

*Minutes*  
*of the business sessions of*  
***Ohio Valley***  
***Yearly Meeting***  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*  
*(Friends General Conference)*

“What Does the Lord Ask of Us?  
Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service”

The 191<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 27 to Seventh Month 31, 2011

Earlham College

Richmond, IN

## Table of Contents

OVYM Agenda Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.....	5
Minutes of the 191 <sup>st</sup> Session .....	6
Roll call of Monthly Meeting representatives .....	25
Miami Quarterly Meeting Report .....	27
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report .....	27
2011 OVYM Nominations –Advance Report.....	29
Executive Committee Report.....	32
Clerical Support Report .....	33
OVYM Website .....	33
Summary of Epistles Received for 2011 OVYM Sessions .....	34
Statistical Report.....	38
Friends General Conference Central Committee Report .....	40
Budget and Finance Committee.....	42
Treasurer’s Report .....	43
Audit Committee Report.....	51
Quaker Heights Care Community.....	51
OVYM Discipline Revision Committee.....	53
Quaker Quill.....	60
Advancement and Nurture Committee .....	60
Religious Education Committee Report .....	61
American Friends Service Committee .....	61
Peace and Social Concerns Committee.....	63
Quaker Earthcare Witness.....	64
Friends Music Camp Annual Report .....	66
Teen Committee Report.....	66

Middle Youth Committee Report .....	68
FWCC .....	69
Olney Friends School Report.....	70
William Penn House .....	71
FCNL .....	72
OVYM Planning Committee .....	74
Executive Committee Minutes.....	76
State of Society Report 2011 .....	99
State of the Meeting Reports.....	100
Bloomington Monthly Meeting .....	101
Campus Friends Meeting .....	102
Clear Creek Monthly Meeting .....	103
Community Friends Meeting .....	105
Dayton Friends Meeting .....	107
Eastern Hills Meeting .....	108
Fall Creek Monthly Meeting.....	109
Fort Wayne Friends Meeting .....	109
Green Plain Monthly Meeting .....	110
Hopewell Friends Meeting.....	110
Lafayette Friends Meeting .....	111
Lexington Friends Meeting.....	112
Louisville Friends Meeting .....	115
Miami Monthly Meeting.....	115
North Meadow Circle of Friends .....	116
Oxford Monthly Meeting.....	117
Yellow Springs Friends Meeting .....	118

White Rose Monthly Meeting of Friends .....	119
Memorial Minutes.....	120
Betsy Caulfield.....	121
Mary Kay Rash .....	122

## OVYM Agenda Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Wed. 7-9 pm Richmond Room	Thur. AM, 10-12:30 Richmond Room	Thur. PM, 3:30-5 Richmond Room	Fri. AM, 10-12:30 Richmond Room	Sat. AM, 10-12:30 Richmond Room	Sun. AM, 10-11 Richmond Room
Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives  Welcome & Introductions Letters of Introduction Gratitude to Youth Workers Delegates to Youth Business Absent Friends Review of Agenda Summary of Epistles Whitewater Quarterly Report Miami Quarterly Report  Initial Nominating Report  Executive Cmte Report  Advancement and Nurture Report State of Society Summary  Announcements Closing Worship	Centering Worship  Greetings, Roll Call  Welcome. Letters.  Statistician Report  Treasurer Report  Proposed Budget from Budget and Finance  Proposal to Lay Down Property Corporation  Announcements  Closing Worship	Centering Worship  Greetings  Quaker Heights Friends Home Corporation Report  Friends Music Camp  AFSC Report AFSC visitor  FCNL Rep Report  FGC Rep Report  Announcements  Closing Worship	Centering Worship  Greetings Review of Discipline Revision Process  Discipline Revision Committee Report <i>Consideration of 8<sup>th</sup> draft of "Seeking Harmony with Creation"</i> <i>Threshing of Close Relationships, Part 1, 4<sup>th</sup> draft</i> <i>Threshing of Close Relationships, Part 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> draft</i> Planning Cmte Report Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report Religious Education Committee Report Quill Publications Web site Coordinator Records Coordinator Announcements  Closing Worship	Centering Worship  Greetings  QEW report  FWCC report World Gathering 2012  Vision Threshing  Youth Secretary Report  Teen Committee Report  Middle Youth Report  Children Committee Report  Announcements  Closing Worship	Centering Worship  Final Greetings  Final Nomination Committee Report  Minute of Appreciation for those leaving service to OVYM  Site for 2012  Registrar's Report  2011 Epistles Young Youth Middle Youth Teens Young Adult  2011 OVYM Epistle  Closing Worship at the Stout Meeting House

# **Minutes of the 191<sup>st</sup> Session**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

**Seventh Month 27, 2011; 6:45 pm – 8:45pm**

## **1. Opening of Session**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered in waiting worship at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana for its 191<sup>st</sup> annual session. The clerk shared a passage from The Journal of Elias Hicks, which spoke of true Christianity as the total surrender of individual will.

## **2. Greetings and Welcome**

The clerk greeted Friends assembled for the 191<sup>st</sup> session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

## **3. Roll Call of Representatives**

The clerk called for the roll of monthly meetings. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to the minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

## **4. Welcoming of Guests**

Michael Wajda was welcomed as a visitor from Friends General Conference. The Assistant Clerk read a letter of introduction from Friends General Conference commending Michael to the care of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Marge Abbott from Multnomah Monthly Meeting was welcomed, as was Noah Baker Merrill from Putney Friends Meeting in New England Yearly Meeting. Jerry Knudsen was welcomed as a visitor named by Lake Erie Yearly Meeting to visit Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

## **5. Staff, Volunteer Gratitude**

The clerk recognized staff and volunteers who will work with the young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the 191<sup>st</sup> session and encouraged Friends to greet and thank them throughout the sessions.

## **6. Delegates to the Youth Business Sessions**

Lisa Cayard will visit the Children's Program. Deborah Jordan will visit the Middle Youth program. Rex Sprouse will visit the Teen program. The clerk encouraged Friends to visit the childrens' programs as they feel led throughout the annual sessions.

## **7. Absent Friends**

Friends were reminded to hold in the Light those Friends who are not able to be at this year's session.

## **8. Review of Agenda**

Friends reviewed the published agenda for the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A number of changes were reviewed.

### **9. Summary of Epistles**

Mildred Mahoney shared that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has received epistles from 22 Yearly Meetings, and summarized their messages and greetings. Mildred shared brief summaries of each epistle. The messages revealed a varied scope of concerns and experiences within the body of Friends. Cuban Friends noted the visit of Steven Angell of Oxford Friends Meeting in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to their yearly meeting. Friends accepted the report.

### **10. Nominating Committee Initial Report**

Rachel Dean presented the initial report of the Nominating Committee. Rachel guided Friends through the report as it stood at the beginning of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends were encouraged to serve on the Nominating Committee, and to offer their service on committees.

### **11. Executive Committee Report**

Paul Kriese reported that the Executive Committee met several times during the past year. Some of the results of their work will be brought to the floor of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

### **12. Whitewater Quarter Report**

Rex Sprouse presented the report from Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, noting that the past year has witnessed a movement of the spirit within Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. Rex shared a minute on Sexuality and Gender Identity Equality approved by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting at its First Month, 2011 meeting. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting brought the minute to the floor of the yearly meeting in the hope that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting would unite with the minute or issue a statement of its own on the matter of Sexuality and Gender Identity Equality. Friends from several constituent meetings in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting shared that their individual meetings have already approved similar statements, and Friends shared the expectation that the matter would be covered by the Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends entered into a period of silence to consider the minute. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends approved the following minute:

Minute on the Sexuality and Gender Identity Equality:

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends have been led by the Light of the Living Christ to understand that God's love extends with equality to all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The understanding that Christ has given us as Quakers today leads us to three conclusions. We affirm the full humanity of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender persons. We are committed to their equal status within the

Religious Society of Friends and the wider world. We celebrate their covenant relationships, including marriages under the care of our constituent meetings, as just as sacred, just as valid, and the cause for just as much joy as those of any other persons.

### **13. Miami Quarter Report**

Ben Griffith presented the report from Miami Quarterly Meeting, acknowledging that the Quarterly Meeting is dysfunctional, without a continuing presiding clerk. At the 2010 Joint Quarterly Meeting, Miami Quarterly Meeting considered a minute from Oxford Monthly Meeting recommending the elimination of the winter meeting due to weather concerns. A committee is considering alternatives for this process. Ben shared a request from Englewood Friends Meeting to join Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Miami Quarterly Meeting formed a visitation committee to work with Englewood Friends Meeting.

### **14. Miami Quarterly Meeting Visitation Committee for Englewood Friends Meeting.**

Steve Angell presented a report on the request from Englewood Friends Meeting to join Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Steve Angell is serving as convener. Andy Garrison, Rachel Ernst, Tom Applegate and Deb Kociszewski will serve on the visitation committee. The committee anticipates bringing a recommendation regarding the Englewood Friends Meeting request to the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Russ and Kay Wheeler of Englewood Friends Meeting will visit Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting on seventh month 28, 2011. Friends were encouraged to welcome Russ and Kay.

### **15. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 8:45 pm with a period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene on Seventh Month 28, 2011 at 10:00 am as way opens.

---

## **Seventh Month 28, 2011 10:00am – 11:45am**

### **16. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from The Journal of Elias Hicks which presented that the submission of our wills to the divine will as the medium through which to glorify God.

### **17. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

### **18. Introduction of Visitors**



Wendy Waters-Connell was welcomed as a representative of Quaker Heights Care Community. Valerie Hurwitz was welcomed as a visitor from the Earlham School of Religion. Russ Wheeler, clerk of Ministry and Oversight was welcomed as a visitor from the Englewood Friends Meeting. Micky Myers and John Lawson-Myers were also welcomed from Englewood Friends Meeting.

#### **19. Welcome from Earlham College**

David Dawson, the President of Earlham College welcomed Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends on behalf of Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion. Friends entered into a moment of silence to hold in the Light Pema Norbu and Mark Christianson, two Earlham students, who died seventh day 27, 2011 in an accident on Interstate 70. An informal memorial meeting is scheduled for seventh day 28, 2011 at 12:00 noon at Stout Meeting House.

#### **20. Quaker Heights Care Community**

Wendy Waters-Connell presented the report from the Quaker Heights Care Community. Wendy shared pictures and stories of residents, staff and volunteers at Quaker Heights Care Community. The pictures illustrated connections between Quaker Heights Care Community and the Waynesville Community. 98 beds are available in the nursing facility. 96 are currently occupied. 30 units are available in assisted living. 28 are currently occupied. 5 independent living units are available. All are occupied. Budget cuts in the Ohio State budget required significant and difficult adjustments on the part of Quaker Heights Care Community. Strategic plans include expanding into new areas of service to diversify revenue streams. Wendy challenged Friends to consider the future needs of Quaker Heights Care Community. Eugenia Mills of the Board of Trustees shared that Friends consider new means of growing the Quaker Heights Care Community Foundation and possibility of partnerships to ensure the future.

#### **21. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation**

The clerk shared a brief history of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation. After laboring with the issue at several Executive Committee sessions, the Executive Committee recommended laying down the Property Corporation. Friends approved the recommendation.

#### **22. Statistician's Report**

Ben Griffith presented the Statistician's report noting that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has experienced a net loss of 5 members in the past reporting year. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends accepted the report.

#### **23. Treasurer's Report**

Wilson Palmer presented the Treasurer's Report, reviewing the tables in the report. Wilson noted that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting budgeted for a loss in the budget, but experienced a surplus. Friends noted that funds dedicated to the Property Corporation are shown in a separate line item. As the Property Corporation was laid down in minute number 21 of the minutes of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting,

those funds need to be assigned through the Budget and Finance Committee. Friends accepted the report.

#### **24. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

Steve Angell presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012. Steve noted that the committee has been very active, and that the April budget meeting is one of the most important of the year, but is not usually well attended. Steve advised Friends that committees often do not spend their budgets. Friends were reminded of the importance of doing the work of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, which would potentially make good use of the funds budgeted. It was noted that a discussion of additional funding for Quaker Heights Care Community could be undertaken. It was noted that the \$ 1400 in the fund for the Property Corporation was donated by a Friend who is available for consultation. Budget and Finance will review donations by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to organizations in the coming year. It was also noted that Friends are dutifully submitting reports donating travel to the service of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and also requesting reimbursement. Friends approved the budget with the understanding that a proposal regarding an additional donation to Quaker Heights Care Community will be brought to the floor of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session.

#### **25. Friends United Meeting**

Susan Lee Barton presented a letter of greeting to Friends United Meeting .

Seventh Month 28, 2011

Dear Friends United Meeting,

We greet you in the Spirit which unites us and gives us life, and welcome you to our region!

We are aware that our yearly meeting is gathered at the same time as the FUM triennial, and are sad that the conflict means that more of us can not be present to welcome you in Wilmington. Two of our monthly meetings are affiliated with Friends United Meeting, including Campus Monthly Meeting in Wilmington, and we are pleased that so many Friends from several countries are visiting and worshipping close by.

We will hold you in prayer as we gather, knowing that you face difficult decisions as you discern the next steps for Friends United Meeting in carrying out God's work in our world. May the joy of God's love be felt in abundance as you join together in worship and business. We look forward to hearing about the many ways God's presence is made evident among you this week.

In peace,

Paul Kriese, Clerk

On behalf of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Approved in yearly meeting sessions Seventh Month 28, 2011

**26. Peace and Social Concerns Report**

Jane Stowe presented the report of the Peace and Social Concerns committee. The committee encourages Friends to join in letter writing on several issues throughout the 191<sup>st</sup> session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The committee will offer Interest Groups on Libya, and on the Testimony on Simplicity. The committee will also show a film on Life in Occupied Palestine. Peace and Social Concerns has purchased copies of “Life in Palestine” for each monthly meeting. Representatives are encouraged to pick up the copy for their meeting. Friends accepted the report.

**27. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 11:45 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 28, 2011 at 3:30pm as way opens.

---

**Seventh Month 28, 2011 3:30pm – 4:55pm****28. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from The Journal of Elias Hicks which reminds Friends to bring customs and traditions to the test of the Light.

**29. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**30. Introduction of Visitors**

Erin Polley was welcomed as a visitor from the American Friends Service Committee Indianapolis, Indiana office. Darlene Walker was welcomed as a visitor from Pendle Hill. Kirsten Bohl was welcomed as a visitor from Olney Friends School.

**31. Letter of Introduction**

The assistant clerk read a letter of introduction for Noah Baker Merrill from Putney Friends Meeting. The letter commended Noah’s faithfulness and gifts in ministry.

**32. Epistolary Committee**

Friends approved the service of Sandra Ward Angell and Ron Haldeman on the Epistolary Committee for the 191st annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

**33. Letter to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting**

The clerk inquired whether Friends would like to send a letter of greeting to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting Friends. Friends indicated that they would like such a letter to be sent.

The clerk and recording clerk will draft the letter. It will be sent to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with Jerry Knudsen.

#### **34. Friends General Conference Report**

Rex Sprouse and Michael Wajda presented the report from Friends General Conference. The 2011 Gathering has been held. The 2012 Gathering will be held at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island. The 2012 Gathering theme is “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir.” Friends General Conference has published Black Fire, edited by Steve Angell, Paul Kriesie and Harold Weaver. Another recent publication is the Tool Kit, a multi-generational resource. Upcoming events include a conference titled “Playing in the Light” in ninth month at Pendle Hill and a conference for Friends of color and their partners in eleventh month. Michael Wajda, the Friends General Conference Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation informed Friends that the new General Secretary of Friends General Conference is Barry Crosnow. Bruce Birchard has retired and is hiking in the Rockies. Michael also spoke of Quaker Quest as an effective outreach program. Michael also spoke of the progress of the Friends General Conference capital fund raising campaign. Michael noted that Susan Lee Barton has been with Friends General Conference for approximately one year. Susan Lee Barton invited Friends to submit workshop proposals and workshop ideas and presenters for the Gathering. The deadline is in the beginning of October. Forms will be online by August 15, 2011.

