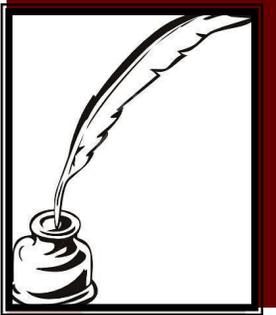


Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World

2018 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Earlham College, Sixth Month 13-17



Save the dates Wednesday, **June 13**, through Sunday, **June 17**, for the 2018 annual sessions! We'll be back at **Earlham College** with a full slate of all the things that make annual meeting special. Details are being finalized now — look for updates and registration forms on the OVYM website, www.quaker.org/ovym/. Please turn to page 5 for details about our plenary speakers!



Dear Friends: Greetings from the Clerk



By Betsy Neale

Greetings from the bleak late winter. I am writing in mid-January, as we are coming out of a bitter cold snap that has kept the snow on the ground. As I have aged, and my bones have gotten brittle, winter poses a challenge for me, both physically and psychologically. I am thankful I live in Kentucky, where winters are much shorter and less snowy than in my native New England. But, even so, the cold, gray days can be a challenge. I eagerly anticipate the coming of spring.

Over the last number of months I've also been challenged by an inertia whose origin I can't identify. Perhaps some or even many of you have experienced something similar. It's kept me from being as productive as in the past, not following through promptly on my responsibilities. I apologize to those I have let down. I think I may be coming out of it. I am thankful for loving and patient friends.

As Co-clerk of the Faith and Practice Committee, I want to bring your attention to the current revision

work. We are in the last year of the 3-year period for completion of the revision. The committee has distributed to monthly meetings some texts for your consideration. We hope a large number of meetings will find the time to review them and send us your comments (by the end of February, please). Another set of texts (from the 1978 *Book of Discipline*), which have only been lightly edited, appear in this edition of the Quill.

If you study the entire *Faith and Practice* carefully, you'll notice that not all of it has been reworked. Given how long this revision process has been going on (since the year 2000) and in order to finish within 3 years, the committee worked on the topics we felt were most in need of updating. The committee will seek approval of all of this year's material at our annual sessions in June. Once these are approved, the revision will be complete! Paper copies of the revised book will be published.

I wish you all the best through the rest of this winter and into the delights of spring.





Calling all Friends

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE JULY 1-7, TOLEDO, OH

Dear Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends,

Please circulate this message to Friends in your monthly meetings, reminding everyone to mark their calendars for the Friends General Conference Gathering: July 1 - 7 at the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio.

The theme will be “The Power of Truth.” There will be dynamic evening speakers and workshops, including Rev. William J. Barber II, national co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign.

Registration for this significant event, virtually in our backyard, will begin soon. Meanwhile, Friends can anticipate the Gathering by reading about the plans that have already taken shape:

Read co-clerks Paul & Claire Tinkerhess’ invitation at tinyurl.com/18welcome

Find detailed Gathering information at tinyurl.com/18gathering

Sign up for updates at tinyurl.com/18connect

Find about applying for financial assistance at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details/financial-aid>. In addition, we would encourage local meetings to set aside financial assistance for Friends who might wish to attend the Gathering.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toledo in July!

Peace,

Steve Angell

Member, 2018 FGC Gathering Committee

angelst@earlham.edu

Thoughts upon my return from Africa

I had never danced in church before. I knew, of course, that some Friends dance in worship. I had participated in worship at the Friends World Committee for Consultation Plenary in Peru in 2016, during which some African Friends danced, but I didn’t feel comfortable joining them. I had arrived in Kigali very early on that Sunday morning and settled into my room at about two a.m. Exhausted from the journey, I had not planned on attending worship that day. However, as the sun rose higher in the sky, and I heard people moving about, I woke up despite myself. Then, I heard a sound I couldn’t quite identify. Little by little, I realized that it was the musicians and the chorus rehearsing for service in the Friends compound. Something told me to get up and join in, and I did. I walked the short distance from my room, slipped into church, was escorted to a seat, and followed the service. When the congregants rose, sang, and danced, I held the songbook and did my best to follow along. And soon, my spine and my limbs followed too, as the joyous worship music enveloped the sanctuary.

During my month in Africa I saw first-hand some of the challenges that face the region: urbanization, overpopulation, overfarming, and political upheavals. I visited a number of Africa Great Lakes Initiative programs and sites and met with coordinators, leaders, volunteers, and participants. I spent time in Kigali and Musange. I met Congolese peace workers in Rubavu, and I spent time in Bujumbura in Burundi. I visited Healing and Reconciling Our Communities programs, Innovations in Peacemaking Burundi, Friends Peace House, Friends Women’s Association, and Children’s Peace Libraries. I visited the Genocide Memorial and Museum in Kigali,

where I cried and prayed. I also visited Quaker churches and schools, where I talked with congregants, worship team members, and pastors, teachers, headmasters, and students. I met people in homes, restaurants, and in villages. I was so impressed by the important work that AGLI is doing in helping to bring about peace and reconciliation among survivors of genocide, in promoting health and education, and in combating the effects of gender-based violence, among a few of its initiatives. I was moved by the dedication and persistence of the peace artisans despite the obstacles they encounter.

By Anne Hutchinson, a member of Oxford Friends Meeting, is publicist for Friends Peace Teams—Africa Great Lakes Initiative. This fall she spent a month in Africa in conjunction with that work.



NEWS FROM AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

[In January] the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was included on a list of 20 organizations whose staff may be denied entry to Israel because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement....

All people, including Palestinians, have a right to live in safety and peace and have their human rights respected....The Palestinian BDS call [asks] the international community to use proven nonviolent social change tactics until equality, freedom from occupation, and recognition of refugees' right to return are realized. AFSC's [Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) affirm each of these rights. Thus, we have joined others around the world in responding to the Palestinian-led BDS call. ...

