

Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Eighth Month 31, 2019
Community Friends Meeting, Cincinnati, OH

1. Opening worship. Friends gathered and entered into a period of waiting worship.
2. Rescheduling of Eighth Month Executive Committee meeting in future years. At the Clerk's suggestion, Friends agreed that in future years, the Eighth Month Executive Committee meeting would be scheduled for nine days before Labor Day.
3. Roll call. The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff:

Yearly Meeting officers and administrators

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk: Rex Sprouse
Assistant Recording Clerk: Terre Holada sends regrets
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Statistician: not present
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Auditing: not present
Braddock Fund: not present
Budget & Finance: Wilson Palmer
Earthcare: not present
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: not present
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Young Adult Friends: Uta Brewington
Youth Services: Michelle Lori

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: not present
Whitewater: Terre Holada sends regrets

Monthly Meeting representatives

Bloomington: Christine Carver
Campus: not present
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt sends regrets
Community: Eric Wolff, Deborah Jordan

Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: not present
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler sends regrets
Lafayette: not present
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: not present
Miami: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
North Meadow: not present
Oxford: not present
White Rose: not present
Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

Yearly Meeting staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson sends regrets

4. Announcements from the Clerk's Table. The Clerk announced that printed copies of the 2019 Yearly Meeting Minute Book were available for Friends to take to their home meetings. The Yearly Meeting's Zoom subscription had been renewed for another year. Friends approved a correction to the Fourth Month 2019 Executive Meeting minutes to add the words "Martha Viehmann reported that..." to Minute 15 such that the minute now reads: "Martha Viehmann reported that Lonny Burger recommends..."

5. Approval of names for service on Nominating Committee. The Clerk reported that the following Friends had been proposed for service on Nominating Committee for three years by their respective monthly meetings: Oxford: Stephen Angell; Community: Paul Buckley. Friends approved.

6. Nominating Committee. On behalf of Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson brought forward the following names: Al McGrew as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness for a term to begin immediately upon approval and ending at the rise of annual sessions in 2020; Adam Funck for service on Young Adult Friends Committee for a term to begin immediately upon approval and ending at the rise of annual sessions in 2022; Peter Hardy for service on Planning Committee for a term to begin immediately upon approval and ending at the rise of annual sessions in 2022. Friends approved.

7. Paulette Meier's report on her travel in the ministry among Friends in Britain. Paulette Meier presented a report on her travel in the ministry among Friends in Britain in 2018. Paulette had been accompanied and supported in this travel by Diann Herzog. Paulette and Diann had undertaken this trip holding a travel minute from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Paulette shared with British Friends her chanted settings of writings by early Friends and reported that she felt that this ministry was very well received and opened those who heard to share their understanding of these texts and what they mean to them. Paulette also shared how this journey had been transformative for her as well and updated Friends on her continuing chant-based ministry in the United States in contexts both within and beyond the Religious Society of

Friends. Friends expressed their thanks for Paulette's report and gratitude for her continued ministry. Friends accepted the report.

8. Update on Yearly Meeting statistics on race and ethnicity. The Clerk reported that she had sent a query about collecting data on race and ethnicity to constituent monthly meetings, but had thus far received only four responses. The meetings that had responded noted that holding conversations about how and why we might collect this information is a way of facing the issue of racism and the nature of whiteness. They also made several suggestions about how such data might be collected and reported. Following this summary, Friends discussed issues of anonymity, aggregation of the data, and the purpose for the collection of the data. Friends learned that four additional monthly meetings had begun the process of discussing this question. Friends agreed that the Clerk should send an additional letter to monthly meetings asking for a status report on this concern before our fall Executive Committee meeting. Friends also agreed that it would be helpful to identify Friends who could assist monthly meetings in facing issues of racism and the nature of whiteness.