#### **35. American Friends Service Committee Report**

Jana Schroeder and Erin Polley presented the report from the American Friends Service Committee. At the Third month 2011 corporation meeting it was decided to reduce the size of the Board of Directors from 45 representatives to 25. Additionally, the Corporation is considering its identity, structure and mission. This process is ongoing. On August 1, 2011, Lucy Duncan will become the Friends Liaison for American Friends Service Committee. Erin Polley advised Friends that the American Friends Service Committee hosted the exhibit “Windows and Mirrors, Reflections on the War in Afghanistan” from June 3-24, 2011. “Eyes Wide Open” continues to tour Indiana. American Friends Service Committee will participate in an interfaith prayer event on September 11, 2011. Erin invited young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to participate in the “If I Had a Trillion Dollars” Film Festival.

#### **36. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report**

Jane Stowe presented the report of the Friends Committee on National Legislation Report. The past year has seen the retirement of Joe Volk. A new priority for Friends Committee on National Legislation has been a concern about the influence of corporations on the national consciousness. Friends are encouraged to engage legislators face to face. Diane Randall assumed the role of director of Friends Committee on National Legislation on March 1, 2011. Jane also reported that William Penn House is actively working with Native Americans and young people.

#### **37. Olney Friends School**

Kirsten Bohl reported that all aspects of the Olney Friends school community are working hard on letting the world know who they are. Kirsten sported a T shirt featuring the logo “Digging Deeper.” Kirsten invited Friends to ask questions and get know Olney Friends School while she is with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends.

### **38. Friends Music Camp**

Peg Champney presented the report from Friends Music Camp. 2011 hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of Friends Music Camp. Peg is in the process of retiring from active service to the Friends Music Camp. Peg expressed confidence in the music camp leadership and gratitude for the financial support of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. Peg noted that her favorite thought of Music Camp is the kindness expressed by campers toward each other. The core values of Friends Music Camp are Quaker Values, Music, and Community. It was noted that the annual Friends Music Camp concert will be presented seventh month 30, 2011 in Yellow Springs and will raise funds for the Glen Helen Ecology Center.

### **39. Quaker Heights Care Community Minute**

The Assistant Clerk read a minute drafted to propose a one-time donation to Quaker Heights Care Community. Friends approved the following minute:

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting approves a one-time donation to Quaker Heights Care Community to be drawn from the funds of the Friends Property Corporation that was laid down in 2011 Yearly Meeting sessions, provided that the original donor of these funds agrees to this disposition of them.

If the donor does not agree, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will contribute the same sum to Quaker Heights Care Community, but drawn from our general funds. This contribution will be sent to Quaker Heights Care Community within one month after the close of Yearly Meeting sessions.

### **40. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 4:55 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 29, 2011 at 10:00 am as way opens.

---

## **Seventh Month 29, 2011 10:00am – 12:35pm**

### **41. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from The Journal of Elias Hicks which described the combination of clear, rational demonstration and faithful attention in the pursuit of unity with the Divine Light.

### **42. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

#### **43. Planning Committee Report**

Tunia McClure presented the report of the Planning Committee. Tunia commended the work of the members of the Planning Committee and expressed gratitude to Paul Kriese for changing the Wednesday schedule and to Carol Simmons for stepping in to coordinate the service project on Wednesday. Tunia also expressed gratitude to Dan Cartmell for presenting information effectively in the Quaker Quill.

#### **44. Earthcare Subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns**

Bill Cahalan presented the report of the Earthcare Subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns. Bill reported that the subcommittee has grown to six active members and has met 4 times in the past year. Currently serving on the committee are Bill Cahalan, Jamie Fota, Marcia Ankrom, Janette Shetter, Ria Collee and David Duvall. They have found focus on food, green design and water issues. Bill has spoken with a number of monthly meetings about their activities relative to their earthcare initiatives. Bill expressed an awareness of a role for the Earthcare Committee within the yearly meeting, and proposed that the committee become a stand-alone committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The committee would bring forward issues of right relationship with Creation to the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved establishing the Earthcare Committee as a standing committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The current sub committee members will function as the Earthcare Committee and will meet during these annual sessions to decide how the present membership of the committee will be listed on the nominating schedule presented as part of the final Nominating Committee report. The clerk asked that the detailed explanation of this committee be brought to the tenth month, 2011 Executive Committee meeting.

#### **45. Religious Education**

Diann Herzog presented the Religious Education committee report. She expressed feeling a lack of direction during the year for the work of the Religious Education committee and noted that its work seemed to be that of a travelling ministry. The Religious Education Committee has two workshops to present to meetings as requested. They are titled "Identifying Gifts of the Spirit", and "Teaching Children to Meditate." Diann then shared that there is a hunger for learning and spiritual nurture and instruction, and asked Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to consider the right relationship of the work of the Religious Education committee. There was a question raised about the connection of the work of Religious Education and that of Advancement and Nurture. Friends requested that the Religious Education and Advancement and Nurture committees meet together on the issue and bring a proposal to the tenth month 2011 Executive Committee meeting.

**46. Discipline Revision Process Review**

Rex Sprouse reviewed the Discipline Revision process and its evolution.

**47. Discipline Revision, Seeking Harmony With Creation, 8<sup>th</sup> Draft**

Betsy Neale presented the 8<sup>th</sup> Draft of “Seeking Harmony With Creation.” Friends approved the 8<sup>th</sup> Draft of “Seeking Harmony With Creation.”

**48. Discipline Revision, Close Relationships, Part 1, 4<sup>th</sup> Draft**

Rex Sprouse presented the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of Close Relationships, Part I. It was noted that the section on close relationships was divided into three sections for working purposes only. There will be only one section on Close Relationships at the end of the Discipline Revision process. Friends entered into a period of threshing on part 1 of the section on Close Relationships. Based upon the comments received during threshing, Friends were advised that the 5<sup>th</sup> draft on Close Relationships will be printed in the minute book and the Quaker Quill, with approval to be sought at the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

**49. Discipline Revision, Close Relationships, Part 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft**

Betsy Neale presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Close Relationships, Part 2. Friends entered into a period of threshing on part 2 of the section on Close Relationships.

**50. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Web Site**

Lonnie Burger presented the report on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Web Site. Lonnie reported in the past year, an average of 500 visits per month, with each visitor looking at an average of 3 pages. Approximately 9 monthly meetings have contacted Lonnie to make changes to their pages on the web site. Friends accepted the report.

**51. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 12:35 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 30, 2011 at 10:00 am as way opens.

---

**Seventh Month 30, 2011 10:00am –12:40pm****52. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) *Advices and Queries*, Revised 1996, which placed before Friends the practice of discerning advices and queries as a means of guidance on our spiritual journeys and expressions of our experience.

**53. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

#### **54. Quaker Earthcare Witness**

Ria Collee presented the report of Quaker Earthcare Witness. The annual meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness was held in Houston, Texas in late October, 2010. The theme of the meeting was “Activist Tools for a Planet in Peril, the Case for Water.” Ria is a member of the Steering Committee and the Outreach Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Friends were encouraged to visit the Quaker Earthcare website. Ria shared her experiences from the annual meeting and encouraged monthly meetings to become involved in the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness. The 2011 annual meeting will take place October 20-23, 2011 in Chicago. The theme will be “Food Through Diversity.” The meeting is open to all. Friends accepted the report.

#### **55. Friends World Committee for Consultation**

Rachel Dean presented the report of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. The new Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation is Robin Moore. The World Gathering in 2012 will take place in Kenya. The theme will be “Salt and Light.” Rachel shared concerns about fund raising in support of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting representatives to the 2012 World Gathering, those being Rachel Ernst, Erik Cleven and Ben Griffith. The Friends World Committee for Consultation World Gathering will be held every five years. Friends were encouraged to visit the website of Friends World Committee for Consultation.

#### **56. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen Committee**

Carol Simmons presented the report of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen Committee., noting that the past year has seen growth in the Teen Program. Twenty five teens attended at least one Teen Committee event in the past year. 22 teens and 4 adults from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting attended the annual service project to Hominy Friends Church on Osage Nation Land in Oklahoma, from June 24 through July 3, 2011. Hominy Friends Meeting is a member of Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends United Meeting. The 2012 service project will attend Quaker Work Camp in Washington, D.C. Fund raising is on-going. The teens held 3 retreats in the past year. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens developed a workshop for adults to be presented at the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Carol commended Uta Brewington for her service to the teen committee, and noted her recent graduation from high school. Friends accepted the report.

#### **57. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Secretary**

Carol Simmons presented the report of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Secretary, noting that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens are amazing. Carol shared an overview of the activities of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens. 2012 will see the Biennial



Pilgrimage. Applications to participate in the Youth Pilgrimage are due tenth month 1, 2011. Carol shared a particularly poignant experience of an Empathy exercise. Friends invited reflections on the intergenerational work camp introduced during the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. It was noted that the experience this year had awkward moments, but was a good beginning. Carol shared experiences from the Teen Service Project trip to the Osage Nation. Carol shared gratitude for the involvement of adults as Friendly Adult Presence at Teen events. Friends accepted the report.

#### **58. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Middle Youth Committee**

Gail Koehler presented a impassioned report of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Middle Youth Committee. Gail advised Friends that the Middle Youth Committee needs a clerk, not a co-chair, and that the committee needs to understand its role as ministry to these young people. Gail highlighted that last year following her plea for help, an elder stepped forward to hold the committee in the Light. His presence served as an anchor. She encouraged Friends to consider this kind of intentional support for all our youth leadership positions. She encouraged Friends to see our Middle Youth as light, not as a separate species. Gail called for new leadership and participation in the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Middle Youth program. She shared the analogy of the story of stone soup to help us seek abundance from apparent scarcity. Gail shared gratitude to Friends for their supportive role during the past year. The report closed with a plea for a clerk. Friends entered into a moment of silence to permit the message of the report to resonate with the body of Friends. Friends accepted the report.

#### **59. Budget and Finance**

Steve Angell advised Friends that the donor of funds to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation has agreed to the donation of those funds to Quaker Heights Care Community in support of minute number 39 of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

#### **60. Nominating Committee**

Friends entered into silence to raise names to serve in the position of Assistant Clerk and Assistant Recording Clerk for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Nominating Committee will take into consideration the names lifted from the silence.

#### **61. Advancement and Nurture Committee**

Andy Garrison presented the report of the Advancement and Nurture Committee. He called attention to three themes. The first was the Visioning survey. The second was the identity of liaisons from the Advancement and Nurture committee to each specific monthly meeting. The third was the openness to intervisitation from the Advancement and Nurture Committee to monthly meetings. Friends accepted the report.

#### **62. State of Society**

Terry Reynolds shared the summary of the State of Society reports from monthly meetings within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The summary identified supportive

communities and descriptions of loss in the monthly meetings, as well as an awareness of the difficulty in seeking unity to resolve differences within our meetings. Meetings shared a theme of taking great care to discern God's call to be faithful people. Friends accepted the report.

### **63. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Vision**

Ben Griffith presented an overview of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visioning survey process. Friends reviewed the summary together. Written summaries of the survey have been posted throughout the 191<sup>st</sup> annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Survey results are posted online and will be made available to monthly meetings. Friends entered into a period of silence to raise issues relative to the survey.

### **64. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 12:40 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 31, 2011 at 10:00 am as way opens.

---

## **Seventh Month 31, 2011 10:00am –11:00am**

### **65. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from Dear Friends: Letters and Essays of Elias Hicks, which addressed the need for openness of the spirit, and waiting in humble submission for guidance from the Spirit of God.

### **66. Welcome, Final Roll Call of Monthly Meetings**

The clerk welcomed Friends to the closing session of the 191<sup>st</sup> session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Roll Call of Representatives from Monthly Meetings was reviewed.

### **67. Final Report of the Nominating Committee**

Rachel Dean presented the final report of the Nominating Committee. Friends accepted the final report of the Nominating Committee and approved the nominations.

### **68. Minute of Appreciation for Those Leaving Service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

The Assistant Clerk read the following minute of appreciation:

“Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting wishes to acknowledge with appreciation all those who have completed their service to us and who will be moving on to other service. Your work on Yearly Meeting committees, your travel as our representatives, your

willingness to respond to the call has helped our yearly meeting body to function. We serve the Living God together.”

Friends approved the minute.

#### **69. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Site Announcement**

Tunia McClure announced that the 192nd annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be held Seventh month 25 through 29, 2012 at Earlham College.

#### **70. Registrar’s Report**

Yoshia Togami presented the Registrar’s Report. The 191st annual session was attended by 155 Friends. Of these, 13 were children, 7 were middle youth, 17 were teens, 6 were young adult Friends and 5 were first time attenders. Eric Wolff will serve as the registrar for the 192nd annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Yoshia will support his service. Yoshia encouraged Friends to register early so that accommodations will be available. Friends accepted the report.

#### **71. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visitor to Middle Youth Program**

Deborah Jordan visited the Middle Youth program on seventh month 30, 2011. The Middle Youth in attendance indicated they would like more people to attend.

#### **72. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visitor to Children’s Program**

Lisa Cayard visited the Children’s Program. She reported on a wide variety of activities that were favorites for participants in the activities of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

#### **73. Epistle from the Middle Youth Program**

Andrew Hardy, Gabriel Bruner, and Naomi Gorman presented the Epistle of the Middle Youth Program.

Dear Friends,

During the 191<sup>st</sup> gathering of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting friends, seven Middle youth from five monthly meetings attended from seventh month 27 through 31, 2011.

We attempted to assist in an intergenerational building of a Habitat for Humanity house, but were unsuccessful due to age restrictions.

We continued our ever-important tradition of speaking with members of our monthly meetings about worship and spirituality, otherwise known as Worship Mentors. Some experienced a much deeper experience than ever before.

We were honored to receive several guests who led us in discussions. We were visited by both Plenary speakers. First, Noah Merrill helped us to begin to untie the human knot through an activity. Next Marge Abbott helped us to understand how we were viewed by ourselves, others, and God or Spirit.

We were also visited by Kirsten Bohl of Olney Friends School who helped us to learn about the school and watersheds. Lastly, Erin Polley talked about ACLU and the one trillion dollars wasted in Middle East involvement.

We engaged in multiple outdoor activities ranging from canoeing to a hiking and biking trip. These activities helped us to strengthen bonds of friendship and community.

Lastly, we would like to take this time to thank the Middle Youth Planning Committee, staff and each other for having a successful weekend.

The Middle Youth Program  
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Friends accepted the Epistle

#### **74. Epistle from the Teen Program**

July 31, 2011  
Greetings Friends,

This year the OVYM teen groups experienced strong guided inward motivation. We followed our calling towards a more meaningful service in our trip to Oklahoma, attended by twenty-two teens. This high level of participation continued when seventeen teens came together to create our community this year at our yearly meeting sessions. The teens built an intentional community with a nurture/nutritional committee overseeing and holding our group in the Light. We had intention to hold intergenerational activities and pursued an intergenerational work project. With support from the yearly meeting the work project happened on the first day of annual sessions. The teens were disappointed that Habitat for Humanity only allows friends over the age of fourteen in Indiana to participate in Habitat for Humanity, as well as the inconvenience of timing for many friends which led to low attendance. The teens returned to the tradition of the canoe trip, inviting Young Adult Friends to join and had an overall ambrosial time.

We would like to share with friends a song that we created for the variety show to the tune of “My Favorite Things” from the movie *The Sound of Music*.