We hope one day to see Israelis and Palestinians live together in peace. This will only happen when the human rights of all are recognized and respected.

Joyce Ajlouny
General Secretary

Visit AFSC's <https://store.afsc.org/afsc/shop/home> for ethically sourced "Sanctuary Everywhere" bags and mugs, "Love Over Fear" t-shirts, and more.

Here are six tips to effectively counteract anti-Muslim rhetoric in your conversations.

<https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/your-holiday-dinner-guest-makes-islamophobic-comment-how-do-you-respond?>

Watch our Facebook live presentation "[How to engage—not enrage—when talking about Islamophobia.](#)"

Sources: emails from Joyce Ajlouny and AFSC

AFSC Midwest Digest: Work with African Immigrants in Dayton

Sarah Michieka ... was born in Nairobi, Kenya but was raised in the US. As a Kenyan in the diaspora, she is passionate about improving the immigrant experience and building strong support for diaspora communities. Sarah is excited to support AFSC's [Dayton Program](#) as it works to empower African immigrant students in leadership and action within their communities, especially through the launch of the "We Dream a World" project to promote a welcoming global village in Ohio.

Program Director Migwe Kimemia adds, "AFSC is inspired by Sarah's background and passion for empowering African students to have a voice and become creative changemakers in Ohio."

Source; email from Jon Krieg

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

White Privilege Conference and Resources for Meetings

FGC sponsors a group discount to this annual conference that empowers individuals to work for justice and equality through transformations at the individual and societal level. This year, Friends can participate in two events - **WPC 19** in Grand Rapids, MI and the first **WPC Global** in Toronto. [To pre-register and receive the discount, visit the FGC's White Privilege Conference website starting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day \(January 15th\).](#) The 2018 White Privilege Conference (WPC19) will be held on **April 4th-7th, 2018** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The theme of WPC19 is "**Super People & Super Powers: Prepare to be the Future of Social Justice Work**"

Explore and share resources on race and racism from Yearly Meetings: These can be found at: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/yearly-meeting-resources-race-and-racism>.

QuakerBooks has relaunched...

QuakerBooks is improving its service to Friends and customers by having a professional fulfillment house ship your orders. Visit <https://www.fgcquaker.org/news/changes-coming-quakerbooks> to read what's new at QuakerBooks.

Sources: emails from FGC, and FGC website on WPC

Job opening at FWCC

There's a full-time job opening up at Friends World Committee for Consultation's Section of the Americas office! See the weblink to the job description for an Operations Manager. Please think of people who might enjoy this work and pass along the weblink to them. As a past FWCC employee, I can testify as to how amazingly wonderful it is to work with Friends from the Arctic to the Andes and beyond! I would also love to see another OVYM face in Philadelphia!

-- Susan Lee Barton

<http://fwccamericas.org/docs/FWCC%20Operations%20Manager%20Job%20Description%20Jan%202018.pdf>

Friends Association for Higher Education

Friends Association for Higher Education provides a supportive relationship and opportunities for fellowship among all who share Quaker ideals of higher education, whether on Quaker, non-Quaker campuses or as independent scholars.

We invite you to join with other Friends educators from colleges, universities, study centers and independent scholars for an invigorating time together in Ohio, at Wilmington College for our 2018 conference on June 14 – 18, 2018....

The theme of the conference is “Keeping Faithful in a Time of Rapid Change.” If you are interested you can find more information about FAHE at (<https://quakerfahe.com/>). ... You can also email or phone Douglas Burks, Program Committee, at either dburks@wilmington.edu or 513.252.7902.

Source: email from Douglas Burks

Wendy Waters-Connell has Resigned from Quaker Heights

Wendy Waters-Connell has resigned her position as Executive Director of Quaker Heights. After 18 years in the position, she will leave at the end of January to take up the position of Executive Director at the Hamilton YWCA. In her resignation letter, she wrote, "It has not been an easy decision. The position is calling at my heart for many personal and professional reasons. I leave Quaker Heights for this small not for profit which is in need of major fund raising and growth to thrive into the future...I take with me deep and rewarding friendships [and] the embedded memory of how I was always treated at Quaker Heights...with endless support and respect. These are the lessons which will be the very foundation of what I take to the YWCA."

Sydney McBride, currently the Assistant Director, will be taking over the Executive Director position upon Wendy's departure.

From OYIM website news, added 12/12/2017 by Deborah Jordan

"Celebrating 50 Years of Partnership: 1967-2017"

Right Sharing of World Resources is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization pursuing the abundance of God's love through wealth redistribution. RSWR funds micro-enterprise projects with marginalized women in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone.

Source: <https://www.rswr.org/>

Indiana Yearly Meeting

An up-to-date version of **Faith & Practice** including revisions approved in 2016 and 2017 is now available on the yearly meeting website www.iym.org

Yearly Meeting Sessions 2018 will be held at Quaker Haven Camp, July 26-28. A block of rooms has been reserved at Brook Pointe Inn, just four miles north of the camp. Most of these rooms are spoken for, but a few are still available. To save your spot call 574-457-4466 and ask for one of the rooms reserved under the name of "Indiana Yearly Meeting." A discounted rate of \$99 per night has been negotiated.

Source: IYM Communicator



Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation

The Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation was honored at the Indiana High School Press Association's annual fall convention Friday, Oct. 20, for support of a First Amendment bill for student journalists. Dr. Bill Chapman, IFCL lobbyist, accepted the award on behalf of the organization's effort during the 2017 legislative session.

