

Executive Committee Meeting Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
April 6, 2019

1. Opening Silence

2. Roll Call

Officers:

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada, regrets; Betsy Neale serving as substitute
Assistant Recording Clerk: position vacant
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Earthcare: David Duvall not present
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraft-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger sends regrets
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Young Adult Friends: Uta Brewington not present
Youth Services Committee: David Funck

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Terre Holada sends regrets

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Christine Carver, Elaine Emmi
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler
Lafayette: (no representative)
Lexington: Richard Mitchell

Louisville: Chris Harmer
Miami: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
North Meadow: no representative present
Oxford: Doug Jones
White Rose: no representative present
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff:

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson

3. Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Epistle Summary (1 person to serve for annual sessions)

Two Friends were nominated. Because this task is done before annual sessions, Executive Committee approves these Friends in advance of their agreeing to serve. If neither of these is able to serve, the Nominating Committee will seek another Friend, approval to be done by Executive Committee by conference call.

Epistle Committee (2 to serve during annual sessions)

This task requires being present for all of yearly meeting sessions. We are seeking at least 2 Friends with one from Whitewater Quarter if possible.

Four names were given to Nominating Committee to contact.

Memorial Committee (no number of people specified)

Friends approved Richard Mitchell. One other name was submitted as back-up.

Assistant Recording Clerk: Friends approved Rex Sprouse for the unexpired term of John Edminster. Rex will become Recording Clerk at the end of 2019 sessions.

Adult Young Friends Committee (40+ year old member): Friends approved Catherine Peyroux (Yellow Springs). This is a 3-year renewable term.

The committee is working on finding a nominee for Assistant Presiding Clerk and nominees for the Planning Committee.

Nominating Committee description – proposed update for Handbook. Friends approved the revised description. It will be included in the Handbook and posted on our website.

Appointments to Nominating Committee – notice to Monthly Meetings to find representatives to serve. These names should be submitted to the Presiding Clerk for approval of Executive Committee.

To be made immediately: Community, North Meadow

By the end of annual sessions:

Oxford, Bloomington, Lexington, Clear Creek

4. Nominations from Executive Committee

Personnel Committee One person is needed to serve immediately with Steve Angell. The Treasurer is an *ex-officio* member of this committee.

Six Friends names were brought forward, we discussed the order in which they should be called, and Martha Viehmann agreed to call them.

5. Treasurer's Report Wilson Palmer reported. 2018-2019 YTD: Wilson expects an additional \$13,000 income this year, which will leave a \$12,000 deficit. If all income comes in, the deficit could be zero or very small.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report, which is appended to these minutes.

6. Budget and Finance Wilson Palmer reported on behalf of Dale Hayes.

2019-20 Budget presented for approval. There are no dramatic changes. Meeting contributions are decreasing because of drops in monthly meeting membership and the loss of Englewood Friends Meeting. The committee anticipates a deficit of \$18,136.72 if the proportional share remains the same as in recent years. Friends approved this budget, and it will now be presented at June's annual sessions. The 2019-2020 proposed budget appears as the right-hand most column in the appended Treasurer's Report.

Development Committee Description – proposal The proposed Development Committee is intended to raise funds to help cover the deficit without having to increase the proportional share requested from monthly meetings. The Executive Committee requested a description of this committee. This description will assist Friends in considering approval of this new committee at our annual sessions. Friends approve the description of the proposed Development Committee, which is appended to these minutes.

7. Friends approved these minutes as read.

8. Editing of the Executive Committee minutes The clerk requested permission to edit minutes for clarity in addition to correcting typographical errors. Friends approved.

9. Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Betsy Neale presented a report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends accepted the report.

10. Youth Services/Youth Secretary Kaia Jackson presented highlights of the report she submitted. Friends accepted her report, which is appended to these minutes.

11. Young Adult Friends In place of Uta Brewington, Martha reported that they are actively trying to recruit more members to the committee. They are currently planning an event. Friends accepted the report, which is appended to these minutes.

12. Planning Committee Carol Simmons presented the committee's report. The theme of this year's sessions is Navigating the Depths through Our Sacred Connections. The committee is seeking more members. Carol will make the report available for distribution. Friends accepted the report.

13. Religious Nurture and Education Nikki Coffey Tousley reported. The committee has been working on fostering travel in the ministry, eldering, and spiritual accompaniment. It will be distributing queries on eldering and spiritual accompaniment to monthly meetings. A retreat on this topic will be held on September 21, 2019, at Quaker Hill, Richmond, IN, led by Susan

Smith of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Friends accepted the report, which is appended to these minutes.

14. Statistician's Request

Co-statistician Frank Huss requests that Monthly Meetings consider whether the next Statistical Report should include data on race and ethnicity. Because we don't keep these statistics, we don't know how many Friends of color there are. Suggestions on categories and terminology welcome. Send your meeting's response directly to Martha Viehmann at marthaviehmann@fuse.net Chris Harmer recommended a related article by Vanessa Julye in the January 2019 *Friends Journal*.

