them integrate into the South Bend community.

We are entering a period of uncertainty about our physical space, which may take a great deal of our energy and concern for the next couple of years. We are waiting to hear from the church from whom we rent space, whether they will stay in their historic building or sell it. We are trying to prepare for a variety of possible outcomes while discerning the best way forward for our community. Given the turmoil within our country and around the world, we continue to create space to be open with each other, to listen and strengthen relationship bonds with each other and the wider world.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

In preparing this State of Society, SIQM reflected on the queries in Illinois Yearly Meeting's Book of Faith and Practice and reread our submission from last year. We find ourselves in much the same place as a year ago. We are still small but maintain a faithful corps of people who attend regularly and have a number of others who attend as they can. There is a deep bond among those who attend, either as members or as long-time attenders. We are often only five or six, but occasionally are around ten. We frequently come to a gathered silence, being in community enriching the sense of the presence of Spirit. Vocal ministry is only occasional but often feels as though a given message touches a questioning or concern of another person present. Even when our hour of worship includes no vocal ministry, we share at the end thoughts and experiences of the silence that did not quite become a fully formed message to be delivered as ministry. This draws us closer and allows the community to offer reflection and acceptance of what is shared.

We also draw closer as a community through the sharing of potluck meals once a month and gatherings for "Life of the Meeting" potlucks at one or another of our homes. The latter allows us to come together with those we have come to call the "Quaker adjacent"—spouses and partners of people in the meeting who do not attend themselves and those whose schedules may not allow them to regularly attend Meeting for Worship. They too are part of our Friends community. Several from our small meeting attend the Quarterly and Annual Sessions, and return to us, sharing richer Spirit. The visits from the Field Secretaries also connect us to the wider body of Friends.

Like many, we are troubled and vigilant about the many injustices and threats to those in our community, in our country, and in the world, whose lives are made more precarious and uncertain by policies and actions of our government. We act according to our individual leadings to support those most harmed and to help change the course we are on as a nation. These disturbances that reach so deeply into the fabric of our society compel us to act as we can. We hold those harmed, and try to hold those inflicting harm, in the Light and struggle to find the ways we can most effectively make a difference. The chaos in world and social order makes our presence in silence and community a respite, reflection and inspiration, from which we hope to go forward to effect change in whatever small or large way we can. It is meaningful and exhausting work, and we are glad to be together in Spirit.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting is satisfied with our worship and community this past year. As some of our older members surrender duties, newer, younger ones step up. We miss our Friend Sten Johansen, who died 6/30/2025. We have welcomed several new attenders recently, including young adults. Worship is usually deep and enriching, with a variety of Friends moved to speak most First Days. Meetings for business

progress with laboring together and harmony. Children nurture the community as they share their joyful energy.

The meeting engages in pleasing community activities among ourselves. We have several formal and informal groups that break bread together; we craft; we walk our parks together; we study the Bible; we sing before worship; we help each other with appointments, rides, moves, and more. After worship, conversations linger, and we often have organized times of spiritual sharing or learning about activist causes. So we grow and support each other.

Meeting continues to be active in the world at large. Recent activism has included help for a new winter homeless shelter, and assistance for urban farming and provisioning the hungry. Meeting strives to reduce our carbon footprint with renovations, and works to improve the ecological vitality of our property. Members attend or organize a variety of political protests as we work for a better world. We are all deeply concerned about our foreign-born neighbors. As a meeting, we have contributed to helping with some of their medical bills. Some Friends have also provided additional support for immigrants. In other matters, some continue our work with detainees and their families, including occasional singing at the nearby jail.

We look forward and pray for another year of growth, stronger connections, and improving circumstances.

FALL CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Tenth Month 11, 2025

ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois, (hosted by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting)

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

The meeting opened in silent worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

underway. These include additional exit lights, removing plants growing near buildings, re-painting the propane tank behind the shower house. There is some concern about the maples at the front of the property. Environmental Concerns has sent a branch out for testing. Report accepted.

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

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

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

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

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

1) MORNINGS:

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

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

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

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

2) AFTERNOONS:

- Our long, unstructured “break time” will move from late afternoon to early afternoon.
- 1:00–3:00 p.m. will be time available for committee meetings and rest. (Committees are discouraged from using mealtimes for meetings, as meals should be reserved for fellowship)

- Worship Sharing will be 3:00–3:45 p.m. rather than 1:30-2:15 p.m. This activity might be structured with different queries, used for special meetings for worship—healing, grief, etc. (After the meeting concluded, Wil suggested changing this time slot's label to “Worship/Spiritual Development Groups.”)

- Workshops will run 4:00–5:15 p.m. rather than the current 2:30–3:45 p.m.