I am happy to share that the Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting is making an unprecedented effort this session. We will be engaged in numerous advocacy events throughout the session. You can follow upcoming events on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ALLIN4Democracy/> Also, our group of registered lobbyists is hard at work lobbying all fifty Senate and one hundred House members. We believe it is vitally important for all of our lawmakers to clearly understand the specifics of SB159 and why it is so important for them to support this bill.

Sources: emails from Bill Chapman and Tom Roberts

Friends Committee on National Legislation

[As every two years], FCNL is asking Friends and their meetings, churches, and other groups all over the country to share which of the many public policy issues and questions identified in FCNL's Policy Statement, "The World We Seek," they think are most important. What needs close attention from Friends, and from FCNL? Your answers to this question are the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL will set at its Annual Meeting in November of 2018.

Please share the outcome of your discernment around FCNL's lobbying priorities no later than April 13, 2018.

For details and resources, please see the website source: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/setting-legislative-priorities-1169>

Supporting a Ministry of Quaker Spirituality in Music

Many of us at Yearly Meeting or other contexts have experienced the spiritual openings that Paulette Meier has made available to us in song-chants based on the words of early Friends. These have connected us more deeply through melody to the life of the Spirit that grounds our faith. Paulette has been sharing this ministry widely over the last six years, providing workshops and retreats at Pendle Hill and in Maine, Canada, New York City, Baltimore, Durham, Greensboro, and more.

Now we have an opportunity to help support her leading to take this ministry back to the source of our Quaker heritage. Woodbrooke retreat center near Birmingham UK contacted her about a year ago, inviting her to England to provide some workshops in June, 2018. This invitation came as a result of their awareness and use of a CD she had published with Quaker Press in 2010: *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong*. They requested that she provide two weekend length programs, one based on the song-chants she'd composed from 17th century Quaker quotations and the other on chanting as a spiritual practice. She accepted the invitation after discernment with several elders and an on-going support committee. Swarthmoor Hall coordinates activities with Woodbrooke and invited Paulette to provide a weekend program there as well.

Paulette will also provide a day long retreat at Oxford (UK) Friends Meeting, and is planning to visit and provide programs at other meetings, including Edinburgh. Additionally, Swarthmoor Hall has arranged to conduct their residential tour, "In Fox's Footsteps: 1651 Quaker Pilgrimage," while Paulette is there, so she can take part in this enriching opportunity to visit historic Quaker sites.

Paulette believes that she can piece together the funding needed for her individually to carry out this pilgrimage and ministry. However, it is long-standing practice of Friends to provide spiritual companionship and support for traveling in the ministry. Diann Herzog feels strongly led to fulfill this role in support of Paulette's ministry. Not only will Diann be supporting this ministry by her presence, but she, too, will gain spiritually by being able to visit sites important to early Quakers, especially if she can participate in the tour sponsored by Swarthmoor Hall. OVYM will surely benefit from this deepening. In order to make this trip possible for Diann, she will need to raise about \$2,500, which will include airfare, train travel, and the cost of the 5 day pilgrimage. Diann has given much to our yearly meeting, and it would be wonderful if we could support both her and Paulette by helping her raise the funds needed for this trip. If you are able to help out, please send donations to: EITHER Diann Herzog, 5235 S 200 E, Anderson IN 46017; OR make out a check to OVYM, with the memo "traveling ministry" and send it to Wilson Palmer, 821 Dunore Rd., Cincinnati OH 45220.

Cecilia Shore, *Quill* Editor

2018 Yearly Meeting Speakers

Our theme is **Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World**, and our plenary speakers are confirmed: Vanessa Julye and Dwight Wilson. Brief bios follow from Planning Committee:

Vanessa Julye, who has visited with OVYM as a guest several times in recent years, is the coordinator for two Friends General Conference programs — its Ministry on Racism Program and Youth Ministries Program. She first worked with FGC as a volunteer in 1994 and has been on staff for the past 11 years.

She is well known as the co-author, with Donna McDaniel, of the groundbreaking book "Fit for Freedom not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice. She is also the author of "The Seed Cracked Open: Growing Beyond Racism."

Called to racial justice work, she has visited yearly and monthly meetings across the U.S. and Canada as they engage in the struggle with racism and white supremacy. She also spearheaded FGC's partnership with the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), seeing the numbers of Quakers attending the annual conference grow from 11 in 2010 to more than 500 in 2016, when the conference went to Philadelphia.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Vanessa's introduction to Quaker worship came in elementary school when a friend invited her to attend a summer Quaker camp. She came back to Friends as an adult when she started working with Friends World Committee for Consultation and found Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, where she and her husband are members.

Dwight L. Wilson is a retired educator who spent 41 years as a school professional, including as headmaster of Friends School in Detroit. He also has served as pastor of Friends Meeting in Durham, Maine, and as general secretary for Friends General Conference.

He earned a BA in history and sociology from Bowdoin College and a master's of divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary. He also was awarded an honorary degree in Human Reconstruction from Wilmington (Ohio) College. In 1980, Christian Century magazine named him one of America's Most Influential Religious Leaders. He has served on educational delegations to Spain, Egypt, and China; and has lectured on religion, peacemaking, leadership, multicultural education, and the Ohio frontier throughout North America.

He has published religious and educational articles as well as haiku in periodicals spanning the globe. He also has written a fictional series of books inspired by real events, "Esi Was My Mother," that begins in 1795 with the enslavement of a Fante couple in West Africa.

A native of Middletown, Ohio, he and his wife live in Ann Arbor, Mich., where they are members of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

This summer, in addition to being a plenary speaker for OVYM sessions, he will guide the daily Bible Half Hour each weekday morning at the FGC 2018 Gathering to be held in Toledo, Ohio.