This led to an extended discussion of how to do this counting and other issues we might consider for our statistical reports. It was suggested that we consider a category for gender identity. Another Friend suggested we explore social class. The levels of trust in a meeting will affect our ability to discuss these issues.

15. Webmaster's Request

Lonny Burger recommends keeping the minutes for the current year and one prior year on the website. This means he would discard Executive Committee minutes dated prior August 2017. Earlier Executive Committee minutes are available in the published minute books, which are in the Annual Sessions section on the website. Friends approved this removal and asked that Lonny add a link to the minute books so Friends can access older minutes.

Lonny also asked if we wish him to remove Quaker Heights from our ministries. Friends approved this removal.

16. Friends approved all minutes.

Announcements: see our website for submission dates for Quill, State of Meeting reports, Directory, and Reports in Advance.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC defines sexual violence as any sexual activity where consent is not freely given. Their website provides statistics and resources on sexual violence (<https://www.cdc.gov/features/sexualviolence>)

Reminder: Handbook Maintenance is undertaken by each committee. Please review

Date and Place of next meetings

Annual Sessions: June 19-23, Earlham College

Exec. Comm. August 31, Community Friends, Cincinnati

Development Committee

APPOINTMENT: At least three members, nominated by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, terms shall be staggered. Initial membership is to be filled by present members of Ad Hoc Development Committee who are willing to continue service.

MISSION: To encourage those with the resources to give annually in support of our Yearly Meeting and to remember us in their wills. To provide additional support for Annual Sessions and the general fund. To encourage Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to be viable, flexible, and responsive to the leadings of the Spirit by providing funds beyond our budget to expand existing projects and committees and encourage new ministries.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To put together an annual year-end appeal to every OVYM member and attender for financial support. To visit our Meetings to educate members about the opportunities to support us. To meet personally with individuals who may be open to including OVYM in their wills. To educate others about the possibility of making restricted donations to designated funds.

Currently these designated funds are:

- 1) Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry
- 2) Teen Committee Fund
- 3) Spiritual Nurture Fund.
- 4) Peace Witness Fund to help those who suffer due to war tax resistance.

TRAVEL: Committee members can be expected to do much of their committee work by email or other electronic means. However, as fund raisers on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, some or all of the members are expected to travel to our affiliated Meetings to speak to Meetings as a whole and also to meet, face to face with individuals who are being solicited.

BUDGET: Initial budget of \$500 to cover costs of annual appeal and printing of brochures. Travel expenses are already covered under Committee Travel category; currently recommended to be no more than \$250 per committee person per year.

OVYM Sexual Misconduct Task Force Report to Executive Committee

I am pleased to report that the Sexual Misconduct Task Force has made real progress since my last report. We have had two meetings via Zoom in the last two months. We have begun drafting a policy on sexual misconduct. The policy includes a procedure for investigating an allegation of sexual misconduct, speaking with both the person making the allegation and the person accused of the misconduct, striving to be fair to both parties.

We are also discussing and collecting resources for a program/training for Friends to educate ourselves on sexual misconduct.

Some of the issues we anticipate will be addressed in the trainings include:

- the issues that lead to these behaviors,
- increasing our awareness of the frequency of these behaviors,
- growing in our ability to respond appropriately to allegations of sexual misconduct, and
- determining how to prevent sexual misconduct –

to name a few of the issues.

We expect to have both a policy and a training program to present to our annual sessions in June. We think that these tools may develop further over time as our awareness of and experience with these issues increases.

OVYM Youth Services Report for Executive Committee

Middle Youth Retreat

Hosted at Lexington Friends Meeting on March 16-17th, 2019, this gathering attracted middle youth and families who are in regular attendance. Youth engaged in fun activities for the duration of the weekend, including origami, swing dancing, movie time and a First Day school on women in history. Youth participants expressed excitement to be with one another and participate in this special line-up of activities. Meanwhile, parents met in our first Youth Engagement Workshop to discuss hopes, visions and concerns about youth programming at Lexington Friends Meeting. The next day, our second Youth Engagement Workshop was held during first-hour, and attracted a wide variety of Meeting members to voice their interests and values in regards to youth programming. One parent and coordinator, Maria Franzini and another parent Elizabeth McLaren plan to host a follow-up first-hour discussion in May to continue this process and make goals for future youth programs.

Upcoming Spring Events 2019 Highlights

*Please see attached flyer listing Spring Events

*Whitewater Quarterly on Sunday, April 28th, at North Meadow Circle of Friends: middle youth and teens programming will be offered throughout the day's gathering. Afterwards OVYM teens and families of teens will meet in-person and via Zoom to discuss the summer Teen Service Trip.

*Miami Quarterly on Sunday, May 19th at Dayton Friends Meeting: middle youth and teens programming will focus on issues of racial justice.

*The Teen Service Trip will tentatively be held June 11th-15th, prior to Annual Sessions.

