

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
November 4, 2017
Earlham College

1. Opening worship. Prayers were requested for Ken Bordwell, who died unexpectedly this week. He was a member of Community Friends. We also were asked to hold Paul Kriese, who is not well, in the Light.

2. Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk: (vacant)
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)
Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)
Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler not present
Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse via Skype and Betsy Neale
Nominating: Richard Mitchell
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: (no representative present)
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley via Skype
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger not present
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Youth Services Committee: Peter Hardy via Skype

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost sends regrets
Whitewater: Diann Herzog

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess sends regrets
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Deborah Jordan
Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley via Skype
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: (no representative present)
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Lafayette: (no representative present)
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: (no representative present)
Miami: David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson via Skype

North Meadow: (no representative present)
Oxford: Steve Angell and Doug Jones
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: (vacant)

3. Personnel Committee, Betsy Neale for Executive Committee

We are looking for a person to serve as clerk for the Personnel Committee. Paul Buckley is willing to stay on for another year to help new members. Paul Kriese is willing to remain on the committee. Neither is willing to clerk. The term is two years and members should be part of the Executive Committee. We need a Youth Services Coordinator. It was thought that this committee also reviews contracts and assigns raises to staff. The committee should review their part of the handbook. The committee will also look at the idea of staggering terms for members and when they want the terms to begin. They will bring it back to the Executive committee. Steve Angell is willing to clerk this committee. Friends accepted his offer with gratitude. Also, thanks was expressed to the two Pauls for remaining with the committee.

4. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell.

The committee has not met. The Yearly Meeting clerk asked if anyone has ideas to help this committee. Perhaps the committee needs new members since the clerk and others may be very busy and this may be a reason that the committee isn't meeting or following through. The committee did a lot of work at sessions and thanks was given for their service. Perhaps having a co-clerk could help. Richard, who is currently the committee clerk, apologized and expressed hurt at the situation. It was approved that Richard will work with Martha Viehmann to schedule a meeting to get the committee moving again. It is hoped that the committee will meet in the next two months.

5. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Religious nurture and education committee meeting met on Saturday night 16 Ninth Month at North Meadow Circle of Friends, and then stayed over and travelled to Lafayette Meeting the next morning for worship. We have found it enriching to spend more time together and to connect our committee meetings to meeting visits. We plan to attend Oxford Meeting this month. We were happy to welcome Kevin Angell to the committee. Anne Hutchinson was not able to attend because she has taken a job with Friends Peace Team and was traveling in Africa.

As a beginning to a new year, we considered our charge. We noted that offering workshops at YM sessions is in our charge and Andy Garrison agreed to contact the Planning Committee. We would like to encourage individuals and meetings to make use of the new FGC Spiritual Deepening Program. Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut is willing to present an introduction at quarterly meetings if invited. Members of the committee joined in with an online version of the program.

We continue to discuss intervisitation, and are happy to hear of individuals and meetings that have taken initiatives to visit among Friends. We would like to hear from others who have had successes or failures with intervisitation. We noted the need to offer more help with outreach to meetings with children and find ways to connect Friends around specific interests and concerns. We are sending a letter to meetings asking for a response to the intervisitation proposal.

We began a discussion about how to support more focused travel in the ministry, which we will continue at our next meeting. Travel in the ministry requires discernment of a call as well as an ongoing listening

presence. We recognized that supporting traveling ministry requires thoughtful eldership/spiritual accompaniment and clearness practices, both in advance and afterward. We hope to develop some resources and structures to help monthly meetings identify and discern leadings that arise individually or collectively in their meetings. We hope to develop queries for monthly meetings that will help them begin to notice calls to the ministry in their midst. Eventually this may lead to consultations and retreats. We suggested a prompt follow-up after the 2018 YM sessions (Shannon intends to lead the planning of such an event).

We are beginning planning for a spring retreat, which we would like to be held in late March. We are considering a focus on sustaining spiritual practices for healing and refreshment for the long haul, and are reaching out to potential leaders.

There was further discussion of intervisitation.
The report was accepted.

6. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

A. Updated report is attached.

B. The Yearly Meeting numbers on page 5 of the budget are the best guess for yearly meeting sessions expenses. It is difficult to put this together with the information from the registrar.

C. In the past, our Peace Witness Fund's \$2500 was deposited in FGC's Meetinghouse Fund. The \$75 of interest we received each year has been donated to the federal lobbying group, the National Campaign for a Peace Tax fund. FGC has closed down the Meetinghouse Fund and the \$2500 is now invested with our other funds in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's fossil-free Green Fund. This financial instrument's value fluctuates over time and gains, if any, are reinvested. There are no longer steady or easily accessible funds to donate. Executive Committee asked Wilson to take this issue to Budget and Finance Committee and similarly, Richard Mitchell to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Working together these committees should bring back a recommendation.

D. Report was accepted with gratitude.

7. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Carol Simmons

A. The theme was decided. *Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World*

B. One plenary speaker has been confirmed: Dwight Wilson from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting.

C. The dates are June 13 - 17th, 2018

D. It would be nice to have a few more committee members to learn what needs to be done before the experienced committee members leave.

E. Posters will be shared with MMs showing how wonderful it is to attend sessions.

F. The meeting was a conference call, it was a lovely meeting and things came together in a very Quakerly way. In fact, we agreed to do more telephone committee meetings that will only focus on one topic each meeting.

G. The report was accepted with gratitude.

8. Whitewater Quarter, Diann Herzog

A. Terre Holada will be the new Whitewater Quarter clerk.

B. The next Joint Quarterly Meeting will be at Happy Hollow October 20 - 21, 2018.

C. The quarter does not have the finances to host the Joint Quarterly meeting, but Miami Quarter is giving us some money collected from the Joint Quarterly Meeting held at Camp Kern.

D. Fall Creek meeting will have a called meeting to discuss the viability of the meeting staying in its meeting house. One estimate for repairs was \$30,000.00. But the issue is more than just the repairs needed, but how a small group can stay together even though there are several small children we hope to be raised in a Quaker Meeting. Please hold them in the Light.

E. Fall Creek's Meetinghouse is very special and a place of power with a deep sense of the Spirit where the veil is thin. The future of this meetinghouse is a concern to the entire yearly meeting.

F. A Friend suggested that the money in the capital fund could be given to Fall Creek as a grant and the remaining amount could be given as a 0% interest loan with a payment plan to be arranged. Another Friend suggested maybe we could work to help clean the mold and work on some repairs. Friends approved that Diann should tell her meeting that the yearly meeting is willing to help with labor, money, or whatever Fall Creek feels is needed or would be helpful. Knowing that the movement of the Spirit will help Fall Creek discern what is needed, the EC will wait to hear the discernment of the Spirit among Fall Creek Friends. The clerk is empowered to call a meeting of the Executive Committee on this issue if needed.

G. The report was accepted.

9. Miami Quarter, Steve Angell

Green Plain meeting has been laid down. At the Quarterly Meeting, Friends rode a school bus to visit the Green Plain meetinghouse. They also saw the old Green Plain Orthodox meetinghouse.

10. Betsy received a very detailed report from Chris Harmer on his visit to Northern Yearly Meeting. Deborah will send copies to EC members.

11. Youth Committee, Peter Hardy

The committee is working on funding a youth secretary. There is one possibility.

We closed in silence to meet again on February 3, 2018, at 10 am, via telephone conference.