News from Monthly Meetings

Bloomington

We have very good news! After several years of discussion and prayerful consideration, we have started on the rebuilding of our meetinghouse. The project will follow a two-stage plan: first the refurbishment of the Meeting room and then the tearing down of the old house. Work on the Meeting room started after Thanksgiving and is now at halfway point. In the spring we will move forward on the tear down and rebuilding of the old house.

By letter, email, and phone we have raised \$240,000 toward the down payment. A wonderful \$50,000 gift/match and a phonathon rounded out our year of fundraising and really made progress possible. The total cost is approximately \$400,000, with the mortgage being in the range of \$160,000. We are waiting on the finalized architectural drawing and the final cost estimate before obtaining the mortgage

We thank all the Friends and friends who have given to our Capital Campaign and invite other contributions.

For over a year now, we have been meeting in Harmony School. We truly miss our meeting house home but we continue to go about our Quaker Practice as best we can: for example, we joined with Indianapolis AFSC staff in celebration of the organization's centenary; an enthusiastic group meets monthly for FCNL Advocacy Training; we enjoyed dinners for Friends; the Pastoral Care committee looks out for those in need of assistance; and a creative Religious Education program has adapted to our temporary space.

We give thanks for the strength and faithfulness of our community and we ask you to continue to Hold us in the Light.

Elaine Emmi and Phyllis Martin



Clear Creek

Clear Creek Meeting continues to worship in deep and gathered silence. We tend to have few verbal messages, but the ones we do receive are heartfelt and personal.

Currently we do not have any children attending meeting, and we really do miss the contributions of the really young. However, we do still have the difficult-to-interpret utterances of the heating system to add mystery to Meeting for Worship during the cooler months. (Hey, we'll take what we can get!)

In October CC meeting co-hosted the Memorial Meeting for Paul Lacey who was a long term, well-loved Earlham faculty member as well as a member of the Meeting. This event was scheduled for Homecoming weekend, and the Meeting House was packed with people who had known and loved him.

Re Peace and Social Concerns: Richmond has already had a number of forced deportations that have caused children to be separated from their parents. All 3 Quaker Meetings in Richmond have been exploring how best to support the Sanctuary movement in our city. Only one of these has a building that could potentially offer physical sanctuary, while the other 2 are exploring other ways to offer support to undocumented immigrants and their families. In January, Clear Creek Meeting passed a minute to that effect. Earlier some Meeting members participated in a Rapid Response Training in solidarity with Latino neighbors at risk of deportation.

(continued next page)

(from previous page) Some CC Friends have also been participating in the Richmond FCNL advocacy team which has the goal of persuading Congress to reduce military spending and increase financial accountability and oversight of the military.

Other CC Friends have been active with the Richmond Indivisible group, especially in the area of environmental concerns.

On a more modest level our second hour offerings are well attended and informative. In the second hour Adult Religious Education realm: We have had varied experiences ranging from hearing about a member's spiritual journey, to examining the "responsible reading" of Bible verses, to an hour of "Writing the Silence" and sharing the results, to reflections on what we understand to be "community", to reflecting on some short writings by Howard Thurman and then sharing our personal understandings of the meaning of Christmas.

Other CC members and attenders have met in more informal groups for reading and reflecting on various books, for discussing other spiritual topics and for potlucks.

We also had a Solstice Labyrinth Walk at the Meeting House on Dec 21st and we participated in the 3-meeting Christmas Eve worship service three evenings later.

All in all, Clear Creek meeting seems to be thriving in many ways.

Palline Plum

Community

We mourn the sudden loss of Ken Bordwell, who died Oct. 30 at home, and celebrate his very full life. His memorial had to be held in a larger venue as 150 or so people attended. His partner, Mary Anne Curtiss, is our clerk. Then Frank Huss wound up in Intensive Care after a fall Dec. 2. He seems to be making a remarkable recovery although this fall may result in a move.

One Sunday during the beginning of worship, there was another remarkable recovery (lift out) of two Friends from our stuck elevator. Everyone was relieved, and it resulted in some messages at Meeting. It also resulted in the elevator being repaired. Smaller convivial gatherings continue including new Friendly 6 groups meeting over lunch or dinner and four active Inreach groups: Parables, Living Mindfully – Opening to Natural Spirit for Healing, Quaker Book Reading Group, and Visitation. The Visitation group has visited Eastern Hills and Miami Meetings so far. A series of four introduction to Quakerism meetings has begun with seven in attendance, including one person who has never attended Meeting but learned about the class on our website.

Second hours are educational or reflective programs that happen after Meeting for Worship. In November, the *What and Why of Holistic Mental Health and Our Quaker Testimonies* resulted in a lively exchange. New this year for Christmas was a variety show instead of our usual children's play. Those who attended the New Year's Eve potluck and worship welcomed back the former tradition of a White Elephant exchange. And finally, Community looks forward to hosting Miami Quarterly Feb. 18th and wishes everyone (no exceptions) peace in the new year.

Deborah Jordan

Eastern Hills

A showing of a documentary entitled "Lincoln School Story" took place in November at a church in Anderson Township. The film is about the integrating of a Hillsboro elementary school after Brown V. the Board of Education. The mother of some members of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Mary Hackney, was quite involved with Hillsboro mothers who, prior to integration, were home schooling their children because they felt school was unsafe. Mary helped furnish curriculum to the mothers. Before the showing of the video, Eastern Hills arranged to have a dinner, which was held at a home in Anderson Township, for Jim (one of Mary's children) and Lois Hackney.

As is the practice of Eastern Hills Meeting, a Meeting for Healing is held after Meeting for Worship in the months when there are five Sundays. A Meeting for Healing was held October 29th and again on December 31st.

Our meeting continues to send prayers out for Ralph and Darlene Palmer. Darlene became ill when she was out of town and now Ralph is with her as she is involved in lengthy rehabilitation.