Social Media Invitation

OVYM Middle Youth and Teens requests that all meeting members who are active on social media take a moment to like our Facebook page and/or subscribe to our Instagram account. We are trying for a total of 50 Facebook likes by May 1st! Event information, photos and updates will be posted regularly on these platforms. You can find us by simply typing in:

Facebook: OVYM Middle Youth and Teens

Instagram: ovym_middleyouthandteens

Annual Sessions

The OVYM Youth Services Committee is actively seeking Paid Staff to support our programming for middle youth and teens throughout Annual Sessions, Wednesday June 19th-Sunday, June 23rd. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who is interested, please encourage them to fill out the application for Paid Staff on the OVYM website and return it to OVYMsec@fuse.net by May 15th.

Meeting Visits

Our Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson, is actively seeking invitations to visit and/or lead middle youth and teen programming and youth-related discussions at any meeting within OVYM. Is

there a special event coming up? Would you benefit from some extra support? Want to have a Youth Engagement workshop at your meeting? Contact Kaia to discuss coordinating a visit: OVYMyouthsecretary@gmail.com

Young Adult Friends Report

Uta Brewington reported that she talked with a member of the nominating committee about getting a few more enthused members to join the community. The young adults are hoping to have a hike in May most likely the first weekend. Hoping to get together and talk and visit. The location will be announced soon, hoping for something between Cincinnati and Kentucky. Possibilities are open for YM as well.

OVYM Planning Committee Report

The 2019 annual sessions are June 19-23 at Earlham College.

The theme is “Navigating the depths through our sacred connections.”

Our plenary speakers are Oskar Castro and a panel of spiritual healing practitioners from the yearly meeting. Gloria Bruner, from Bloomington Friends, a music therapist, is putting together the pane. Oskar was on a plenary panel at FGC Gathering last year during which he spoke about U.S. colonization and his heritage as the son of Puerto Rican-born parents. He is a social justice and peace activist and since 2016 has served as Philadelphia coordinator for Quaker Voluntary Service. Prior to that he worked with the American Friends Service Committee in its national youth and militarism program. He continues to serve AFSC as a member of its Board Program Committee and the Board Community Equality and Justice Committee. He is also a husband, a father of two, and a multi-media artist, who uses music, poetry and graphic art.

For this year’s sessions, we are emphasizing a focus on modes of healing — both individual and systemic. And we are thinking of ways to provide more healing resources in the context of our five-day gathering, particularly by having more structures in place to recognize and respond to woundedness as well as respond to conflict and breaches in trust. We would like to implement something like FGC Gathering’s Healing Center, and we want to increase opportunities for silent worship.

Registration costs will be comparable to recent years, though possibly a little higher. The room and board charge from Earlham has gone up by \$1.23 a day, or about \$5 total for someone staying the whole time and eating all meals. And while that’s small, the AV services are about \$300 more than last year, and we’re also being charged a \$1.50 per chair fee that seems new. The planning committee hasn’t yet decided on the cost per registrant, but a slight increase is possible. Last year’s full-price cost was \$246 plus a \$30 registration fee. As always, YAFs and first-time attendees pay half, and youth and children attend free of charge.

We are also looking forward to 2020 when OVYM celebrates our bicentennial. We welcome any suggestions or ideas for what that might look like.

Thanks to Nominating Committee for seeking more members for our committee. We need more people! The Planning Committee has only four official members: myself, Gloria Bruner, Terre

Holada, and Jim Davidson. Serving as ex-officio members are the registrar, Eric Wolff; the Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson; and children's programming representatives Hannah Branson and Susan Hyde. Last year's co-clerk Kay Wheeler rotated off the committee last summer, but she is continuing to help by being a liaison with Earlham.

It's really joyful, Spirit-filled work!

Humbly submitted,
Carol Simmons, Planning Committee clerk

Addendum: After the April 6 Executive Committee meeting, Oskar Castor notified the Planning Committee clerk on [Monday, April 8](#), that he will be unable to be a plenary speaker this summer after all. He is involved in a documentary film about Puerto Rico, and recent developments in the film has made it necessary for him to be in Puerto Rico at the time of OVYM sessions. He thanks OVYM for the invitation, and regrets not being able to be with us in 2019. Planning Committee will be working to secure another speaker.

Religious Nurture and Education Report

After focusing on the issue of sexual abuse last year, the Religious Nurture and Education Committee has returned to a charge from the 2016 sessions for RNE to encourage travel in the ministry within the Yearly Meeting. We responded by first encouraging meetings, individuals and committees to commit to inter-visitation, and are looking to encourage Friends to reflect how we nurture gifts of ministry.

The committee is sending out a set of queries to Monthly Meetings on Eldership and Spiritual Accompaniment, as well as a list of resources. We ask meetings to return your responses by mail or email before [June 10, 2019](#) to nikkitousley@gmail.com or 175 Indiana Ave., Apt 4, Dayton, OH 45410.

The committee also has a retreat on Spiritual Accompaniment on [September 21, 2019](#) at Quaker Hill, to be led by Susan Smith of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative.) We ask each meeting to send at least one representative, although all Friends are welcome.

Nikki Coffey Tousley