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

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

asked to more lightly provide this tempo by passing the microphone at an appropriate speed between readers. This will be sent back to M&A for further discernment.

Report accepted.

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

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

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

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

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

Report accepted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 20. Minutes 16-19 approved.

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

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

Children's Religious Ed: Anna Watson, 2028

Development: Kent Busse, 2028

Handbook: Sharon Haworth, 2028

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

Racial Equity and Education: Steven David Flowers, 2028

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Site Planning Group

A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator:

1. Find/name 1-2 people to attend Site Prep on Saturday who will set up and test out the system. Saturday setup allows time to get items to fix problems before sessions start. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Setup and testing would take 2 people about 2 hours.
 2. Find/name 2 people to do A/V pack up during Sunday cleanup. The Administrative Coordinator will be available to provide needed guidance. Detailed instructions are provided. Pack up would take 2 people less than 2 hours.
- The A/V Setup/Cleanup Coordinator may or may not be one of these people doing setup and pack up. It would be best if the same team did setup and pack-up.

Program Planning Group

A/V Coordinator:

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

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

Report accepted.

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

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

Minute 31. Minutes 12-30 approved.

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

Minute 33. The meeting closed in waiting worship.

Julia Pantoga, Clerk

Marie White, Recording Clerk

SPRING CONTINUING COMMITTEE

Third Month 14, 2026

Downers Grove Friends Meetinghouse, Downers Grove, Illinois

Present were Peter Lasersohn, Frank Young, Janice Domanik, Pam Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Beth Carpenter, Christopher Goode, Marie White, Mark (Nemo) McGinnis, Marcia Nelson, Virginia Schelbert, Cathy Carra, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner, Michael Dennis, Wil Brant, Val Lester, Dale Gardner, Kevin Brubaker, Kyr Esler, Beth Burbank, Bobbie Trist, Brandon Harrington, Pamela Calvert, Mark Masi, Daniel Lakemacher, Josh Wagner, Colleen Reardon, Kent Busse, Judy Wolicki, Gwen Weaver, Ellen Maxson, Sue Styer, Ruth Fiedler

Minute 1. The meeting opened in silent worship.

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

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

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

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

Clarification on whether art will be for sale

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 7. Minutes 1-6 approved.

Minute 8. Janice Domanik reported for Ministry and Advancement.

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

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

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

Minute 9. Brandon Harrington reported for Nominating Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 12. Minutes 8-11 approved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute to release funds approved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 18. Minutes 13-17 approved.

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

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

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

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

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

The Advance Documents include drawings of the proposed bunkhouse. The committee had considered installing a “portable building” but had some concerns, specifically about animals gaining access to the interior. It was decided that a custom-built building on a foundation would be more secure. Dean Thieman, who has done a lot of work for the yearly meeting, has provided an estimate of \$90,000-\$92,000. Dean is very confident that this can be completed by June. It will be insulated and on a slab. It will not be heated or air conditioned when construction is completed. This price does not include the demolition of the old building. Chris has the permit for the new building. Dean has staked out the location, and Chris will go tomorrow to check that. He hopes that Dean can start in a week or two. Chris is working to keep the total cost under \$100,000, which would leave some

money in the Property Improvement Fund. There was a question raised about accessibility. The building will be on grade, so no ramp is needed. The building can be reached by car, but there are no paths in the campground. Report accepted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minute 26 Minutes 19-25 approved.

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

Minute 28 The meeting closed in waiting worship.

Julia Pantoga, Clerk

Marie White, Recording Clerk

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2026-2027 APPOINTMENTS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Childrens Religious Education Committee

Clerk: Dale Gardner
2027: Dale Gardner, Coco Colin
2028: Katherine Young, Anna Watson
2029: Bobbi Trist, Lindsay Rabbe
ex officio: CRE Coordinator

Development Committee

Clerk: Cathy Garra
2027: Cathy Garra, Peter Poshepny
2028: Frank Young, Kent Busse
2029: Jasime Dennis, Brandon Harrington

Environmental Concerns Committee

Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
2027: Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, Fariba
Murray, Barbara Simpson Fuhrmann
2029: Chip Rorem, Nancy Halliday,
David Wixom

Finance Committee

Clerk: Val Lester
2027: Judy Jager, Val Lester
2028: Cynthia Harris, Frank Young
2029: David Shiner
ex-officio: Co-Treasurers, MP&E Clerk

Handbook Committee

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

Maintenance, Planning & Envisioning Committee

Clerk: Chris Goode
2027: Chris Goode, Dennis McQueen
2028: Mark Robinson, Christina Schulz,
Liam Gardner
2029: Carol Bartles, Diane Clark-
Dennis, Noel Pavlovic, Marie White
ex-officio: all Stewards