At the beginning of a recent Meeting for Business, Clerk Franchot Ballinger asked each of us to name what we see as our own ministries and add to what others said. It was wonderful to hear what people see as their ministries and what others see as our ministries.

A nurse who many in Eastern Hills Meeting are acquainted with, Gail McMonigle, travels with doctors to Haiti three times a year. While there they treat patients with neurological issues. This Christmas season, as our Giving Tree collection, money was donated to help Gail with her travel expenses. Gail has expressed much gratitude for our help.

Each year in December Eastern Hills holds a holiday celebration. We share a pot luck lunch then anyone who wants to shares a talent in some way. Then we end the celebration by singing carols as long as our vocal chords hold out! Here is Wilson Palmer who was the Master of Ceremonies during our talent show. He asked us why we are not ourselves when we come to meeting? The answer is that we all "turn into the parking lot". That got the celebration off to a good start with a lot of Friendly groans.

Eastern Hills sends New Years wishes to all.

Henrietta Ballinger



Fall Creek

Like many small rural meetings, Fall Creek struggles with small membership trying to maintain a historic old meetinghouse. We recently held a called meeting to discern whether we feel led to continue meeting at Fall Creek or to seek other options. After deep listening and reflection, we feel clear that continuing on here is our path. We are also clear that we are going to need help with upgrading the building. We have developed an overall plan and have already begun some tasks. Our hope is that once our building is more presentable and serviceable that we can begin outreach to the surrounding community. We invite everyone to come visit this special place, to hear how Spirit directed its existence, how it has served the Yearly Meeting and to experience the living Spirit and peace of this place. We continue to be uplifted by the love and support of Friends.

Diann Herzog

Miami

Christmas Programs for 2017

Miami regularly supports operations at Quaker Heights Care Community and several members are on the Board and various committees. On December 24th, Miami hosted a Meeting for Worship at Quaker Heights involving carol singing, inspirational readings, and silent worship. The residents enjoyed the program and singing the Christmas carols. Our Meeting for Worship followed at 10:45 with an 11:30 light Carry-in Luncheon and Christmas program.

Annual Quaker Heights Memorial Worship

A member of the Meeting clerked the Annual Quaker Heights Memorial Meeting for Worship on August 29th to celebrate the lives of those Quaker Heights residents who had passed during the past year. Attendance was light because of the weather but those attending participated with heart-felt memories of their loved ones and the meeting was deeply meaningful for the families and staff.

First Day School

Adult First Day School continues to be active and lively with a variety of topics on Friends, the Bible, and times the Friends spoke of their faith and other religions and faith groups. Paulette Meier of Community Friends Meeting shared her music ministry during First Day school in 3rd Month. Her presentation was well-accepted and Friends joined in singing the words of historic Friends that she has put to music. Studies this year have included Islam, a program on the Quaker community at Monteverde, Costa Rica, viewing the documentary film on the Waynesville Quaker Historic District, and reading through Pendle Hill Pamphlets such as *Members One Of Another: the Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meetings* by Thomas Gates. In October, Paul Buckley, author of *The Essential Elias Hicks*, led the Adult Discussion.

House and Grounds

We have accomplished several maintenance projects for our facilities including replacement of the woodwork on the roof of the White Brick porch, which had deteriorated. Our mold-prevention project went well with cleaning the White Brick and installation of a dehumidifier in the basement.

Lonny Burger

Oxford

Recent community-building potluck events have culminated in service activities. At our Fall Potluck, we discussed environmental sustainability actions that we could do collectively, and we chose to purchase recycled paper goods for the InterFaith Center where we meet for worship. At our Advent Event, we focused on food insecurity. One of our members is helping to organize a student-led food pantry for students at his school who need food over weekends and holidays. We brought groceries to help stock the pantry and collected monetary donations for the local Community Choice Pantry. The meeting has also engaged in service by participating in the local Empty Bowls fundraising event and the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Habitat house in Oxford. We always benefit from hearing our youth report about their discussions in First Day School. In recent months, they have learned about Quakers and abolition, social activist journalists, the simplicity testimony and the civil rights movement.

Cecilia Shore

Yellow Springs

Our meeting continues our rich meeting for learning sessions for all of our age groups- children, teens and adults!

Every Saturday afternoon you can join meeting members at a peace vigil in Yellow Springs.

Our Peace and Social Justice Committee has participated in the Yellow Springs Interspiritual Council which put on the Yellow Springs Thanksgiving Community Dinner. The committee also participated in a presentation on alternatives to the military at Yellow Spring High School. With the goal of having students understand both the circumstances of military service and what is required to obtain legal conscientious objector status.

Member Laura Hyde was pleased to announce that she will be serving in the Peace Corps in Thailand as a Youth and Development Volunteer beginning in January of 2018. And our beloved member, Carl Hyde, celebrated his 90th birthday in December!

We invite you all to come and visit with us throughout the year!

Heather Snediker-Morscheck

Updated sections in the OVYM Book of Faith and Practice

The OVYM Faith & Practice Committee has reviewed and lightly edited several more sections. Since the changes are minimal, these texts will be incorporated into the new edition of the *Book of Faith & Practice* without further review.

Principles and Applications

Work in the World (formerly titled “Business Relations”)

Friends in all fields of endeavor are urged to work in the spirit of service, to avoid exploitation of others, and to make our Quaker values visible in the wider world. The highest interests of employers and employees are mutual and interdependent and can be achieved with understanding and cooperation, fairness and goodwill. We urge all to depend on and to be willing to advocate for these principles. When manifest injustice exists in a workplace, each person should conscientiously seek out just means to remedy that injustice.