My Quaker Beliefs  
(To the melody of *My Favorite Things*)  
By: Rachel and Hanae

Forming committees to solve all our issues,  
Worship and Nurture providing the tissues,  
Hugging some trees and then smelling their leaves,  
These are a few of my Quaker Beliefs,

Going to Whole Foods for organic eatings,  
Finding your light with the help of God's Leadings,  
We're so nice to everyone even the thieves,  
These are a few of my Quaker Beliefs,

Business meetings, last for hours, and it makes me mad!  
But I simply remember my Quaker beliefs,  
And then I don't feel, so bad!

The OVYM teens extend warm greetings to friends around to the world reading this  
epistle. We wish you all a year of growth and joy.

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens

Friends accepted the Epistle

**75. Epistle from the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.**

Howie Baker presented the Epistle of the Young Adult Friends.

July 31, 2011

Greetings to All Friends everywhere,

We the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met with our elders and youngers at this 191<sup>st</sup> session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. There were eleven of us in attendance, including three first time attenders, and one of this session's plenary speakers, the F/friendly Noah Baker Merrill. As in previous years, our numbers were split between those who ministered to younger generations and those who participated in wider Yearly Meeting activities. All of us found our time here enriching, a nourishing break from the worries and travails of mundane life. Due to our small size and scattered schedules, Young Adult Friend specific programming remains elusive. We find support in spiritual conversations with our elders. Recently graduated Young Adult Friends continue to feel a strong connection to the teen group.

We feel this is a time of discernment for us. Those of us at sessions have been inspired to search out and uncover Young Adult Friends across our Yearly Meeting. Some of us plan to visit other monthly meetings in pairs to meet with Young Adult Friends there and discern their condition. We will also weigh the matter of establishing a formal Yearly Meeting-level Young Adult Friend Committee. Thus far we have been reluctant to engage in committees at the yearly meeting level. Benefits to establishing a committee include eldership support, budgeted funds, and input from nominated members from the wider yearly meeting body.

Many of us feel a notion towards visiting Friends in other yearly meetings. Look for us!  
And if you're ever in the area, feel free to stop by!

Yours in the Light,

Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Friends accepted the Epistle.

## **76. Epistle of the Children's Program of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Thirteen children ages three to ten met at the 191<sup>st</sup> annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 27 to July 31, 2011, to consider theme of "What Does the Lord Ask of Us: Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service." We learned that service is being ourselves and knowing our gifts. We saw that others felt joy when we were joyful at the nursing home as we sang and shared gifts. We also learned that service is listening to each other deeply and helping those in need.

We practiced listening to stories of Quaker testimonies, being true to our gifts, and used music to express being present to each other. We used our hands to create crafts for sale, knowing the money would be used to help those in need. We felt like a closer community from activities like swimming and singing and performing in the talent show. Our hope is that we all find our own best ways to give love to others in the coming year.

The Children's Program  
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Friends accepted the Epistle

## **77. Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.**

Sandra Ward Angell presented the Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 191<sup>st</sup> Sessions  
Richmond, Indiana

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

As Friends gathered for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's 191<sup>st</sup> Annual Sessions, the weather was bright and sunny, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> month, in the year of our Lord 2011. The temperature was about 90 degrees, and Friends had been warned to "bring a sweater: Earlham College kept its buildings cool." In reality, though, the climate within the Landrum Bolling Center was very comfortable.

To get Friends warmed up for the Yearly Meeting, in the morning the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens had invited adults to join them in a service project. The work for Habitat for Humanity was strenuous, including the hanging of drywall. Once back at Earlham, a get-acquainted activity hosted by the Teens took place in Stout Meetinghouse.

This year is known as the Year of the Bible, as many of the world's Christians celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King James translation of the Bible. And this year, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting chose Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord Ask of Us?" as its theme.

Our two plenary speakers, Noah Baker Merrill and Margery Post-Abbott spoke to the full text of this scripture:

***"He has showed thee, O mortal, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."*** They both worked together to galvanize Friends with stories of their separate faith journeys, challenging each of us to live out our own faith with passion and integrity. Both speakers were gracious and generous with their time, offering workshops, visiting the youth, and communing with us during the entire Yearly Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting theme was also prayerfully addressed by queries prepared for worship-sharing each morning of the gathering. Among these queries were: What do you understand by "ministry?" What is the relationship between prayer and doing justice? How have your inward leadings inspired your outward actions of service?

One of the first orders of business was the report by Peace and Social Concerns, which followed up on last year's minute regarding the Gaza occupation. The committee made available a DVD, *Life in Occupied Palestine*, and a list of questions on Israeli/Palestinian relations to all monthly Meetings.

On the second day of the Yearly Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> month 28, the President of Earlham College, David Dawson, welcomed Friends to this lovely campus. He also lifted up the names of two Earlham College students who had lost their lives in a car accident the day before.

During the report from Quaker Heights Care Community, Friends were deeply concerned to learn that the state of Ohio cuts to Medicaid payments have hit hard and painfully close to home, costing the care facility's budget over \$ 200,000.

The next item of business on the agenda was the laying down of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Property Corporation, giving rise to a suggestion to contribute the Corporation's approximately \$ 1,400 as a one-time gift to Quaker Heights. Friends approved this measure.

A friendly greeting in the form of a letter was sent to Friends United Meeting, as the Triennial was gathering in our geographical region at Wilmington, Ohio concurrently with these Annual Sessions.

The concern for same-sex marriages brought by North Meadow Circle of Friends some twenty years ago was considered anew at this time. Brought forward by Whitewater Quarter, this minute was well received and approved by the Yearly Meeting.

***Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends have been led by the Light of the Living Christ to understand that God's love extends with equality to all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The understanding that Christ has given us as Quakers today leads us to three conclusions: We affirm the full humanity of Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender persons. We are committed to their equal status within the Religious Society of Friends and the wider world. We celebrate their covenant relationships, including marriages under the care of our constituent meetings, as just as sacred, just as valid, and the cause for just as much joy as those of any other persons.***

On 7<sup>th</sup> Month 29, the business sessions started with the formal recognition by the Yearly Meeting of Earth Care as a full committee. Earth Care had been a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns for more than six years. Its emphasis this year will be food, Ecological design, and water, which often is hard to get a firm hand on.

Subsequently, the Yearly Meeting was led to consider merging the Religious Education and Advancement and Nurture committees. The two committees will meet to discuss this possibility.

On Seventh Month, 30, reports from Quaker Earth Care Witness, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen and Middle Youth Committees were passionate, and challenged Friends to join in the work that needs to be done.

Other opportunities for attenders of the Yearly Meeting included a Memorial Meeting, Simply Speaking, and Living Witnesses.

A summary of the results of a visioning survey recently conducted by Advancement and Nurture were presented. The visioning project is ongoing, and full results of the survey may be found at the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website: <http://ovym.quaker.org/>.

The evening ended with laughter and fun, as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Variety Show once again graced the stage of Wilkerson Theater.

First Day, 7<sup>th</sup> month 31, brings an end to these annual sessions. The final item of business on the agenda will be the meeting of committees, hopefully to plan next year's activities. Many other actions and events took place during this time, but, as John wrote in the closing of his gospel, "If everyone of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (John 21:25)

Faithfully submitted,  
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Friends accepted the Epistle



### **78. Clerk's Expression of Gratitude**

The clerk expressed gratitude for the assistance of Ben Griffith at the clerk's table during the 191<sup>st</sup> session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. He indicated that Ben was placed in that position by the grace of God.

### **79. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 11:00 AM and moved to Stout Meeting House for worship. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will reconvene Seventh Month 25, 2012 at Earlham College for the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session.

Presiding Clerk: Paul Kriese  
Assistant Clerk: Ben Griffith  
Recording Clerk: Deb Kociszewski (with assistance on minute number 58 from Ben Griffith)

## **Roll call of Monthly Meeting representatives**

(See Minutes 3, 17, 29, 42, 53, 66)

**191<sup>st</sup> Session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends  
Seventh Month 27 through Seventh Month 31, 2011**

### *Miami Quarterly Meeting*

Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Lisa Cayard, Byron Branson
Dayton	Barbara Robinson
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	Carolyn Taylor
Lexington	Betsy Neale
Louisville	Beth Parrish, Howie Baker
Miami	Lonnie Burger
Oxford	Sandra Ward Angell
Yellow Springs	Victoria Burke
Henderson Worship Group	

### *Whitewater Quarterly Meeting*

Bloomington	Janette Shetter
Clear Creek	Jane Stowe
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends	Paul Ricketts
Hopewell	
Lafayette	Linda Olis
Maple Grove	
North Meadow Circle	Dinah Duvall
White Rose	Vaughn Peebles
Fort Wayne Worship Group	



## **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report**

The Quarter met at Happy Hollow, Community MM, and Miami MM this year. We have enjoyed good fellowship together and celebrated our rich history at Miami Monthly Meeting in May. Our business has suffered somewhat from the lack of a clerk willing to serve a full term. Instead we have had a succession of clerks that have agreed to the less onerous task of clerking one meeting. We still have no full term clerk. However, there are two business items deserving special mention. First, after considering a minute to drop our February Quarterly Meeting that sparked much discussion but no unity, an ad hoc committee has been looking at new ways to format our Quarterly Meeting so that wider attendance might be realized. This committee has met several times and will be bringing forward a proposal in the near future. Secondly, we received a letter from Englewood Monthly Meeting (semi-programmed meeting near Dayton) seeking to see if they might join our Yearly Meeting. An exploratory visiting committee has been appointed and will begin the process of discussion with Englewood.

Ben Griffith, October Clerk of Miami Quarterly Meeting

## **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report**

Over the course of the last year, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting held three sessions: Tenth Month 9, 2010, at Happy Hallow Camp in Nashville, IN (in conjunction with the biannual Joint Quarterly Meeting); First Month 16, 2011, at Lafayette Friends Meetinghouse in West Lafayette, IN; and Fourth Month 17, 2011, at North Meadow Circle of Friends Meetinghouse, in Indianapolis, IN. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gratefully acknowledge the faithful service of Friends who participated in hosting these sessions, as well as those who attended.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends experimented with holding the Winter 2011 and Spring 2011 sessions on First Days, instead of on Seventh Days. Friends found this to be a helpful change both for the hosting meetings and for other Quarterly meeting Friends. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends plan to continue this practice in the 2011-2012 year.

My sense is that those who attended the Quarterly Meeting sessions during the 2010-2011 year enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship with Friends they do not see every week and that they found these sessions spiritually nourishing. The quality of vocal ministry seemed very high, and the time together enabled Friends to receive encouragement and nurture in one-on-one or small-group settings. At the Winter 2011

session, Friends profited from a presentation by Friend Paul Buckley on the life of Elias Hicks. During the afternoon of the Spring 2011 session, Friends formed two groups for discussion and sharing, one on how meetings can support marriages and other steadfast commitments and one on what meetings can do to promote effective earth care witness.

Our primary piece of business this year was the discernment and approval of a Minute on the Sexuality and Gender Identity Equality. This is the text of the minute, which was approved by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends on First Month 16, 2011:

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends have been led by the Light of the Living Christ to understand that God's love extends with equality to all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The understanding that Christ has given us as Quakers today leads us to three conclusions. We affirm the full humanity of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender persons. We are committed to their equal status within the Religious Society of Friends and the wider world. We celebrate their covenant relationships, including marriages under the care of our constituent meetings, as just as sacred, just as valid, and the cause for just as much joy as those of any other persons.

At the Spring 2011 session, Whitewater Quarterly Friends instructed the Clerk to forward this minute to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for consideration at the annual session in Summer 2011.

The past several years I have ended my report with strong words of caution about what I have perceived to be the moribund condition of the quarterly meeting structure within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and an appeal that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends consider whether we are truly called to continue this structure as it now stands. This year my spirit is in a somewhat different place. My own experience of the Winter and Spring 2011 sessions of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting was that Friends gathered with a renewed spiritual vitality. The movement of the Holy Spirit was particularly palpable at the First Month 2011 session, both in the meeting for worship preceding the business meeting and in the meeting for business itself. Friends seemed to listen to the Inward Teacher and to one another, and they seemed to speak as led by the Light Within. By the end of the business meeting, the gathered body had surprised itself by what God had called forth from us. Yes, our commitment to sexuality and gender identity equality had been affirmed, but even more important for me was the affirmation of our readiness, willingness, and ability to come together and let the Eternal Spirit guide us into a loving unity.

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk  
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting  
Fifth Month 28, 2011

## 2011 OVYM Nominations –Advance Report

OFFICERS  
(thru '12 YM)

Presiding Clerk  
Assistant Clerk  
Recording Clerk  
Assistant Recording Clerk  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer

*Paul Kriese*

*Deborah Kociszewski*

*Wilson Palmer*

*Stephen Angell*

2011 SESSIONS	2011
Epistolary Committee	Ron Haldeman & Sandra Ward Angell
Summary of Epistles received	Mildred Mahoney
Reporter to Friends Journal	Ron Haldeman & Sandra Ward Angell
Memorial Meeting	Byron and Wilhelmina Branson

2012	2013	2014
<b>ADVANCEMENT AND NURTURE (12)</b>		
Deborah Jordan (1M)	Andy Garrison (1M)	<i>David Garman (2W)*</i>
Terry Reynolds (1W)		<i>Jack Davis (2W)*</i>
<b>YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen &amp; Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)</b>		
Phyllis Martin (1W)	Dinah Duvall (PM)	
Byron Branson (1M)	Nathan Coppock (1M)	
Jamie Fota (1M)	Dale Hayes (1M)	
<b>CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)</b>		
Gloria Bruner (2W)	Hannah Branson (5M)	<i>Beth Parrish (3M)</i>
Susan Hyde (4M)		
<b>MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)</b>		
Barbara Robinson (2M)	Martha Viehmann (1M)	
Jason Dean (1M)	Bill Shetter (1 W)	
<b>TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens</b>		
Cynthia Sibrel (1M)	Wilhemina Branson (4M)	<i>James Taylor (2W)</i>
Peter Hardy (1M)	Nick Rhein (1M)	
Dale Blanchard (1M)	David Funck (1M)	
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM

2012	2013	2014
<b>PEACE &amp; SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (9)</b>		
Jane Stowe (2W)	Frank Huss (3M)	
Robert Vetter (1W)	Jean Crocker-Lakness (1M)	
Ron Haldeman (4W)	Richard Mitchell (3M)	
<b>AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)</b>		
Donita Barnes (1W)	<i>Veronica Frost (2M)</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
<b>BUDGET &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist.Treas,[-- who is Clerk of B&F] <b>(3+ )</b>		
	Denny Troth (1W) Paul Buckley (1W)	
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9)</b>		
Diann Herzog (4W)	Elaine Troth (1W)	
<b>DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (9)</b>		
Rex Sprouse (3W)	Betsy Neale (3W)	<i>Wilson Palmer (invited)</i>
Barbara Robinson (1M)	Lisa Cayard (3M)	<i>Paul Buckley (2W)</i>
Mary Garman (1W)	Christine Snyder (1M)	<i>Byron Branson (4M)</i>
<b>FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD</b> (ALL reps named by FMC) ** <b>(6)</b>		
Victoria Burke (1M)	Caroline Stanley (Olney Rep)	<i>Paul Wagner (4M)</i>
Ellen Duell (2M)	Anne Whitaker (1M)	<i>Gail Miller (1M)</i>
<b>BRADDOCK TRUSTEE</b>	+Named by Braddock family <b>(3)</b>	Year to Year
<b>QUAKER QUILL EDITOR</b>		
<i>Dan Cartmell</i>		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
<b>RECORDS COORDINATOR</b>		
<i>Susan Hyde &amp; Christine Snyder</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
<b>STATISTICIAN</b>		
<i>Frank Huss</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
<b>PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR</b>		
<i>Erik Clevon</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
<b>YM WEBSITE</b>		
<i>Lonny Burger</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES (6)</b>		
Vaughn Peebles (2W)	David Hyde (1M)	
Beth Stafford (2M)	Evalyn Kellum (1W)	David Duvall (2W)

<b>REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS (4)</b>		
<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)</b>		
Peter Fosl (1M)	Leslie Liszak (1W)	<i>Jana Schroeder (2M)</i>
<b>FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)</b>		
		<i>JP Lund (3M)</i>
		<i>Rachel Ernst (1M)</i>
<b>FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)</b>		
	Shannon Isaacs (Co-op)	<i>Eric Wolff (2M)</i>
	Rex Sprouse (2M)	<i>Richard House (2M)</i>
<b>FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)</b>		
Jane Stowe (1W)	Ken Bordwell (2M)	
James Russell (1M)	Frank Huss (Co-op)	
	Ron Haldeman (1W)	

The following are one year YM appointments to the named organization

**2012**

FLGBTQC

*Carrie Shaver*

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE

*Jane Stowe*

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

\_\_\_\_\_

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

\_\_\_\_\_

**M** = Miami Quarter; **W** = Whitewater Quarter; **1 or 2** = 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term; **P** = Partial term; \* = convener or clerk;

**TM** = Teen Member. (#) next to the Committee's name equals the number of committee members for that committee.

“**V**\_\_\_\_\_” equals a un-filled position (or vacancy) to be filled later by E.C. and NOM COM action.