Ministry and Advancement Committee

Clerk: Janice Domanik
2027: Bridget Rorem, David Wixom
2028: Sarah Pavlovic, Virginia Schelbert
2029: Janice Domanik, Colleen Reardon,
Beth Carpenter
ex officio: Field Secretary

Nominating Committee

Clerk: Margie Haworth-Davis
2027: Brendon Harrington, Margie
Haworth-Davis

Peace Resources Committee

Clerk: Mark Masi
2027: Mark McGinnis, Mark Masi
2028: Janet Fair
2029: Gwen Weaver

Personnel Committee

Clerk: Sharon Haworth
2029: Kate Gunnell, Sharon Haworth,
Becky Lucas
Designated members of YO, Finance,
CREC, Pub&Tech, MP&E, M&A

Publications & Technology

Clerk: Ted Kuhn
2027: Nathan Lasersohn
2029: Ted Kuhn, Dawn Crimson, Lilith
Swygert, Jared Forsyth
ex-officio: Admin. Coord., Editor of
Among Friends

Racial Equity and Education Committee

Clerk: _____
2027: Janice Domanik, Karen Lindner
2028: Beth Burbank, Steven David Flowers
2029: Allison Boyaris, Daniel Lakemacher,
Kyr Esler

Youth Oversight Committee

Clerk: Mike Dennis
2027: Allison Boyaris, Mike Dennis,
Daniel Lakemacher
2028: Rose Johnson, Erica Cheng
2029: Charles Howard-McKinney

**APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER
& OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

American Friends Service Committee Corporation
2027: Beth Burbank, Frank Young
2029: Mike Dennis, Fariba Murray

Friends Committee on National Legislation
2027: Kevin Brubaker
2028: Fariba Murray
2029: Garnet Fay, Dale Gardner, David Wixom

Friends General Conference Central Committee
2029: Kevin Brubaker

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
& Queer Concerns
2028: Brandon Harrington

Friends Peace Teams
2029: Val Lester

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

Friends World Committee for Consultation
2028: Julia Pantoga
2029: David Shiner, Alex Lippitt

Quaker Earthcare Witness
2028: Chip Rorem
2026: Sarah Pavlovic

**INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIFIC
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Records Librarian: Brent Eckert
Among Friends Editor: Peter Lasersohn
Blue River Quarterly Clerk: Dawn Crimson

**YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS
COMMITTEES**

2026 Exercises Committee: Pam Kuhn,
"Michael" Cunningham
2026 Epistle Committee: Nathan
Lasersohn, Becky Lucas, Bobbi Trist

**2027 ANNUAL SESSIONS
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Program: Chicago South
Site Services: Chicago North
Food: Blue River Quarterly

**MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS
IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING**

with meeting locations and times

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

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
MONTHLY MEETING**

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

BURLINGTON WORSHIP GROUP

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

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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

COLUMBIA FRIENDS MEETING

505 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203
10:00 am 573-474-1827
comoquakers.org
Business: 1st First Day, 11:30am

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

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

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Timberbridge Condominium Clubhouse,
3205 Creekside Dr., Valparaiso, IN 46385
2nd & 4th First Days, 10:30 am
duneland.ilym.org
Business: 2nd Fourth Day, 7:00 pm

**ELKHART RIVER PREPARATIVE
MEETING**

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

**EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS**

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

57TH STREET MEETING OF FRIENDS

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

FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

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

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

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

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60660
10:00 am 773-980-6734
northsidefriends.org
Business: 1st First Day, 12:30 pm

OAK PARK FRIENDS MEETING

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

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

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

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

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

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

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

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

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

SPOON RIVER WORSHIP GROUP

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

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

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

ST. LOUIS MONTHLY MEETING

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

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIEND MEETING

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

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERS OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE INCLUDE:

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

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

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

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

Cover Painting of ILYM Meetinghouse: M. Richie

Online Resources and Documents

Minute Books: ilym.org/minute-books

Plummer Lecture (print): ilym.org/plummer-lectures

Plummer Lecture (video): youtube.com/@ilymoffriends6438

Sessions Evening Presentations (video): youtube.com/@ilymoffriends6438

Sessions Planning Documents: ilym.org/planning

Monthly Meeting Information and Statistics Form: ilym.org/forms

Handbook: ilym.org/publications

Continuing Committee Minutes: ilym.org/continuing-committee-minutes

Also at ilym.org/publications: *Among Friends*, Plummer Lectures (print), *Faith & Practice*, Minute Books, Handbook