Those who are employers or supervisors have a responsibility to show respect for each employee as an individual; seeing that everyone's workload is equitable, that each one has reasonable working hours, and that pay rates are consistent with the work performed. In setting wage levels it is essential that employers consider the needs of employees and their families. Likewise, it is important for workers to maintain a high standard of work quality.

In our relations with corporations as stockholders, Friends should be governed by the same high standards as in our relations with individuals. If the conduct of a corporation is inconsistent with high standards of individual conduct, it is our duty to first call on the corporation to correct the problem. If such protests are unsuccessful, Friends should divest ourselves of stock ownership. It is also inconsistent to work for or to purchase products from such a corporation.

Accumulation of Wealth and Payment of Debts

Habits of industry and thrift sometimes degenerate into love for wealth and its accumulation. Clear and accurate accounts are essential to keep Friends aware of their resources and expenditures. Friends are advised to make prompt payment of just debts at the time agreed. It is a moral duty to avoid incurring debts beyond our ability to pay and even when legally discharged of a debt, we should feel that our obligation remains. Friends should be cautious in starting a business without requisite capital and experience, or of engaging in risky ventures in order to acquire abnormal profits.

Friends should seek to discern how much of their income or property can be spared, and how it may be wisely distributed for the benefit of others. It should not be a burden but a privilege to be able to contribute when appeals are made to us for the support of our Religious Society and for other worthy causes.

Serving as a Trustee

When Friends are in positions of trust, whether as trustee, assignee, treasurer or other fiduciary capacity in which we are responsible for the administration of property of others, we should exercise great care to discharge our duties with diligence, good judgment and the strictest integrity. We must be scrupulous in abiding by the spirit as well as the letter of our promises, contracts and agreements, in buying and selling, and in all other matters. Any such moneys must be kept strictly apart from our own, with separate accounts maintained, and a careful audit be made at least yearly of all accounts, including the verification of all investment securities.

Meeting Structure, Function and Procedures (Formerly Titled “Business Meetings”)

Establishment and Relation of Meetings

The Establishment of Meetings

Friends and seekers who find themselves at a distance from an established monthly meeting may find spiritual sustenance by forming a worship group. These groups often meet in the home of one of the attenders. A worship group is typically not affiliated with any monthly, quarterly or yearly meeting.

A worship group that desires the company and support of other Friends and wants to be recognized as Quaker as defined by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice should request to become a preparative meeting under the care of the nearest OVYM monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting agrees to receive this charge, a defined group of monthly meeting members should be selected to assume the responsibility of organizing the preparative meeting and reporting frequently to the monthly meeting. Without first becoming a preparative meeting, a worship group could appeal directly to the quarterly meeting to be recognized as a monthly meeting.

A monthly meeting is established by action of its quarterly meeting. The quarterly meeting should investigate and give due consideration to any group requesting to be organized into a new monthly meeting. The quarterly meeting may appoint a committee to render assistance and advice to the group forming a new monthly meeting. This committee should give regular progress reports to the quarterly meeting. Among other considerations, the committee should verify that the new group's members are familiar with the OVYM Faith and Practice and that the meeting is organized according to it. *(continued next page)*

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The Executive Committee is directed to assist meetings in placing their meeting properties in suitable trusteeships, if desired. Funds and/or properties may be turned over to the township trustees, historical societies or other appropriate organizations if it is considered that better care will be obtained in this manner than through the Yearly Meeting structure.

The Monthly Meeting

Organization

Each monthly meeting shall name a suitable person to serve the meeting as Clerk. The duty of the clerk shall be to conduct all business sessions of the meeting, to see that a full and correct record of all proceedings is kept, and to carry out the instructions of the meeting on all matters pertaining to the complete accomplishment of its business. Assistants to the clerk may be appointed if needed.

Many meetings appoint a Recording Clerk who makes a written record during monthly business meetings and records decisions that are made. The recording clerk often reads the “minutes-so-far” during the business session, and the clerk asks for approval of those minutes.

A Treasurer shall be appointed to perform the usual service expected of such an officer, and shall be governed by such rules as meetings think suitable for the safe and orderly holding and disbursement of funds. The treasurer shall report regularly to the meeting and accounts should be audited annually.

Each year monthly meetings send a “State of the Meeting Report” to the quarterly meeting so that these can be printed and distributed with the Reports in Advance at Yearly Meeting Sessions. Meetings should send additional information to the quarterly meeting once a year: copies of official correspondence sent or received by the monthly meeting during the last year, the names of meeting correspondents, and statistical data for each meeting including membership changes, births, marriages, and deaths.

Meetings are urged to appoint a committee of Ministry and Counsel to focus on the spiritual well-being of the meeting community. Other standing committees may be designated according to the needs of the meeting. All appointments should be made for definite terms.

Glossary

This is a list of terms sometimes used in Quaker practice. Some appear in this document; all have been used in Quaker speech and writings.

Advices: Friends have found it useful to regularly remind one another of shared qualities. Advices touch on the foundations of true, personal discipline, on the care of our children, on family life and on the character of our day-to-day living.

Affirmation: A legal declaration made by Friends or others who conscientiously decline to take an oath.

Assistant Clerk: A person who assists a clerk and is prepared to fill in when the clerk is unable to act.

Associate Member: A minor child recorded as a member at the request of parents, one or both of whom are members of the monthly meeting. Associate Members may be transferred to full membership status at their own request, preferably in writing, after they have reached an age of decision on religious associations and are familiar with Friends principles.

Being Moved to Speak: In the quietness of the Meeting one feels urged by the Divine Spirit to share a spoken message..

Birthright Member: A Friend born of at least one Quaker parent and recorded at birth on the membership rolls of the meeting.

Breaking Meeting: The act of closing of the Meeting for Worship when a designated person or persons shake hands with those seated next to them.