RBD 06

# **Executive Committee Report**

OVYM 2010-2011

Our year saw a new Presiding Clerk sitting at the Clerk's Table. We conducted the business of the Yearly Meeting between Yearly Meeting Sessions under the weight of God's spirit. We tried to be faithful servants for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Minutes reflect discernments and queries among which the following seem to this Presiding Clerk to be of most worthy of notice.

--Property Corporation status took up discernment in several meetings. Do we need this corporation or was it time to lay it down? Much discussion and worship has gone into this matter. As God's Spirit moves us forward we will know which direction to travel.

--We brought forth names and selected delegates for the FWCC World Conference in Kenya for 2012.

--Once again we used a conference call for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Month, 2011 Executive Committee meeting. Weather being not congenial to travel at this time of year we met by phone yet still felt God's guidance as we conducted our business.

--We revised the Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk's position to bring it in line with the Presiding Clerk's term. We also approved an Assistant Recording Clerk so the Yearly Meeting would have this position filled no matter what life brings us.

--Discipline Revision Committee continues to seek God's guidance as we revise (or not) our *Book of Discipline*. We labor in Executive Committee, Monthly and Quarterly Meetings and during Yearly Meeting Sessions to be plain but clear about our relationship to each other and us corporately with God.

--We reviewed our policy on abuse, as our Yearly Meeting Executive Committee policy suggests we do this third year into the policy. We need to update supplies and renew contracts with our Yearly Meeting workers affected by this policy.

--We still carry concerns for the health of our Quarters. We pray for guidance as we discern how best to serve Friends outside of Yearly Meeting Sessions.

As we look forward to Yearly Meeting Sessions we do so with joy and anticipation of time spent with Friends in Holy Communion one with the other.

Faithfully Submitted  
Paul Kriese, Presiding Clerk  
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting



## **Clerical Support Report**

My usual report is that all is well. I was tested this past spring when, among other things, my computer crashed. With help, OVYM information has been reconstructed. Since my work is very computer-centered, I am trying to remember to be open to the Spirit and not just driven by efficiency when electronically engaged. And speaking of help, let me know if I can be of assistance to your Monthly Meeting. I enjoy having contact with Friends from around our Yearly Meeting and beyond.

Deborah Jordan

## **OVYM Website**

Administering the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's website has been a ministry of routine maintenance and solicitation for input over the past year. It continued to be a joy to serve the Yearly Meeting in this capacity. We have continued the practice of updating the website within a single business day of receipt of requests for changes, additions, or corrections. This year, we added annual session registration pages, allowing users to fill in their forms and print them online to mail to the registrar with their checks.

There are two pages on the website for which we need input in order that they may be useful to visitors to the website.

Firstly, as the Youth Secretary is very good at maintaining communication with the youth via email and the blog, I envision changing the Youth Page's purpose from one of communicating upcoming events to one of sharing the mission and vision of the OVYM's Youth Program with a photo and bio of those directly involved in the Youth Ministry.

Secondly, getting submissions for the quarterly Spotlight on Ministry page remains a challenge. Bearing this year's Yearly Meeting Theme in mind, I would ask that those leading the various ministries of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting would take time to view the home page Spotlight on Ministry banner and the linked article page, note the available space, and become inspired to submit an article highlighting their own ministry for the benefit and support of the rest of OVYM.

### **What Does the Lord Ask of Us: Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service**

In Joy, Lonny Burger, OVYM Web Friend

## **Summary of Epistles Received for 2011 OVYM Sessions**

We have been blessed to receive Epistles from 22 Friends Meetings, literally from around the world. Most of them were written in 2010; a few have already come from 2011 gatherings. It is Impossible in a quick summary to convey the richness of these letters.

In 6<sup>th</sup> month, 2010, Illinois Yearly Meeting's 136<sup>th</sup> annual session considered "Seeking and Sharing Our Spiritual Home." With "deep listening and love" they worked at composing and seasoning a major portion of their new "Faith and Practice," plus attending to physical and organizational details related to Yearly Meeting property (now including a house and 6 acres added last year).

The 64<sup>th</sup> annual session of Pacific Yearly Meeting, held at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California, 7<sup>th</sup> month, 2010, considered "Engaging One Another in the Spirit." Urban and construction noises reminded Friends that our work is also building and maintaining our community; we must seek silence within.

Meeting in its 35<sup>th</sup> year, Northern Yearly Meeting considered "Let Your Lives Speak". Increased support and programming for the Children and Youth Committee has resulted in the hiring of NFM's first employee, to plan and facilitate teen retreats. Anti-racism and diversity work wove itself through many levels of program; there was growth of interest in the Simple Foods group.

Friends in Germany, meeting at Bad Pyrmont, confronted such problems as finding Quakerly answers to the challenge of global change that people would be grateful for in year 2025. They again perceived "we have a treasure—our Quaker tradition, which we aspire to live in an authentic, clear, open, noticeable manner. To this end we need the community of Friends as a support and as a challenge."

The Alaska Friends Conference met at the Mahala Dickerson Friends Center in Wasilla. Five monthly meetings and two worship groups were represented. They heard reports from representatives of AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, and William Penn House, and of the Youth Exchange with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Canadian Yearly Meeting held their 177<sup>th</sup> Yearly Meeting (their 55<sup>th</sup> as a United Meeting) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They approved the draft of their Faith & Practice (12 years in preparation) and pursued interest group topics: peace, justice, rights of indigenous peoples, and environment. Weather augmented concerns re climate change, raising the question "What is happening in God's creation?"

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (Sayma), held at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina, sixth month 10-

13-2010, followed their theme of “Discerning the Way,” to renew and deepen their community of faith. Junior Yearly Meeting’s Epistle summarized the experience with “There were many times that we were just right.”

The 198<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative), at Stillwater Meeting House near Barnesville, Ohio, Eighth Month, 2010, reminded Friends of a prophecy given in worship decades ago – “that great electric cords of communication would emanate from their meetinghouse to the farthest reaches of the globe.” That prophecy is now fulfilled by their website, Facebook page, e-mails, and the Twitter page created on the spot in 2010.

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting moved their 2010 session, with the theme “Where there are Shadows, there is also Light” from mid-June to later summer to encourage attendance of families, with the happy result of a 40% increase in youth attendance. The plenary speaker challenged the group to be hopeful in the midst of a damaged Creation, and to live as if the Kingdom of God is here now. Renewed by fellowship and deep worship at their Annual Session, Lake Erie Friends have found both challenges and hope.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) gathered at Guilford College for their 313<sup>th</sup> session, with the theme “Spirituality and the Arts”. In opening meeting for worship they heard the questions “Have you heard the gospel? Have you lived into it?” Panel discussions explored the relationship of Friends to the arts, and opened a rich dialogue about the many positive ways the arts can enrich lives.

The 330<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting gathered at DeSales University, on the theme “We Make the Road by Walking: How Are We Called to be Prophetic in Our Witness?”. The Young Adult Friends Delegation to Israel/Palestine reported their journey; business sessions reviewed Yearly Mtg. commitment to support the witness of employees who resist war taxes. The Eco-Justice Working Group presented a prophetic vision of living in right relationship: people infused with Spirit viewing economics and ecosystems as expressions of integrity, resilience, and beauty.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting considered its theme “Leadings for Today: Lessons from History,” with guiding questions “What do those Friends who have gone before have to teach us still, in a world where divisions persist? How can we learn from both their successes and their shortcomings? How do we hold one another accountable for our behavior and strive to evoke and recognize that of God in everyone we meet? ”What is Spirit calling us to do?”

The 350<sup>th</sup> session of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, gathered in Smithfield, Rhode Island, simplified the session to observe their Jubilee year—with open-ended

Meetings to Hear God's Call. They remembered ancestors, and recently departed Friends; they felt each other's pain and despair. They heard calls to grieve for the ongoing war, injustice, abuse of the planet, greed and callousness. They heard tender expressions of their love for one another and the strength of their spiritual community. They were blessed by the ministry of music, and the support, clarity and ministry of Young and Young Adult Friends. .

Britain Yearly Meeting pondered questions of "Why am I a Quaker?" and "How am I a Quaker?" with hard questions about the ministry of giving. They developed a "Framework for action 2009-2014", asking stronger meetings to help weaker ones. The creation of the new Quaker Centre opens Friends House to the world. Quakers have messages to share on justice, equality, simplicity, integrity, peace and sustainability. They challenge us to speak passionately to the world for the values inherent in our testimonies.

56 Norwegian "Friends and their friends" met in their annual session with the theme, "The Quaker Business Process." Combined with concern for the message from Palestinian church leaders, it led them to decide to encourage authorities to reconsider investments in businesses which contribute to maintaining the occupation of Palestinian territories and the blockade of Gaza. They also considered ethical issues concerning the choice of bank partners for the management of their assets.

Netherlands Yearly Meeting sent heartfelt greetings from Barchern, where the clerk opened the Annual Meeting with the parable of the mustard seed. The theme of the meeting was "How can we as small people exercise influence on global issues?" They concluded they should not overreach themselves in their enthusiasm, but simply "be Quakers, and work in Quaker style."

The 84<sup>th</sup> Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba gathered under the theme, "Strengthening our Quaker Roots," and thanked God for the presence of "our brother Stephen Angell", whose presentations led them to reflect on various Quaker topics and reaffirm their Quaker roots. They have been praying for the ecology of the world and for the countries which suffer natural disasters, violence, and economic crises. Cuban Friends invite the Quakers of the world to unite with them in working for peace.

A few 2011 Epistles have already reached us. Australia Yearly Meeting met January 8-15, at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales. They were heartened by an affirmation of mutual involvement between Aboriginal and Quaker communities over the years, and by the leadership promise in Indigenous youth. Their Earthcare concern infused all facets of this Yearly Meeting. They are grateful that divergent views can all be held up to the Light, that there is hope that they "can repair the earth, heal our broken relationship, and create the space to nurture our spiritual potential."

Ireland Yearly Meeting met in Dublin from 28<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011. They were challenged to allow themselves to live adventurously, enabling gifts to be used for the service of God and the community. The summary of Yearly Meeting Epistles from around the world encouraged them in this, and gave them a feeling of being united with Friends from many different places.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting met in abbreviated sessions April 29-May 1, since the Yearly Meeting is hosting the Friends United Meeting Triennial in late July. The weekend began with a special retreat with Friends taking a closer look at how the Yearly Meeting functions, and ways to make it more efficient. A clearness committee will further explore this topic. They approved adding two queries to the training and recording manual on counseling young people who want to become c.o.s.

New Zealand Yearly Meeting, held May 20-23 at the Quaker Settlement in Whanganui, welcomed visiting Friends from Australia, South Korea and Britain. A significant event in the past year was the experience of major earthquakes in Christchurch. Friends exchanged impassioned views on ways to reduce or off-set the environmental cost of travel on behalf of Yearly Meeting. This discussion broadened to how to reduce carbon footprint individually and collectively. Friends pray to be given the passion and energy of early Friends which enabled them to try hard to transform themselves and their world.

For the 20<sup>th</sup> year, South Central Yearly Meeting gathered at Greene Family Camp “to celebrate the Spirit as it moves among us.” Following last year’s look at history, they considered “where we are now and how, as Friends, we can deepen our experience of the Spirit-led life”. Their closing paragraph could well be used as the summary of all these epistles: “We worshipped, played, walked, laughed, sang and learned together in the joy of renewed fellowship and a growing sense of community.”

Mildred Mahoney

# Statistical Report

Twelfth Month 31, 2010

## Miami Quarter

Monthly Meeting:	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>											
12/31/09	32	75	20	40	11	41	80	54	14	122	<b>489</b>
Correction by addition											<b>0</b>
Births/Adoptions											<b>0</b>
Request of parents		1									<b>1</b>
Convincement		2									<b>2</b>
Children accepted as adults									1		<b>1</b>
Transfers to		3		1							<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL GAIN</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
Correction by subtraction											<b>0</b>
Deaths											<b>0</b>
Removal by request											<b>0</b>
Children becoming adults									1		<b>1</b>
Transfers from				2					3		<b>5</b>
Loss of contact		3									<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Net gain or loss</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>											
12/31/10	32	78	20	39	11	41	80	54	11	122	<b>488</b>
Resident members over 18	21	48	11	21	4	31	62	21	9	57	<b>285</b>
Resident members under 19	0	13	0	4	0	2	3	7	0	15	<b>44</b>
Non-resident members over 18	11	15	9	14	7	8	15	23	2	39	<b>143</b>
Non-resident members under 19	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	11	<b>16</b>
Regular attenders over 18	4	32	6	2	0	63	9	14	3	15	<b>148</b>
Regular attenders under 19	0	6	3	2	0	20	7	3	1	5	<b>47</b>
United Meetings	*			*							
Budget members	16	78	20	19.5	11	41	80	54	11	122	<b>452.5</b>
Worship attendance	12	40	11	14	0	30	27	14	7	30	<b>185</b>
Non-member attendance	2	21	4	3	0	14	15	5	3	12	<b>79</b>
First Day School	0	9	2	3	0	9	12	6	1	4	<b>46</b>
Friends in school/college	0	3	4	1	0	1	4	7	0	11	<b>31</b>

## Whitewater Quarter and OVYM

	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	MG	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
<b>Monthly Meeting: MEMBERSHIP 12/31/09</b>	75	102	13	8	11	16		38	12	275	764	770
Correction by addition										0	0	9
Births/Adoptions										0	0	0
Request of parents										0	1	1
Convincement Children accepted as adults					1				3	4	6	15
										0	1	3
Transfers to										0	4	7
<b>TOTAL GAIN</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	12	34
Correction by subtraction										0	0	1
Deaths	1				1			1		3	3	11
Removal by request Children becoming adults		4								4	4	13
										0	1	3
Transfers from		1								1	6	6
Loss of contact		1								1	4	7
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	1	6	0	0	1	0		1	0	9	18	41
<b>Net gain or loss</b>	-1	-6	0	0	0	0		-1	3	-5	-6	-7
<b>MEMBERSHIP 12/31/10</b>	74	96	13	8	11	16	0	37	15	270	758	763
Resident members over 18	58	27	12	7	11	7	0	33	8	163	448	455
Resident members under 19	3	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	10	54	53
Non-resident members over 18	9	66	0	0	0	7	0	4	7	93	236	233
Non-resident members under 19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	20	23
Regular attenders over 18	50	12	0	0	0	9	0	24	0	95	243	239
Regular attenders under 19	20	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	27	74	75
United Meetings					*					1	3	3
Budget members	74	96	13	4	11	16	0	37	15	266	718.5	730
Worship attendance	53	28	12	6	7	13	0	16.7	2	137.7	322.7	335.7
Non-member attendance	28	8	17	0	0	5	0	6	0	64	143	139
First Day School	14	3	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	24	70	65.75
Friends in school/college	5	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	13	44	36

# **Friends General Conference Central Committee Report**

Sixth Month 14, 2011

## **General background**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (then known as Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite)) was one of the seven yearly meetings that co-founded Friends General Conference in 1900.