9. Religious Nurture and Education report. Nikki Coffey Tousley presented the report. Nikki reported that the Committee was in a better position to engage in monthly meeting visits this year than they had been last year. Nikki reminded Friends of the upcoming Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting retreat on Ninth Month 21, 2019 at Quaker Hill in Richmond, IN, with the theme "Spiritual Accompaniment: Becoming a Community that Encourages and Supports Gifts." Each meeting was encouraged to send at least one representative to this retreat. The Committee had received responses to a set of queries about eldering and spiritual accompaniment from five monthly meetings. Nikki also reminded Friends of the existence of the binder entitled "Fostering Vital Friends Meetings." Friends accepted the report.

10. Young Adult Friends Committee report. Uta Brewington presented the report. Uta reported that Dylan Cahalan had stepped down from the Committee. Young Adult Friends would like to hold a fall gathering that would coincide with the Fall session of Miami Quarterly Meeting, scheduled to be held at Louisville Friends Meeting. Uta would plan this retreat. Friends accepted the report.

11. Treasurer's report. Treasurer Wilson Palmer presented the report, including an end of fiscal year summary. A written summary is appended to these minutes. Wilson also reported that the Braddock Fund had been particularly active recently. Friends accepted this report.

12. Planning Committee report. Carol Simmons presented the report. Carol reported that the Committee had received positive feedback on evaluation forms from the 2019 annual sessions. Planning Committee members were also enthusiastic about planning the next annual sessions, scheduled for Sixth Month 17-21, 2020. This will mark the Yearly Meeting's 200th annual sessions. Friends expressed gratitude to the 2019 Planning Committee for their heroic and successful efforts to replace one of the plenary speakers on very short notice. Friends especially thanked Gloria Bruner for her graceful service at annual sessions where she shouldered most of the onsite responsibilities. Friends accepted the report.

13. Faith and Practice Committee report. Wilson Palmer presented the report. Wilson reminded Friends that the Committee had distributed a proposed text for inclusion in the Book of Faith and Practice. Meetings are asked to submit their responses to the Committee no later than the end of Eleventh Month 2019. Friends accepted the report.

14. Budget and Finance Committee report. Wilson Palmer presented the report. Wilson announced that the Committee's next meeting would be held during the morning immediately before the next Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for Eleventh Month 2, 2019, in Richmond, IN. All interested Friends are welcome to attend. Friends accepted the report.

15. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website and social media presence. As Clerk of Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson presented the concern. Lonny Burger, who had been serving as Website Administrator for many years, would be leaving the region at the beginning of Twelfth Month 2019. For this reason, Rhonda sought Friends' advice on the gifts and technical skills that Nominating Committee should consider in discerning the name of a Friend to bring forward to replace Lonny in this vital service. Friends offered several suggestions regarding desirable gifts and technical skills for a new Website Administrator and possible future directions for the Yearly Meeting's website and social media presence. Executive Committee affirmed the urgency of identifying a Friend who can serve as an Interim Website Developer, which may include the transition to a new platform and empowered Nominating Committee to select such a Friend. Friends approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to support and advise this Friend. Friends also recognized the time-sensitive nature of naming a new Website Administrator. Friends encouraged Nominating Committee to contact the Clerk as soon as they are prepared to bring a name forward for this service so that the Clerk can announce a called meeting, if necessary. Friends planned to continue discernment regarding the future of our social media presence.

16. Responding to the concern on declining numbers of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. Friends expressed concern about declining numbers and noted that membership numbers are not the same as attendance numbers. Friends planned to look more deeply into these trends in the near future and to discuss ways to address them.

17. Closing worship. Friends closed with a brief period of worship.

Appended report

Treasurer's Report (Treasurer, Wilson Palmer)

We ended fiscal year 2018-19 on **June 30** with a more positive than expected \$1,700 loss. We avoided the predicted \$12,000 loss due to \$5,000 lower Sessions expenses, so far, almost none of the \$6,300 Youth Committee budget spent and no Quaker Heights contribution (\$2,000). Yellow Springs and Miami Monthly Meetings supported us with more than their suggested proportional share while some Meetings gave us less and most matched the suggested amount. For our current fiscal year, four Meetings pledged more than their proportional share next year and this does not even include the often generous Yellow Springs Meeting.

Our invested assets grew 4.3% since last year.