Budget: The annual statement listing the Meeting’s financial needs and sources of income for a specified period of time.

Center Down: To endeavor to still our conscious thoughts, clear our minds, and open ourselves to hear God speak directly to us.

Clearness: Confidence that an action is consistent with the divine will.

Clearness Committee: There are three kinds: (1) In a proposed marriage, a committee of Friends appointed to help determine the clearness of the persons intending marriage with each other and of the Meeting to take their marriage under its care. (2) A committee appointed to assist a person who is considering membership in the Meeting and of the Meeting to take the person into membership. (3) A committee to assist one or more persons or the meeting to discern the right way forward with respect to a decision or concern.

Committee for Sufferings: A committee to support and care for members and their families who suffer imprisonment or other forms of hardship because of their commitment to Friends’ principles.

Concern: A quickening sense of the need to do something about a situation or issue in response to what is felt to be a direct intimation of God’s will. A concern, whether of an individual or a Meeting, implies an interest so deep and vigorous that it often moves to action.

Consensus: A term used in secular world to indicate a unanimous agreement. Among Friends, it is sometimes used loosely as a synonym for “Sense of the Meeting” (see below).

Continuing Revelation: The belief that God still speaks to people directly and in so doing may reveal God’s desires or directions for an individual or a group of people.

Convinced Friend: A member who has become a Friend as a result of being led to this decision by the Inner Teacher after contemplation, prayer and inward seeking.

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- Correspondent:** A person responsible for the transmission, reception and acknowledgement of communications sent from, or to, the Meeting. Frequently, the presiding clerk will assume this responsibility.
- Discernment:** Spiritual understanding or insight and the ability to apply these to spiritual matters.
- Elder:** An individual appointed to foster the spiritual life of the Meeting and of the individuals in it.
- Eldering:** Lovingly expressing concern and tenderly questioning an individual's behavior and encouraging improvement.
- Epistle:** A public letter of greeting and ministry. Such letters are sent from a Friends meeting or organization to other Friends groups, to supply information, spiritual insight and encouragement.
- First Day School:** Friends' designation for Sunday religious education programs provided for children and adults.
- Gathered Meeting:** Those special occasions when a Meeting attains a greater than usual sense of the Divine Presence, touching the hearts of all and uniting them in a common experience of holy fellowship.
- Good Order / Rightly Ordered:** Those procedures for the conduct of Friends business and witness that encourage a meeting to carry out its corporate activities under divine leading.
- Gospel Order:** A term used by George Fox and others to describe the new covenant order of the church under the headship of Christ. It concerns how we live faithfully in relationship with God, each other, and all of creation.
- Hold in the Light:** To desire that divine guidance and healing will be present for an individual who is in distress or faces a difficult situation; also, to give prayerful consideration to an idea.
- Inward Light / Inner Light / Light Within / Light of Christ:** The direct, unmediated experience of the Divine. Some of the other equivalent terms often found in Quaker writings are: the Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Divine Principle, the Seed, the Guide, the Christ Within, the Inward Teacher, that of God in every person.
- Leading:** A sense of being called by God to undertake a specific course of action, often arising in response to a concern.
- Mind the Light:** An expression used to remind Friends that the "Inward Light" can reveal God's will and direction to us. Minding the Light calls for both active obedience to divine leadings and carefully nurturing openness to the Light.
- Ministers:** Members who are recognized by a Meeting as having a special gift for ministry, both in speaking and in other forms of service.
- Ministry:** Sharing or acting upon one's gifts, whether speaking during a meeting for worship or in service to individuals, to the meeting, or to the larger community.
- Minute:** The record of corporate unity reached during a business meeting.
- Monthly Meeting:** A congregation of Friends who meet regularly for worship and to conduct corporate business. Also, used to describe the monthly gathering of such a body to conduct business.
- Opening:** A spiritual insight, opportunity or leading.
- Opportunity:** A spontaneous period of worship, especially one that occurs when a traveling minister visits Friends in their homes.
- Out of Unity:** Not in harmony with Friends' principles and testimonies.
- Overseers:** Members of a committee that gives pastoral care and nurture to all members and attenders. This term is no longer in general use; in most meetings, this function has been taken up by the Committee on Ministry & Counsel.
- Plain Speech:** The practice of early Friends to use of "thee, thy, thou, and thine" when addressing a single person and to refer to the days of the week and months of the year by number (e.g., First Day for Sunday).
- Preparative Meeting:** A group of members of an established monthly meeting which ordinarily gathers for worship at another place under the care of the monthly meeting.
- Presiding Clerk:** The person who conducts business meetings and is sensitive to the guidance of the Spirit. The essential task is to discern when the meeting is in spiritual unity. The clerk then prepares a draft minute reflecting the "sense of the meeting" for consideration. The presiding clerk is often assisted by an assistant clerk and a recording clerk.
- Proceed as Way Opens:** To wait for divine guidance when seeking to solve a problem or address a concern. Spiritual direction may result from a time of active seeking or arrive unexpectedly. Frequently, it points to a previously unforeseen way forward.
- Programmed Meeting:** A Meeting for Worship, usually conducted by a designated leader, with a pre-determined program, often including music, an offering, sermon, etc. Most programmed meetings among Friends include a period of waiting worship.
- Quaker:** A member of the Religious Society of Friends. Originally, this was a derogatory term applied to Friends because their excitement of spirit when led to speak in a meeting for worship was sometimes expressed in a shaking or quaking motion.
- Quarterly Meeting:** A regional gathering of members of constituent monthly meetings, traditionally on four occasions each year, but now three times.
- Queries:** A set of questions, based on Friends' practices and testimonies, which are considered by Meetings and individuals as a way of examining individual and corporate lives and guiding actions.
- Recorded Ministers:** A member who is recognized by a monthly meeting as having the gift of vocal ministry or a special gift of service to the Meeting or the wider community.
- Recording Clerk:** The person appointed to record minutes at regular and called business meetings.
- Released Friend:** A Friend whose leading to carry out a particular course of action has been approved by his or her meeting. In doing so, the meeting takes on the responsibility to provide such support as would enable the Friend to follow that leading.
- Sense of the Meeting:** A decision on some issue or concern which is considered to be in accordance with the divine will. This is usually discerned by the presiding clerk and formulated into a proposed minute.
- Sojourning Member:** When a Friend is temporarily residing at a distance from his or her home meeting, she or he may apply to become a Sojourning Member of a closer meeting. The member's membership and primary financial responsibility remains with his or her home meeting.
- Speak to One's Condition:** The experience of hearing a message spoken by another person as coming directly from God. This message may help solve a problem or point to a right decision.