Friends General Conference functions not as a “titular denomination,” but rather as an umbrella organization offering spiritual support and services to its 15 affiliated yearly meetings and associations, its ten directly affiliated monthly meetings, and its one statewide fellowship. Friends General Conference is governed by its Central Committee, which adopted the following Minute of Purpose and Major Goals in 2009:

## **Minute of Purpose**

Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.

## **Major Goals**

1. Nurture meetings and worship groups.
2. Provide resources and opportunities for meetings, Friends, and seekers to experience the Light, the living presence of God.
3. Help meetings guide Friends to discern the leadings of the Inward Teacher and to grow into ministry.
4. Transform our awareness so that our corporate and individual attitudes and actions fully value and encompass the blessed diversity of our human family.
5. Work to grow and sustain a vital, diverse, and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.
6. Articulate, communicate, and exemplify Friends’ practices, core experiences, and the call to live and witness to our faith.
7. Promote dialogue with others, sharing with them our corporate experience of Divine Truth and listening to and learning from their experience of the same.



Those not familiar with the wide range of services offered by Friends General Conference are invited to visit the website: [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

#### Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's appointed Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee for 2010-2011 are Richard House, Rex A. Sprouse, and Eric Wolff. As part of their work on Central Committee, Richard also serves a member of Development Committee; Rex also serves as Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Representative to Friends General Conference Executive Committee and as a member of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries (Deepening Subcommittee (Recording Clerk) and Meeting of Clerks and Representatives). Other Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends on Friends General Conference Central Committee include: Michael Birkel (Corresponding Member), serving on Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee; Shannon Isaacs (Co-Opted Member), serving on the Committee on Discernment, Planning, and Priorities; Jennie Isbell (Co-Opted Member), serving on Development Committee; Paul Kriese (Ex Officio Member), serving on Long Range Conference Planning Committee.

#### Friends General Conference Update for 2011

Two primary changes affecting Friends General Conference during the 2010-2011 year included the merger of six former program committees into a single large committee and the naming of a new General Secretary.

At the annual Central Committee meeting in Tenth Month 2010, the following Friends General Conference committees were formally laid down: Advancement and Outreach, Ministry and Nurture, Ministry on Racism, Religious Education, Traveling Ministries, and Youth Ministries. The work of these committees has now been taken up by a single large committee, the Committee on Nurturing Ministries. The Committee on Nurturing Ministries has three major subcommittees: Deepening, Growing, and Transforming. Many specific projects are now directly under the care of working groups associated with these three subcommittees, and the overall work of the new Committee on Nurturing Ministries is coordinated by the Meeting of Clerks and Representatives.

At the Executive Committee meeting in First Month 2011, Friends approved the appointment of Barry Crossno as the new General Secretary of Friends General

Conference. Barry will replace Bruce Birchard, who is retiring after approximately two decades of service as General Secretary. The transition is taking place over this summer.

Some additional highlights of the past year include the following: The Communications Advisory Board is undertaking a major project to improve the Friends General Conference website and to revamp the entire communications infrastructure of the organization. Early in 2011, Quaker Press of FGC released a new volume, *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*, edited by Harold D. Weaver, Jr., Paul Kriese, and Stephen W. Angell. At the 2010 Central Committee meeting, Friends welcomed into direct affiliation Fairhope Monthly Meeting in Fairhope, AL. It was announced that the 2012 Annual Gathering of Friends will be held at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI.

Because of good financial stewardship in recent years, Friends General Conference is not currently facing the same sort of crisis mode faced by many non-profits, including some other Quaker organizations. Nevertheless, finances are generally tight, and budget constraints have necessitated cutbacks in staff, and currently FGC's Publications Program (in the form in which it currently exists) is faced with an uncertain future. Friends are invited to consider whether they as individuals, as monthly meetings, or as yearly meetings are led to make or to increase financial contributions to Friends General Conference.

Rex A. Sprouse

## **Budget and Finance Committee**

During the morning of the April OVYM Executive Committee meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee met with all other persons from the Yearly Meeting that were interested in setting the financial agenda for 2011-12. That day the following changes were proposed and approved during the Executive Committee session:

1. With Lauramoore Home no longer in the budget, its \$400 plus another \$100 is being added to our donation to the Quaker Heights Friends Home. The proposed donation is now \$2000 for 2011-12.
2. A one-time, extra donation of \$500 is to be given to Friends General Conference. This makes the 2011-12 total \$4,500. It is expected that the FGC donation will return to \$4,000 in 2012-13.

3. The separate budget and line item for Coopted Representative Travel is being eliminated.

4. The \$250 per event limit for Representative Travel is being raised to \$300. A new Travel Expense report and instructions will be submitted to our web site.

4. We proposed that the 2010-11 proportional share amount of \$113.54 per member be unchanged for 2011-12.

In the months since April, we asked our constituent Meetings to support our budget. Out of 18 active Meetings, 7 responded. Five offered to support our budget at or greater than their proportional share amount. Two Meetings are supporting the Yearly Meeting at lower levels, proposing to unbalance our budget by \$4,200. We expect the rest of the unresponsive Meetings to support us at their proportional share amounts, except Fall Creek, Green Plain and Hopewell. We expect the latter 3 to reduce our proposed income by another \$3,000. The 2011-12 proposed budget can be viewed in the Treasurer's Report tables. It is the last, right most column. The summary of proposed Meeting contributions is in Table 9.

As can be seen in Table 8, we are once again proposing a General Fund budget that has a deficit. This year it is \$4,758. For the past few years our actual expenses have been lower than budgeted. We are not, therefore, too concerned and propose no other changes to attempt to balance the budget at this time. We are currently carrying enough reserves to cover any temporary shortfall, should our expenses unexpectedly rise.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

## **Treasurer's Report**

Although we started the fiscal year 2010-11 with a proposed General Fund deficit of \$5600 from the Finance and Budget Committee, we once again ended the year with a surplus. This year it is \$8320.53 (see Table 8). We were fairly accurate in predicting our income, so it was our expenses that were light. We had about \$2,500 less than expected Publications expenses. Teen expenses were about \$1,200 less than expected, but the trip to Oklahoma was still occurring when the fiscal year ended. We should expect the teens to be off budget by this amount next year as there may be 2 big trips billed in 2011-12. The rest of the committees had lighter than budgeted expenses which amounts to about \$1,500. We saved \$3,000 in Representative travel expenses mostly due to the generosity

of those that donated their costs, (paid the costs themselves) instead of asking the Yearly Meeting for reimbursement. Finally, last year's Yearly Meeting Sessions committee spent less than was budgeted. They saved us over \$1,000.

In the following charts, the second to last column is Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2011-12. The last column is the Finance and Budget Committee's proposed 2011-12 budget. Table 21 is intentionally out of order to save the report from taking another page. Table 1 shows all of the funds related to the Yearly Meeting. Tables 2 through 6 are the details of the those funds. Table 8 is a summary of the General Fund, our main account. The rest of the Tables are details related to the General Fund.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer, Treasurer, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget
<b>Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End</b>						
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	1,516.00	2,516.00	2,516.00	3,516.00	3,516.00	4,516.00
Benevolent Fund (Table 3)	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00
Peace Witness (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Capital Fund (Table 5)	5,518.00	5,618.00	5,594.00	5,718.00	5,605.76	5,630.76
F&P Printing Fund (Table 6)	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Teen Fundraising, unused	3,617.00				668.25	
Friends Property Corp.					1,436.84	
General Fund (Table 8)	36,476.00	33,314.52	47,157.69	31,319.00	49,753.91	36,799.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,927.00</b>	<b>51,248.52</b>	<b>65,067.69</b>	<b>50,853.00</b>	<b>71,280.76</b>	<b>57,746.45</b>

<b>Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund</b>						
Starting Balance	516.00	1,516.00	1,516.00	2,516.00	2,516.00	3,516.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Kenya '12)						
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>1,516.00</b>	<b>2,516.00</b>	<b>2,516.00</b>	<b>3,516.00</b>	<b>3,516.00</b>	<b>4,516.00</b>

<b>Table 3. Benevolent Fund</b>						
Starting Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00
Income	152.00	100.00	57.38	100.00	17.59	25.00
Disbursements to QMs	152.00	100.00	57.38	100.00	17.59	25.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>

<b>Table 4. Peace Witness Fund</b>						
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,600.00	2,500.00
Income		100.00	50.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Donate - Peace Tax Fund		100.00	50.00	100.00	200.00	100.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>

<b>Table 5. Capital Fund</b>						
Starting Balance	5,376.00	5,518.00	5,568.00	5,618.00	5,591.24	5,605.76
Income	142.00	100.00	26.00	100.00	14.52	25.00
Distribution						
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,518.00</b>	<b>5,618.00</b>	<b>5,594.00</b>	<b>5,718.00</b>	<b>5,605.76</b>	<b>5,630.76</b>

<b>Table 6. Discipline Printing Fund</b>						
Starting Balance	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Transfer from General Fund	500.00	-		500.00	500.00	500.00
Distribution						
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>

	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget
<b>Table 8. General Fund Summary</b>						
<b>INCOME</b>						
Meeting Contrib. (Table 9)	73,846.00	77,340.75	77,848.00	76,303.00	76,367.28	74,232.00
Interest	116.00	100.00		100.00		
Other Income			1,440.00		601.31	
Contributions to OVYM		200.00	115.00	200.00	964.06	200.00
Donated Travel Costs	3,058.00	3,500.00	1,206.00	3,500.00	6,121.26	5,000.00
Sales of Disciplines	8.00					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>77,028.00</b>	<b>81,140.75</b>	<b>80,609.00</b>	<b>80,103.00</b>	<b>84,053.91</b>	<b>79,432.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Operating Exp. (Table 10)	28,848.00	30,290.00	27,208.00	32,040.00	27,818.85	30,640.00
Committee Exp. (Table 15)	5,972.00	9,600.00	4,387.00	9,800.00	8,046.39	10,500.00
Rep. Travel (Table 21)	8,808.00	8,500.00	4,066.00	8,500.00	6,275.13	7,250.00
Y M Session (Table 22)	11,111.00	15,562.23	13,776.00	14,513.00	13,143.01	14,350.00
Xfer to FWCC Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Xfer to F&P Printing Fund	500.00	-		500.00	500.00	500.00
Donations (Table 23)	19,350.00	19,350.00	19,350.00	19,350.00	18,950.00	19,950.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>75,589.00</b>	<b>84,302.23</b>	<b>69,787.00</b>	<b>85,703.00</b>	<b>75,733.38</b>	<b>84,190.00</b>
<b>Net Gen. Fund Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>1,439.00</b>	<b>(3,161.48)</b>	<b>10,822.00</b>	<b>(5,600.00)</b>	<b>8,320.53</b>	<b>(4,758.00)</b>

<b>Table 9. Meeting Contributions</b>						
Bloomington	6,892.00	6,297.00	6,967.00	5,624.00	5,624.00	5,000.00
Campus	1,641.00	1,575.00	1,611.00	1,810.00	1,810.00	1,817.00
Clear Creek	11,342.00	12,150.00	12,150.00	11,539.00	11,907.40	10,900.00
Community	7,885.00	8,662.50	7,950.00	8,484.00	8,484.00	8,856.00
Dayton	2,226.00	1,575.00	1,590.00	1,703.00	1,703.00	1,477.00
Eastern Hills	2,300.00	2,306.25	2,350.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,214.00
Fall Creek	-	300.00	686.00	300.00	487.00	300.00
Fort Wayne	450.00	450.00		450.00	450.00	454.00
Green Plain	480.00	300.00	450.00	450.00	300.00	450.00
Hopewell	-	300.00	600.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Lafayette	1,150.00	1,687.50	1,688.00	2,000.00	1,817.00	1,817.00
Lexington	5,724.00	5,962.50	6,082.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,655.00
Louisville	9,100.00	9,112.50	9,100.00	9,050.00	9,050.00	9,083.00
Maple Grove	-	112.50		-		-
Miami	6,000.00	5,850.00	6,000.00	6,109.00	5,400.00	6,131.00
North Meadow	4,346.00	4,275.00	4,274.00	4,299.00	4,299.00	4,315.00
Oxford	1,590.00	1,687.50	1,725.00	1,584.00	1,584.00	1,249.00
White Rose	-	1,012.50	500.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,362.00
Yellow Springs	12,720.00	13,725.00	14,125.00	13,801.00	13,851.88	13,852.00
<b>TOTAL Meeting Contrib</b>	<b>73,846.00</b>	<b>77,340.75</b>	<b>77,848.00</b>	<b>76,303.00</b>	<b>76,367.28</b>	<b>74,232.00</b>

**Table 10. Operating Expenses**

Administration (Table 11)	1,744.00	2,400.00	1,281.00	2,550.00	2,007.47	2,100.00
Clerical support (Table 12)	995.00	800.00	183.00	800.00	263.94	650.00
Staff (Table 13)	22,112.00	22,440.00	21,332.00	22,940.00	22,379.54	22,940.00
Publications (Table 14)	3,997.00	4,350.00	3,812.00	5,450.00	2,867.90	4,650.00
Archives		300.00	600.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,848.00</b>	<b>30,290.00</b>	<b>27,208.00</b>	<b>32,040.00</b>	<b>27,818.85</b>	<b>30,640.00</b>

**Table 11. Administration**

Bank Charges	11.00	50.00	22.00	50.00		50.00
Liability Insurance	815.00	850.00	969.00	1,000.00	958.00	1,000.00
Background Checks	230.00	300.00	72.00	300.00	36.00	150.00
Clerks' Expenses	412.00	800.00	115.00	800.00	668.68	500.00
Treasurer's Expenses	276.00	400.00	103.00	400.00	344.79	400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,744.00</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>1,281.00</b>	<b>2,550.00</b>	<b>2,007.47</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>

**Table 12. Clerical Support**

Office Expenses	895.00	700.00	139.00	700.00	159.99	500.00
Postage	8.00		44.00		65.91	80.00
Copying	92.00	100.00		100.00	38.04	70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>995.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>183.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>263.94</b>	<b>650.00</b>

**Table 13. Staff**

Compensation	20,066.00	20,500.00	19,370.00	21,000.00	20,519.64	21,000.00
Tax	792.00		633.00			
Workers Comp	358.00	360.00	314.00	360.00	325.75	360.00
Cell Phone	459.00	480.00	395.00	480.00	408.02	480.00
Internet Access	274.00	400.00	385.00	400.00	400.75	400.00
Travel		200.00	175.00	200.00	725.38	500.00
Professional Development	163.00	500.00	60.00	500.00		200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,112.00</b>	<b>22,440.00</b>	<b>21,332.00</b>	<b>22,940.00</b>	<b>22,379.54</b>	<b>22,940.00</b>

**Table 14. Publications**

Quill	2,039.00	2,200.00	2,202.00	3,300.00	909.23	2,500.00
Minute Books and RIA	1,623.00	1,650.00	986.00	1,650.00	1,512.85	1,650.00
Directory	335.00	500.00	624.00	500.00	445.82	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,997.00</b>	<b>4,350.00</b>	<b>3,812.00</b>	<b>5,450.00</b>	<b>2,867.90</b>	<b>4,650.00</b>

	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget
<b>Table 15. Committee Expense</b>						
A & N (Table 16)	-	400.00	-	400.00	276.47	400.00
Middle Youth (Table 17)	198.00	600.00	106.00	600.00	166.00	600.00
Peace & S C (Table 18)	170.00	600.00	-	600.00	35.32	550.00
Religious Ed (Table 19)	-	200.00	235.00	200.00	-	200.00
Teen Program (Table 20)	4,142.00	5,800.00	3,319.00	5,800.00	4,683.81	5,800.00
Joint QM Children's Program				200.00	166.00	200.00
Travel - Donated	900.00	1,000.00	457.00	1,000.00	2,024.14	1,750.00
Travel - Reimbursed	562.00	1,000.00	270.00	1,000.00	694.65	1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,972.00</b>	<b>9,600.00</b>	<b>4,387.00</b>	<b>9,800.00</b>	<b>8,046.39</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>

<b>Table 16. Advancement &amp; Nurture Committee</b>						
Books for members		50.00		50.00		50.00
Pamphlets, copy and prntg		100.00		100.00	41.56	100.00
Postage & Photos						
Gatherings, Retreats, Honor.		150.00		150.00		150.00
Resource Materials		100.00		100.00	234.91	100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>276.47</b>	<b>400.00</b>

<b>Table 17. Middle Youth Committee</b>						
Joint Quarterly Gathering			106.00		41.00	
Winter Gathering	198.00					
Staff		400.00		400.00	125.00	400.00
Supplies		200.00		200.00		200.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>198.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>166.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>

<b>Table 18. Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>						
Work Camps		120.00		120.00		120.00
Pre-YM Workshop		250.00		250.00		250.00
Postage	170.00	180.00		180.00	2.62	130.00
Materials					32.70	
Display for YM Sessions		50.00		50.00		50.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>35.32</b>	<b>550.00</b>

<b>Table 19. Religious Education Committee</b>						
Lending Library						
RE Newsletter						
Postage				50.00		50.00
Fall & Spring Retreats		200.00	235.00	150.00		150.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>235.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>



	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget
--	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

**Table 20. Teen Program**

**INCOME**

Contributions					427.00	
Fundraising				300.00	1,270.50	500.00
Participant Fees	215.00	300.00	40.00	1,200.00	1,550.00	1,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>215.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>3,297.50</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>

**EXPENSE**

Publicity		100.00		100.00		100.00
Teen Events	1,074.00	2,000.00	769.00	1,700.00	664.98	1,400.00
Service Trips	283.00	4,000.00	2,590.00	5,500.00	6,714.08	6,000.00
Fundraise cost/use of funds	3,000.00				602.25	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>4,357.00</b>	<b>6,100.00</b>	<b>3,359.00</b>	<b>7,300.00</b>	<b>7,981.31</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>

<b>Net Teen Prog Cost</b>	<b>4,142.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>3,319.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>4,683.81</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>
---------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

**Table 22. Yearly Meeting Sessions**

**INCOME**

Contributions	2,749.00	2,500.00	-	500.00	735.10	500.00
Registration	3,120.00	2,910.00	2,582.00	2,500.00	2,750.00	2,800.00
Room & Board Charges	16,146.00	15,553.58	13,760.00	13,700.00	11,998.00	12,500.00
Bookstore Income	1,180.00	1,700.00	2,415.00	2,000.00	1,312.12	1,400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>23,195.00</b>	<b>22,663.58</b>	<b>18,757.00</b>	<b>18,700.00</b>	<b>16,795.22</b>	<b>17,200.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Administration	109.00	470.00	171.00	250.00	15.00	50.00
Adult Program	1,221.00	1,740.00	1,526.00	1,800.00	1,324.30	1,600.00
Young Adult Program						
Teen Program	1,633.00	1,500.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,538.29	1,400.00
Middle Youth Program	1,533.00	1,740.00	1,233.00	1,233.00	1,315.00	1,400.00
Children's Program	2,701.00	2,400.00	2,765.00	2,765.00	3,155.19	2,800.00
Adult Room & Board	16,086.00	15,553.58	12,808.00	13,000.00	12,148.41	13,000.00
Room & Board Subsidies						
Children, middle, teens	6,916.00	6,383.16	5,040.00	5,125.00	5,092.20	5,100.00
Staff	2,073.00	1,913.46	1,512.00	1,600.00	1,860.00	1,800.00
Guests	242.00	633.00	504.00	466.00	300.00	400.00
YAF attenders subsidy		1,800.00	1,420.00	1,420.00	997.40	1,200.00
First-time attenders subsidy		2,055.80	1,626.00	1,626.00	994.10	1,000.00
Simple Meal Donation	650.00	636.80	600.00	600.00	431.50	500.00
Bookstore Expenses	1,142.00	1,400.00	1,928.00	1,928.00	766.84	1,300.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>34,306.00</b>	<b>38,225.81</b>	<b>32,533.00</b>	<b>33,213.00</b>	<b>29,938.23</b>	<b>31,550.00</b>

<b>Net Cost of Session</b>	<b>11,111.00</b>	<b>15,562.23</b>	<b>13,776.00</b>	<b>14,513.00</b>	<b>13,143.01</b>	<b>14,350.00</b>
----------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

	<b>2008-09 Actual</b>	<b>2009-10 Budget</b>	<b>2009-10 Actual</b>	<b>2010-11 Budget</b>	<b>2010-11 Actual</b>	<b>2011-12 Budget</b>
--	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------

**Table 21. Representative Travel**

Normal (\$250 per trip)	2,750.00	3,000.00	1,325.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Additional Reimbursement	2,916.00	2,000.00	1,242.00	2,000.00	705.25	1,500.00
Coopted Representatives	984.00	1,000.00	750.00	1,000.00		
Donated Travel	2,158.00	2,500.00	749.00	2,500.00	3,569.88	3,250.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,808.00</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>4,066.00</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>6,275.13</b>	<b>7,250.00</b>

**Table 23. Donations by OVYM**

<b>OVYM Ministries</b>						
Quaker Heights Home	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Friends Music Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Lauramoore Home	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00		-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>3,400.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
<b>Quaker Organizations</b>						
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00
FCNL	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,500.00
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Quaker UN Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>12,750.00</b>	<b>13,250.00</b>
<b>Quaker Ed. and Outreach</b>						
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>
<b>Peace and Social Concerns</b>						
FLGBTQC (Lesbian/Gay)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
IN Fr. Com. On Legislation	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Right Sharing of World Res.	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>19,350.00</b>	<b>18,950.00</b>	<b>19,950.00</b>

## **Audit Committee Report**

The OVYM Audit Committee met with the new Treasurer and reviewed the books. Everything was found to be satisfactory. A good understanding was reached between the Committee and the Treasurer of our mutual needs for a good process and we all look forward to next year's Audit.

Veronica Frost and Donita Barnes

## **Quaker Heights Care Community**

Eugenia Mills, Presiding Clerk, Board of Trustees

Continuing its Quaker Tradition of excellent care for elders and the chronically ill, Quaker Heights has experienced good occupancy rates, and we have been recognized for our excellent care to residents. The State of Ohio Department of Health survey resulted in a 4 star rating on the CMS website. A resident survey indicated that our residents are more satisfied with their care at QHCC than those in other Ohio institutions. Additionally, Quaker Heights provided \$73,360.00 in charitable care during 2010.

As we continue to provide excellent care, we are faced with serious changes in the economics for providing this care. In June, 2011, the newly approved state budget greatly reduced the reimbursement rate for Medicaid (Medicaid has made up 60% of our reimbursement). This means that in the coming year, we will receive \$200,000+ less in Medicaid reimbursement.

Although we had not expected this huge drop in Medicaid reimbursement, we knew the reimbursement trend was on the decline, thus in this past year we spent a lot of time investigating how we might put ourselves in a better financial position. We engaged two consulting firms. One firm looked at how we could develop the Foundation, so that we have more funds for the work of the institution. We are seeking a full-time development person to aid us in this endeavor. Additionally, we recognized a local need for short term rehabilitation services. We are currently developing plans for a new wing to provide intensive rehabilitation for short-term in-house patients, outpatients, and our own residents. These services are reimbursed through Medicare part A. The chaplain position has been funded by the Foundation, however Foundation funds are no longer sufficient to provide this funding. Thus we have asked our Monthly Meetings to provide the chaplain

salary. Unfortunately, this support has not come through, and the chaplain position will have to be discontinued.

A second consulting firm looked at how our organization could be more efficient. As a result there have been changes in committees and in the composition of both the operations board and the foundation board. These changes will take place over the next few months.

The Board of Trustees is most appreciative to our dedicated staff and administration who continually seek ways to improve services to our residents. An example of this is that we are currently moving from institutional dining to restaurant style dining with menu choices, table cloths and china. Nursing services continue to improve resident care with emphases on the individual and family as well as risk management so that residents receive excellent, compassionate and safe care.

# OVYM Discipline Revision Committee

Report in Advance  
June 2011

***Committee Members*** Byron Branson, Paul Buckley, Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, Betsy Neale (co-clerk), Wilson Palmer, Barbara Robinson, Christine Snyder, Rex Sprouse (co-clerk).

***Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2010-2011*** The Discipline Revision Committee held three day-long meetings over the course of the year. Christine Snyder, of Dayton FM, began a term of service on the committee this year. The committee distributed two documents to monthly meetings and reviewed their responses: Close Relationships (Part I) Draft 3, and Close Relationships (Part II) Draft 1.

## **Follow-up to 2010 OVYM Sessions**

***Seeking Harmony with Creation*** At the 2010 sessions Friends accepted this document for review over the 2010-2011 year and presentation for approval at the 2011 sessions. In fall 2010 the 8<sup>th</sup> draft of this section was published in the Minutes of the 2010 sessions (see Minute 43 and p. 65 in the minutes of the 2010 sessions) and in the *Quill*. The text of this draft appears at the end of this report.

***Close Relationships (Part I).*** The third draft of this text was distributed to monthly meetings for their consideration in fall 2010. Based on responses from monthly meetings, the committee has developed a fourth draft, which appears at the end of this report.

***Close Relationships (Part II).*** The first draft of this text was distributed to monthly meetings for their consideration in early 2011. Based on responses from monthly meetings, the committee has developed a second draft, which appears at the end of this report.

***In closing*** We thank Friends for their participation in the work of discipline revision during the past year. We look forward to a productive year in 2011-2012. Monthly meetings can again expect assignments, one for their consideration between October 2011 and January 2012 and another for their consideration between February and April 2012.

**Note:** Three draft documents are published below. “Seeking Harmony with Creation,” Draft 8, is presented for Friends’ approval. “Close Relationships” (Part I), Draft 4, is

presented for threshing. “Close Relationships” (Part II), Draft 2, is presented for threshing.

The Book of Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
Seeking Harmony with Creation  
8<sup>th</sup> Draft  
Ninth Month 4, 2010

The Earth is the Lord’s  
and the fullness thereof,  
The world and those  
who dwell therein.  
(Psalm 24: 1)

Quakers have a long and deep history of respect for the creation of which we are a part. Our wondrous world is a manifestation of the Divine with the power to nourish us physically and spiritually. William Penn articulated this faith-based concern for the Earth when he asked how human beings could “find the Confidence to abuse [Creation], while they should see the Great Creator look them in the Face, in all and every Part thereof?” Likewise, John Woolman wrote, “To say we love God as unseen and at the same time to exercise cruelty toward the least creature moving by his life ... is a contradiction in itself.”

Ongoing exploitation of the Earth’s resources threatens the delicate ecological balance that sustains the current web of life. Flowing from our testimonies, Friends’ responses take various forms. In 2002, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends found unity around the principle of sustainability as a basic standard for responsible living.

God calls us, individually and corporately, to examine our lives and take action to walk more lightly on the Earth, seeking harmony with creation. Friends are also called to promote systemic changes in government and industry that would heal and protect the Earth. With Divine assistance, our witness should offer a pattern that would inspire and inform the actions of others.

**Close Relationships (Part I)**  
The Book of Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
5<sup>th</sup> Draft  
Seventh Month 30, 2011

See these Quakers, how they love one another.

(Edward Hicks, 1851)

## **Introduction**

The fundamental faith of the Religious Society of Friends should be visible in our daily lives. Faithful Friends seek to practice Divine love in close relationships with our community of family, friends, and the children under our care. As we experience God's love, we grow in love for God and our fellow human beings. We are called upon to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness in our lives with one another (Colossians 3:12-13). Both individuals and monthly meetings have a responsibility to support and nurture spiritually edifying close relationships built on this foundation.

## **Friendship**

Deep friendships strengthen us spiritually. They encourage, stretch, challenge, and sustain us. In friendship we respect one another, protect one another's reputation, and honor confidentiality. Good friends minister to one another by listening with an open heart and mind and speaking truth with love. Through our experience of friendships across genders, sexualities, classes, generations, faith traditions, races, and ethnicities we move toward establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Since the earliest days of our Religious Society, Quakers have been encouraged to know one another in those things that are eternal. Spiritually uplifting friendships require faithfulness to the leadings of the Spirit, not necessarily agreement on every point of faith and practice.

## **Sexuality**

Sexuality is a gift from God, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It is a powerful force that can transform life in ways both positive and negative. Mutual love and respect, honesty, and commitment are essential ingredients of a rightly ordered relationship.

Deep respect for that of God in each person requires that our relationships be free of exploitation and abuse as well as subtle manipulation. Abuse of sexuality can have serious, long-term, emotional, physical, and spiritual consequences. Sexuality education for both children and adults should use the best scientific information available.

Furthermore, because sexuality can be one of the ways we participate in the love of God, a true understanding of sexuality must also include the spiritual dimension.



## **Marriage and other steadfast commitments**

Our meetings are enlivened and challenged by marriages and other steadfast commitments. Such commitments build spiritual bonds that make themselves felt not only in the home and in the meeting but also in the world. As relationships develop, the partners ideally find richness in sharing on all levels of being: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

Some committed partners request marriage under the care of the meeting. [An affirmation of marriage equality for same-sex couples is to be found on pp. xx in this volume in the context of the sub-section on the Testimony of Equality.] Following a discernment process, marriage is solemnized in a Meeting for Worship, the partners promising with Divine assistance to be faithful to each other. We believe that God alone can rightly join partners in marriage, and neither a religious nor a secular official is required to accomplish this. When a Quaker Meeting takes a marriage under its care, it witnesses the marriage and makes a serious commitment to support and strengthen that marriage. [The recommendations for the wedding procedure are to be found on pp. xx in this volume.]

It is the conviction of Friends that marriage is a covenant for life. A lifelong commitment can sustain a marriage through very trying times, forging a deeper and more spiritually mature relationship. Implicit in the marriage promise is the realization that problems and conflicts will arise and that both partners are committed to making sincere efforts with Divine guidance to resolve them. This is not an easy task but a high calling toward which we should strive.

### **(tentative) topics to be addressed in Part II**

- Supporting marriages and other steadfast commitments
- Sharing a home
- Nurturing children

### **(tentative) topics to be addressed in Part III**

- Extended family relationships
- Ending close relationships
- Aging
- Death
- Bereavement

The Book of Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting  
Close Relationships (Part II)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Draft  
Fourth Month 16, 2011

## **topics addressed in Part I**

- Introduction
- Friendship
- Sexuality
- Marriage and other steadfast commitments

### **Supporting marriages and other steadfast commitments**

Meetings are responsible for lifting up the importance of love, trust, and mutual respect in marriage and other steadfast relationships. Couples can avail themselves of a wide range of resources to strengthen their relationships, including the Couple Enrichment Program offered by Friends General Conference. Likewise, if particular needs or difficulties arise, couples may wish to seek specialized resources, and meetings can provide support in seeking God's will through encouragement and prayers and by offering a confidential clearness committee. We pray the love and forgiveness personified by the life of Jesus will guide our interactions with one another.