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Stand Aside: An action taken by an individual who has genuine reservations about a particular decision, but who also recognizes that the decision is clearly supported by the weight of the Meeting. The action of standing aside allows the Meeting to reach unity.

Statistician / Recorder: A person responsible for maintaining a meeting's membership records, including all births, marriages, removals and deaths occurring among members, and recording the attendance at meetings for worship.

Stewardship: Good stewardship directs Friends' investments of time and money in sustainable and renewable resources and in work that supports Quaker values and beliefs.

Stop / Stop in the Mind: A clear sense of spiritual uneasiness in the face of a proposed decision or action, and an inability to follow it.

Take under the Care: The decision by a meeting to take responsibility for an activity, program, or event and to which it gives oversight. This includes a marriage, the ministry of an individual, or a worship group.

Testimony: A public witness to the ways in which one's relationship with God has given direction to her or his life. These may be personal or corporate. Some traditional testimonies are seeking divine guidance in all things, living simply, integrity, peace and nonviolence, temperance in all things, making affirmation instead swearing an oath, and acknowledging the worth of each individual regardless of race, sex or religion.

Threshing Session: A gathering of Friends to consider a controversial issue in a way that is free from the necessity of reaching a decision.

Traveling Minute: A statement of endorsement that a Meeting gives to a member who feels called to visit other meetings and Friends groups to share a concern. It establishes the good standing of the Friend and that the meeting has united with the traveler's concern.

Treasurer: An individual designated by the meeting to manage its financial resources.

Truth: The revealed will of God, as best discerned by a meeting under the guidance of the Inward Light.

Unity: The sense of spiritual oneness and harmony whose realization is a primary objective of a meeting for worship or a meeting for business.

Unprogrammed Meeting / Waiting Worship / Silent Worship: A Meeting for Worship held with minimal pre-planning. Friends gather at a specified time and place in silence, waiting on God and the leadings of the Spirit. Some Friends may be given vocal messages to share with the Meeting or it may be entirely silent.

Vocal Ministry: To share a message or prayer during a meeting for worship.

Weighty Member: An informal term for a Friend who is respected for spiritual depth, wisdom, and long service to the Religious Society of Friends.

Worship Group: A group of people who meet for worship, but do not conduct business. This may be formed under the care of a monthly meeting or by the gathering together of people outside of the yearly meeting structure.

Worship Sharing: A group practice that acknowledges the presence of God during which participants share personal experiences and feelings in response to a prearranged theme or a set of questions.

Yearly Meeting: Friends from a geographically extended area who gather in annual sessions to worship and conduct business together. This term is also used to denote the total membership of the constituent monthly meetings of a designated yearly meeting.



Earlham School of Religion
2018 Spirituality Gathering
March 3, 2018
ESR Gathering Area
Buddhist and Quaker Spiritualities
Keynote Speaker Sallie King

Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling
2018 Annual Conference
April 5-8
Awakening Together: Exploring Mindfulness, Healing Ourselves, Healing the World
Facilitator: Valerie Brown
Quaker Hill Conference Center
Richmond, IN
Early Bird Registration March 10

Quaker Heritage Center
Wilmington College
Lecture Performance Series:
African-American Resistance, Abolitionists, and Quakers

Thursday February 22, 7 p.m.
Canby Jones Meetinghouse
“Targets of the Riot: Gender, Violence, and interracial Abolitionism in Antebellum Washington, DC”
Dr. Tamika Nunley, Oberlin College

Tuesday March 6, 1-2:30 p.m.
McCoy Room, Kelly Hall
Talk: “Songs of Resistance, Songs of Freedom: A look at the American Negro Spiritual from its
humble beginning, life of protest and presence today”
La’Shelle Allen

Tuesday March 6, 7 p.m.
McCoy Room, Kelly Hall
Performance: “Spirituals in Motion” a Sistah LaLa Production
La’Shelle Allen, Joann Brannon, Scott Heersche, Kaymon Murrah

Mark your calendar!

Sustaining Spiritual Practices for Healing and Refreshment:

A One-Day Spring Retreat
9:30 - 5:00 Saturday, March 17, 2018
Quaker Hill Conference Center, Richmond, IN

Ask your monthly meeting clerk for a copy of our announcement with details
or contact
Andrew Garrison, garrisaaf@gmail.com or (513) 523-1061.



Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Cincinnati, OH 45229

We're on the web:
ovym.quaker.org

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Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com

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The Seed, or Grace of God, is small in its first Appearance, even as the Morning Light; but as it is given Heed to, and obeyed, it will increase in Brightness, till it shine in the Soul, like the Sun in the Firmament at its Noon-day Height. ~ Elizabeth Bathurst, 1655-1685

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Officers

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Martha Viehmann, Assistant Presiding Clerk

Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

(VACANT), Ass't Recording Clerk

Wilson Palmer, Treasurer

(VACANT), Ass't Treasurer