### **Sharing a home**

See these Quakers, how they love one another.

(Edward Hicks, 1851)

We rejoice and are nourished in homes full of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes real to those who live there and to all who visit. In an atmosphere of caring, trust, and commitment, the efforts of making a home should be shared with tender regard for the needs and abilities of all members and appreciation for their unique contributions. Friends recognize that shared homes include a variety of possible relationships. As the home is a testing ground of our beliefs and practices, conflicts within families are inevitable. Learning ways to resolve them through openness, honesty, and mutual respect helps strengthen the family. Friends are reminded that the guidance of the Light Within is at all times available to lead us into greater love.

Some homes are plagued by more than the usual challenges. The exercise of inappropriate power can result in physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. In the face of the social isolation often associated with an abusive home, those victimized may feel alone and desperate. Meetings are advised to educate themselves about domestic abuse

and to become particularly sensitive to signs of such situations and to be bold in offering assistance. Meetings are encouraged to create communities of trust in which those who are being abused can seek the support of the meeting.

### **Nurturing children**

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us.

(John Woolman, 1758)

Our children are given to us for a time to cherish, to protect, to nurture, and then to salute as they go their separate ways. They too have the light of God within, and a family should be a learning community in which children not only learn skills and values from parents, but in which adults learn new ways of experiencing things and seeing things through young eyes. From their birth on, let us cultivate the habit of dialogue and receptive listening. We should respect their right to grow into their own wholeness, not just the wholeness we may wish for them.

(Elizabeth Watson, 1980)

Caring for children is a life-transforming responsibility, bringing joys, challenges, and experiences of personal and spiritual growth. Parents and other adult caregivers must establish their role as loving and reliable sources of guidance, while children are still at an early age. Through good example and consistent teaching, we can counteract many of the negative influences children inevitably encounter. Children are greatly influenced by parents who practice simplicity, honesty, nonviolence, service, and love. It is essential that Quakers teach their children about creative responses to conflict, the consequences of violent behavior, discernment in sexual activity, the dangers of addiction, and the relative unimportance of material possessions in building a life of fulfillment and service. At the same, parents and other caregivers should not impose on their children their full range of expectations but rather should have a deep appreciation of who their children are in their own right and support the unfolding of each child's unique gifts. We believe that by nurturing the development of self-worth, self-confidence, and self-discipline, we help

children to grow into the adults God hopes them to be. Parents and other caregivers should teach their children about the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. The habit of quiet waiting upon God, both in meeting for worship and in regular family devotion, tends to strengthen and develop the spiritual life of a child.

**(tentative) topics to be addressed in Part III**

Extended family relationships  
Ending close relationships  
Aging  
Death  
Bereavement

## **Quaker Quill**

Reports in Advance for 2011 Sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

This is not a job that could have as easily been done before the age of the internet and personal computers. The flow of material for the Quill comes as if an amazing feat of magic (by email) which makes the typing load smaller and leaves time and facility for composing but sometimes still leaves a considerable residue of manual work to be done folding and tabbing. It has been a year of missed deadlines for me and the gentle nudging and patience of Friends has been appreciated. The United State Post Office requirements had changed in my first year (starting in June 2009) with the Quill having now not changed this past year, reducing the scramble at the time of mailing. There were new requirements for address correction methods and tabbing to qualify for bulk rate mail. I have tried to make the format as dense as possible (and keep it readable and interesting) for the sake of production costs and the use of paper. I had expected the average number of pages to be smaller but am pleased with the response of submitters with items of interest to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Quill's format was in transition when I started. I have tried to find a format that suits Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting but the continued input from members is always helpful.

Yours in Peace,

Dan Cartmell

## **Advancement and Nurture Committee**

**Report 2010-2011**

This committee has been small and until this year labored without a regular clerk. We are pleased to have nominated David Garman as convenor and Andrew Garrison as recorder. We have met five times this year, usually by phone conference, and made one invited visit to an OVYM monthly meeting. Under the special leadership of Ben Griffith, we administered a survey of OVYM Friends' experiences and concerns, whose results are summarized elsewhere in the 2011 YM reports. We hope to use the results of the survey to guide our activity in the coming year.

We have also designated each member of the committee to be a contact and outreach person for one or more Monthly Meetings. The current assignments are:

Ben Griffith: Lexington and Louisville, Green Plain and Maple Grove  
Deborah Jordan: Eastern Hills, Community, Miami, Yellow Springs  
Terry Reynolds: Bloomington, North Meadow Circle and Fall Creek  
Andy Garrison: Oxford, Campus, Dayton  
Jack Davis: Hopewell, Fort Wayne  
David Garman: Clear Creek, White Rose, Lafayette

We continue to see our charge as a prayerful attention to the spiritual life of the Yearly Meeting and its constituent Monthly Meetings, especially including visitation to Monthly Meetings. We hope OVYM Friends will contact us with concerns.

## **Religious Education Committee Report**

The OVYM RE Committee affirms our commitment to continue serving OVYM Friends by responding to requests for workshops and retreats that serve to deepen the spiritual lives of Friends. We have found that there is no need to provide educational materials that are readily available from book stores and on line, but that the needs Friends express go deeper. We recognize a hunger and a desire for spiritual nurture through increased intervisitation and sharing of the life and fruit of the Spirit. We feel called to respond to this need and are prepared to visit meetings upon invitation.

Diann Herzog, Marjorie Isaacs and Elaine Troth

## **American Friends Service Committee Corporation Committee Report**

**Meeting of the Corporation, 4-6 March 2011, at the Friends Center in Philadelphia**

## **Prepared for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting by Peter S. Fosl, Louisville MM**

### **I. Size and Structure of Board of Directors**

- SUMMARY: A By-Laws motion was passed concerning the size of board from approximately 45 to 25 members
  - The new Board of Directors will include 22 at-large and 3 ex officio members. At least one at-large Board member shall be a Clerk or Co-Clerk of a Regional Executive Committee and at least one other at Large member shall be a Clerk or Co- Clerk of the International Program Executive Committee.
  - Except for the treasurer, current ex officio members were made at-large members in the new system.
  - This issue has occupied the Corporation Committee for the past two years.
  - Corporation Committee members have expressed concern principally about the composition of the Board of Directors if it is reduced in size.

### **II. Size, Purpose, and Existence of the Corporation Committee**

- SUMMARY: The Corporation Committee made no final decision on this issue but continued to season it.
  - The Corporation Committee over the past year has also been occupied with concerns about the size, purpose, and even the very existence of the Corporation Committee. In light of the substantial erosion of the AFSC's financial condition and in light of the slow pace and near paralysis of the Corporation Committee when confronted by issues of governance and structure, friends have explored the idea of reducing the size of the Corporation Committee, eliminating it altogether, and changing its purpose so that it is not occupied by the sort of issues that have occluded its work.
  - No final decision has been made on this issue but friends have been tending in the direction of retaining the Corporation Committee (or something like it), reducing its size, and focusing its purpose on communication between the AFSC and yearly as well as monthly meetings.

### **III. Treasurer's Report**

- SUMMARY: The Liabilities and Net Assets of the AFSC are in FY2010 = \$139,355,000. After the most turbulent financial years in the organizations's history, when the AFSC lost over 20% of its assets in *each* of those two years, the organization has returned to stability.
  - Net assets experienced a relatively slight \$200,000 loss in FY2010. By comparison, the AFSC lost \$36 million dollars in FY2009; it suffered a \$45 million loss in FY2008. The loss in FY2008 was caused by declines in the equities markets; the FY2009 decline was, however, caused by spending much more than was received. That is no longer the case.
  - Among the principal factors in improving the financial condition of the Corporation has been a reduction in expenses in the amount of \$11 million over the past year. Sadly, this reduction was accomplished by cutting \$7 million from

salaries of those the AFSC continues to employ, as well as cutting over 100 jobs entirely.

- In composition 0.5 (on half) of AFSC expenditures are made for its work in the US; 0.3 (approx one third) is spent internationally; the remaining expenditures are spent in fundraising and administration; most of AFSCs expenditures are for peace work.
- Pension liabilities are a major concern. For 25 years, the pension was overfunded through gains in equities values; for past two years, however, with the decline in equities markets the pension has been seriously underfunded (approximately 22.6 million is currently owed to pension fund at present).
- Most of AFSCs support comes from individual contributions. Individual contributions fell over the past three years but have substantially stabilized over the last year, increasing slightly by about \$200,000 in FY 2010.
- Bequests have remained stable in number but the average value of the bequests has fallen.

### **Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

Peace and Social Concerns Committee is pursuing a goal of improved communications within our Committee and with the wider OVYM community. We have held regular conference call meetings every other month. We have been in touch with the teen group as well as the Planning Committee, the Treasurer and the website coordinator. Initially, based on learning of a concern of our teens, we considered offering an intergenerational workshop on responses to bullying. Instead the teens will lead a workshop on this topic themselves, as well as lead an intergenerational service project Wednesday afternoon. So our committee will not sponsor a workshop during or before yearly meeting this year.

Our Committee plans for the 2011 session include leading interest groups on (1) The Responsibility to Protect, (2) Testimony on Simplicity, and (3) FCNL concerns. We will have our display table, this year with updated brochures on our Peace Witness Fund, and this year also a letter writing table, focused on several issues currently of concern to government officials. We plan to show DVDs on *Life in Occupied Palestine* by Anna Baltzer, a Jewish Fullbright scholar (Clear Creek Friends found this to be very informative and presented in gentle Quaker fashion), and *War Has Two Losers*. We will give copies of these DVDs as well as a list of questions re: Israel/Palestine to each monthly meeting as a follow-up to our 2010 Minute on Gaza. Finally, we have drafted a Minute on nuclear disarmament which we hope will be approved at the 2011 session.

We plan to have a schedule of all these activities to hand out at the beginning of OVYM meetings. We will hold a committee meeting in which all are invited to attend to share their particular peace and social concerns on Wednesday about 9pm (following the first business meeting).

Jane Stowe  
Clerk, Peace & Social Concerns Committee

## **Quaker Earthcare Witness**

### **Representative's Report**

QEW's annual meeting was held in Houston, Tex. Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2011 at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center. The theme for the gathering was "Activist Tools for a Planet in Peril: The Case of Water. General Secretary, Ruah Swennerfelt, planned to retire at the end of 2010 after 16 highly successful years. She and Louis Cox are involved in the Transition Town movement in their home town and will be studying ways people are preparing for life when cheap fossil fuels have become too expensive or can no longer meet demands. They will visit with organizers of Transition Towns, Sustainable Cities and other "green" initiatives in Europe, Israel/Palestine and North America. A new General Secretary for 2011, Anne Mitchell, was nominated and accepted. She is the current Clerk of the Canadian Yearly Meeting, a Board Member of the Quaker Institute for the Future, has many more affiliations and has been involved with QEW for many years.

As OVYM's new QEW representative, I learned that I am a member of the Steering Committee and as such I attended the daily Plenary Session: Meeting for Worship for Business. I also attended several, but not all, standing committee and working group meetings to learn what they do. I was urged to join at least one of these and I chose the Outreach Committee. This Committee continues offering yearly Mini-Grants. For 2011 they will match up to \$500. They are encouraging Monthly Meeting's Earthcare groups to do some fundraising for this fund. Friends could also donate some money as a means of offsetting their carbon footprint when traveling by airplane. To encourage young Friends involvement the QEW website now has a Facebook page. Go to <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/index.html> and click on the Facebook button. A Friends Worldwide discussion site, set up by QEW, is now also available at: <http://qewnet.ning.com>. The Publications Committee has created a new tri-fold pamphlet "Water is Life", highlighting the many water concerns and what Friends can do. It can be ordered from the QEW website, or by mail and copies will be available at OVYM in July. We also discussed the need to conserve biological diversity as a priority



for Quaker Earthcare Witness. QEW encourages all Friends to participate in FWCC's worldwide consultation process on Global Change. Search: <http://www.fwccglobalchange.org> for more information.

The speakers, Jim Blackburn and Stephen Klineberg from Rice University and Lon Burnham from Fort Worth gave presentations about water issues with the wetlands and bays around Houston, the changing public views about environmental protection in Houston and environmental law and activism. Friend Jim Morris spoke about his activism and we gathered in groups to discuss our experiences with activism, what worked and what not. I met and made a lot of new Friends and was greatly inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of everyone.

The QEW spring Steering Committee meeting was held at the Cenacle Conference & Retreat Center in Chicago on April 7-10. We spent time discerning a common vision of QEW's role, as well as the significance of the Light within as a unifying force in the diverse roles we play in Earthcare. In worship-sharing on priority-setting and envisioning future work, we felt the need to maintain Friends' historic balance between contemplation and activism. Involvement of younger Friends is desired and needed. Younger Friends expressed wanting more direct action. We talked about developing more hand-on-projects and community services. We agreed to expand our outreach, appealing to a broader audience using social media such as website, Facebook, Twitter and U-Tube video. Friends also expressed distress and discouragement about the many ecological disasters that are happening everywhere. We need to sustain ourselves spiritually in order to work effectively for sustainability in the world. We need to cultivate the inner peace that leads to wholeness and oneness. We are drawn together in a need for community and for hope.

The Steering Committee decided to continue to hold two face-to-face meetings a year, but attempts will be made to connect one of them to other Quaker events, such as national or regional gatherings.

A Minute on nuclear fission, opposing the construction of new nuclear power plants and asking Friends to reduce their personal consumption of electricity and the importance of getting electricity from truly renewable resources was approved, as well as a Minute on recent conflicts in North Africa. Copies of the two minutes will be available at the QEW table at OVYM.

Monthly Meetings are encouraged to be part of QEW's work by giving of your time, talents, and financial support, becoming a QEW contact for your Meeting, starting an Earthcare group in your meeting, reading and sharing *BeFriending Creation* and other QEW literature, and leading Earthcare activities in your Meeting.

Submitted by Ria Collee

## **Friends Music Camp Annual Report**

Friends Music Camp anticipates its 32<sup>nd</sup> summer session with joy and enthusiasm. Camp is full; enrolment stands at 77 campers at the time of this report. Providing scholarships for many of these young people is crucial to their attendance. FMC is grateful to the Yearly Meeting, several Monthly Meetings, and many individuals for their contributions which make this financial support to campers possible.

Staff dedication to Friends Music Camp is very strong. All except three of last year's staff are returning. This results in a helpful continuity and is a great asset to the camp.

For the 2011 FMC season, campers and staff come from 19 states of the United States, and from 4 foreign countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Japan and Kenya. 61% are returning campers, 39% are new this year. There are 40 girls and 37 boys. 31 campers are Quaker or have a Quaker connection such as attending a Friends school, or having Quaker grandparents.

Activities planned for this summer include an evening program featuring Universal Dances of Peace, led by Denise Runyon and Tom Malcolm of Yellow Springs Meeting; playing music for the Walton Retirement Home in Barnesville; and staging the annual benefit concert in Yellow Springs, proceeds of which go to the Glen Helen Ecology Institute in Yellow Springs.

Recreational events include a canoe trip, swimming pool party, stunt night, outdoor games such as wink, frisbee and capture the flag, and an evening of sharing original poems, stories and music.

The music program is strong, and includes private lessons from professional teachers, ensembles large and small, choral singing and musical theatre for all campers and more.

Each day begins and ends with silence together as a group.

--submitted by Peg Champney

## **Teen Committee Report**

It has been a year of growth for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teen group. Approximately 25 teens attended at least one event in 2010-11, and the age range within

the group is more balanced than in recent years. We continue to work on leaving more of the decision making to the teens, and are happy to see new gifts in leadership emerging from the youth. The group has begun discussion of how we create safe places for all participants, particularly with regard to exclusive relationships, and are reviewing the community guidelines written by an earlier group of teens. Youth secretary Carol Simmons worked with planning committee on the service project for Yearly Meeting sessions this year, and the teens are developing a workshop for adults based on the experiences of the group. Teens may not attend all of the activities designed for adults, but we want to create the opportunity for genuinely intergenerational activities. The central themes during our retreats were community safety, bullying and LGBT issues.

As this report is submitted, twenty-two teens and four adult leaders are getting ready to leave for our annual service trip. They will travel to Hominy Friends Meeting in Oklahoma from June 24-July 3. Hominy Meeting is a predominantly Native American Meeting on Osage Nation lands, and is part of Great Plains Meeting (FUM). Our teens worked with the church five years ago, and we decided to build on that successful relationship. Pastor David Nagle is planning a week of work, fellowship with the Meeting youth, participation in Native dancing and games, and learning about the relationship between Friends and the Osage. The cost to individual teens is \$125, with the remaining cost (about \$300 per teen) to come from our OVYM budget and fundraising. Dan and Nathan Coppock of Eastern Hills Meeting will be paid FAPS and Gloria Bruner from Bloomington has served as a volunteer. We are planning ahead for a 2012 trip to Washington Quaker Workcamps in Washington D.C.

Our other programming included two retreats in the fall and one in the spring. The teens gathered at Joint Quarter in October, at Fall Creek Meeting, and at Community Meeting during Miami Quarterly Meeting in February. Our retreats typically include worship sharing, a work project, play, and discussion around a theme. Although we have had increased participation this year, we had to cancel the spring joint retreat in May with middle youth due to lack of registrations. May seems to be a busy time, and the late date of Easter made scheduling in April difficult. We would like to continue to have a combined Middle Youth/Teen retreat in the spring, but need to reconsider scheduling.

Thank you to those who have supported our fundraising efforts this year, which brought in \$700 in addition to \$255 in direct donations. Our primary effort has been sales of a Quaker hoodie designed by the teens. Friends can order the hoodie for \$35 in the bookstore, and forms were sent to monthly meetings and to executive committee representatives. We are considering also selling a t-shirt version of the design. The fundraising supports our annual service trip. We had hoped to save any extra money to begin a fund for a more substantial trip every four to five years, but with the high

participation on this year's trip, we will need all of the funds this year. It is worth noting that while we overspent our budget this year, the expenditures under 2010-11 include \$3400 which were spent on the previous service trip, but not reimbursed until after the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. More of this year's expenditures were advanced, and as the time of this report, may be over budget by about \$300 for the year, not including monies spent on last year's trip.

Our teens are becoming increasingly involved in wider Quaker activities. This may be, in part, a result of the Alaska trip, which sparked an interest in Friends General Conference. Seven teens plan to attend FGC this year. Several teens joined the Quake That Rocked the Midwest in January, and three others attended either the Wilmington YM New Year's retreat or the Lake Erie YM winter retreat at Olney Friends School.

We would like to thank the meetings who have offered space for our retreats, as well as the many adults who offer their support by serving as Friendly Adult Presences, transporting teens, helping us make connections, participating in fundraisers and holding the teens in the Light. We also give a special appreciation to Uta Brewington, who has served as clerk and a wise elder of the teens, as she graduates this year.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

Clerk, OVYM Teen Committee

## **Middle Youth Committee Report**

We open this Middle Youth report with gratitude for the yearly meeting's continued commitment to the Middle Youth program with resources that allow us to plan places for our middle youth to meet and explore their developing spiritual identity.

In the time between yearly meeting sessions, our Middle Youth have benefited from the care and assistance of others. For example, the Teen committee invited the Middle Youth to join in a field trip during business sessions of Miami Quarter's February Meeting; Eastern Hills Friends provided true hospitality for our retreat, giving us housing and wonderful home cooked food. Our February retreat was like the stone soup of the folk tale, with ingredients contributed by all to create a delicious and nourishing product. During the retreat, the Middle Youth produced no-sew fleece blankets for the "Linus Project," which gives blankets to children requiring lengthy hospital stays.

The committee has a great need for new members to carry forward this responsibility to welcome children as they enter the "between" period when they have outgrown the children's program but are not yet teens, requiring a special balance of structure and independence. If you appreciate the ministry to these young people, please consider

contributing to the planning of their times together and supporting the committee's work with prayer and oversight. The Middle Youth themselves tell us they'd like to see each other with more frequency, and we see the benefits of their increased contact with other Quakers outside their meeting.

To carry forward the metaphor of "stone soup," every member of yearly meeting can welcome a family who visits their meeting house and tell them that there are other Quaker youth who would be eager for their participation in our fellowship—even if the children are yet "too young" for our teen or middle youth groups, please remember how fast years progress. Sowing seeds for the future pays off faster than you might think. We particularly appreciate those Friends whose discipline includes their holding the youth programming, particularly in our case Middle Youth, in the Light throughout the year, recognizing that all the committees' work is focused on nurturing openings so that Spirit and Love work in our youth and in us as we mutually build "spaces" to meet.

Beyond these requests to Friends to consider personally, the committee is concerned that Yearly Meeting support must not be limited to the financial—while appreciating that YM financial support is both substantial and essential to the program—and into the practical matters of succession planning. Rotating leadership duties is a sign of a healthy, well-functioning spiritual community, and Gail, as "senior co-chair," needs to step aside from her 6-year service to explore other service to the yearly meeting. This shift will also allow the committee to change, grow and alter as new middle youth enter the program and new leadership makes the program uniquely their own. In order to ensure a smooth transition, Gail can stay on in an assisting capacity for a period that can be agreed upon, but we are feeling some urgency when we tell all of you that new leadership does need to arise.

Respectfully submitted, Middle Youth Committee co-chair,

Gail Koehler

June 2011

## **FWCC**

FWCC Section of the Americas is going through a major transition in leadership: a new clerk and a new Treasurer were appointed at the annual meeting, and a new Executive Secretary, Robin Mohr, started work in June.

The coming year features the world conference, to be held in Kenya during April of 2012. This is a once in a generation event. It's theme is "Being Salt and Light -

Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world”. OVYM is sending three representatives.

Friends who are not attending can still participate indirectly in a couple of ways. FWCC has been arranging local events along the same theme, attempting to “bring FWCC to where Friends are”. Over the weekend of October 21-23, Louisville Friends will be hosting a “Salt and Light” event featuring Abel Siborno, a Burundi native currently living in Australia, and Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary of the Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC. I attended an event in Indianapolis last fall. Others are in the planning stage.

Friends can also participate in the Global Change consultation. The idea here is that “cluster groups” can be organized locally. A group meets, responds to the queries, and sends a record of their meeting to the international steering committee. All of the details needed to organize and participate can be found on their website:

<http://www.fwccglobalchange.org/>.

The annual session this year was abbreviated, and limited to business. As usual, the budget was a significant concern. However, though deficits have not entirely disappeared, the finances of the section are much more under control. The year just ended came in roughly on target, with a deficit in the neighborhood of \$5,000. The organization is now fully realizing the cost savings associated with their cuts in the previous years.

Next year, the annual business session of the section will be done in a meeting held during the world conference in Kenya.

## **Olney Friends School Report**

It has been a busy and thriving year at Olney Friends School. The new t-shirts students and teachers received in time for graduation put it well. On the front of the shirt: “Dig Deeper.” On the back: [Heart] Learning, [Heart] Land, [Heart] My Olney Friends. We’ve become clearer than ever this year about the ways in which learning, land, and friendships at Olney reinforce and strengthen each other. And we’ve become more certain that “digging deeper” – into the farm fields of course, but also into books, ideas, worship, making art, making friends, understanding and protecting the environment, is what sets us apart.

Who are Olney Friends School students? In 2010-2011, we had 50 students, both girls and boys, from 10 state and 9 countries. Our college preparatory curriculum is more and more designed to explore and conserve the natural resources of Appalachia. An integrated seminar-style humanities curriculum makes use of Harkness discussion methods, immersing students in college-level reading and discussion of literature and historical texts.

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, our bountiful 350-acre campus includes a working organic garden and farm that provides a substantial percentage of the food we consume.

As a leader in high school environmental science education in the Ohio Valley, our students are often in the field collecting data and working to conserve land and species in collaboration with local and regional organizations.

Our mission is to celebrate intellectual vigor, provoke questions of conscience, and nurture skills for living in community. We are an emerging voice regionally and nationally in local food production and environmental and economic sustainability. In fall of 2010, we hosted a summit gathering of independent school educators, entrepreneurs, and regional change-makers to examine new funding models for K12 independent education. That gathering provides a basis for ongoing visioning for the school's long-term planning.

Olney is a Quaker campus. Everyone, students and adults, is on a first-name basis. Students take a significant part in running the school. Students and adults come from many different faith backgrounds, or no faith background. Students and teachers begin each weekday together with a brief period of worship, known as Collection. There are longer periods of worship on Wednesdays and Sundays. A Spiritual Life Committee, including students and adults, serves in a role similar to Ministry and Counsel at the monthly or yearly meeting level.

Some highlights of the past year included a student-initiated community-wide discussion of revisions to the technology policy; hosting the annual Lake Erie Yearly Meeting youth retreat; sending four students to a Quaker Youth Leadership conference in Philadelphia; leading a Walk to Remember commemorating the Rwandan genocide; and, this summer, watching our own Lucy Hartsock '13 serve as co-clerk of the youth gathering for OVYM.

We have a thriving Facebook page, where we welcome visitors – and, of course, we welcome campus visits, too! We are glad to be in partnership with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and we welcome the chance to make and renew connections during this year's gathering.

-Kirsten Bohl, on behalf of Olney Friends  
School

## **William Penn House**

William Penn House is a non-profit organization which provides simple lodging for travelers and visitors and organizes workcamps and other programs. Its two boards meet monthly and annually and consist of Quakers from monthly and yearly meetings. Income comes mostly from lodging fees with 18% coming from donors. Twenty-nine workcamps were held this year in the DC area, West Virginia, New Orleans and Pine

Ridge, S.D. Other programs offered were thirteen potlucks/dialogues; programs on issues such as international politics, AID/HIV issues, and developing personal relationships; weekly yoga class; and use of their conference room by other groups. Penn House staff also visited seven yearly meetings and many monthly meetings.

William Penn House has especially focused on giving youth leadership roles. Most staff and board members are under age thirty and high school teens may be accepted as interns; those who have graduated from high school are encouraged to intern for a transition year before heading to college or future pursuits. Radical Hospitality, or seeing strangers as if they were Christ, is a goal for which the staff strive. They invited a group of Naval officers to dialogue with them which was felt to be a positive event, even though they were criticized for this by other Quakers.

Director Byron Sanford writes in the Spring 2011 Penn Notes that “My goal, my dream is that Quakers once again become the agents of change...challenge the status quo...truly live out our faith through action, through commitment and through sacrifice.” By working together at their workcamps, “rather than having one group provide a service to another, we establish greater equality which is the bedrock for any long-lasting justice.”

William Penn House this year received a \$21,000 grant from the District of Columbia to install a green or vegetated roof on their carriage house which they use for space for workcamp workshops. This project will be an educational workcamp for young visitors. Costs have increased for reinforcing and strengthening the 1870s building and they need \$9000 more than their budget plus the plants for the roof to complete the project. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation for this or learn more about the workcamps, please contact: William Penn House, 515 East Capitol ST., SE, Washington, DC 20003 or call 202-543-5560. Email: [info@williampennhouse.org](mailto:info@williampennhouse.org) .

Website: [www.williampennhouse.org](http://www.williampennhouse.org) .

Jane Stowe

OVYM Wm. Penn House Representative

## **FCNL**

### **FCNL 2010 General Committee Conference**

From Nov 12 – 15, 2010, more than 200 Quakers from around the country gathered in Washington, DC in early November to set priorities for the 112th Congress and appoint



the next Executive Secretary of FCNL. The attendees from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting included Frank Huss, Ken Bordwell, and Jane Stowe

The Field Committee challenged every Quaker meeting and church to increase their engagement with their elected officials in Washington. Friends gathered by Yearly Meeting to plan how they might organize lobby visits in the next year.

#### Setting Legislative Priorities for the 112th Congress

Following consultation with 270 Quaker meetings and churches around the country, the Policy Committee led the discernment toward a final set of priorities for FCNL in the next two years. Through worship-sharing, workshops, and meetings for worship with attention to business, Friends came to unity on the focus of FCNL's work in the upcoming Congress.

#### Celebrating Our Two Decades of Lobbying with Joe

"The General Committee deeply appreciates the 20 years of visionary leadership by Joe Volk," reads the first line of the minute approved at Annual Meeting. In his plenary address, Joe thanked Friends for the opportunity he had to help build this organization but cautioned that we cannot be satisfied with where FCNL is today. "In a country of 300 million people, we cannot be satisfied with 60,000 community-based lobbyists and 10,000 donors." FCNL could double these numbers in the next three years.

#### Appointing the Next Executive Secretary

FCNL's General Committee appointed Diane Randall to become its fourth Executive Secretary since its beginning in 1943. She follows E. Raymond Wilson, Edward F. Snyder, and Joe Volk. Diane's first day in the office will be March 1, 2011. An active member of Hartford Monthly Meeting in Connecticut, Diane will bring to FCNL the experience, skills, and talents necessary to lead the work of our community into the 21st century.

FCNL awarded the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership to Sen. Maria Cantwell (WA) for addressing the most serious threat to life on our planet and a growing driver of violent conflict, and for her efforts to build peace and to restore a right relationship with the earth..

For the first time in decades, members of Congress are seriously considering cuts to the military budget. FCNL's Stephen Donahoe engaged Ruth Flower, Laura Peterson from Taxpayers for Common Sense, and FCNL constituents in a conversation about the Our Nation's Checkbook campaign.

FCNL's super lobbyist David Culp and Jim Cason led a discussion on what the results of the 2010 mid-term elections mean for FCNL. 100 people lobbied for the New START Treaty during the November 15 lobby day. The START treaty was ratified by the Senate before the end of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress in late December.

The 2011 General Committee Meeting will be at the Washington Plaza Hotel from November 3 – 6, 2011. It is a good and exciting time for Quakers to gather and plan their lobbying emphases for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Bordwell

## **OVYM Planning Committee**

2010-2011

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee met five times during the year and communicated extensively in between as the occasion demanded. The theme of the 2011 annual sessions flowed out of discussions stimulated by the comments and suggestions of Friends in their evaluations of the 2010 annual meeting. Although we had made a start on better inter-generational participation than in some previous years, there was a sense that we needed to build on these efforts. At our first committee meeting, the Young Friends' representative spoke to the benefits that often arise from a service project. While service projects may stem from spiritual leadings, Young Friends have found that working together also deepens experience of the Spirit. Inspired by the enduring challenge of Micah many centuries ago, echoed in the words of the twentieth century Quaker, Rufus Jones, the theme of the 2011 yearly meeting emerged: "What does the Lord Ask of Us: Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service."

The theme of calling, service, and ministry informs many of the activities of the yearly meeting sessions. The program starts with a service opportunity on Wednesday when there will be a volunteer project under the direction of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Richmond. To accommodate this, the Get-Acquainted activity will be held in the late afternoon and the first business session on Wednesday evening. The Worship Sharing groups will meet at the usual times after breakfast over four days. Participants will consider queries that delve further into the many dimensions of the main theme. The Plenary speakers, Marge Post Abbott and Noah Baker Merrill, are Friends who have sought to discern and take up sometimes unexpected paths of ministry in their own lives. They asked to give a joint presentation over Thursday and Friday evenings and the planning committee gladly agreed. Workshops explore action that other Friends have

been led to follow in the past and present within the Society of Friends and in the complex world in which we live. Interest groups that meet in the later evening are often an enriching part of the yearly meeting, places where individuals share their immediate concerns and ponder future actions. Opportunities for socializing will be plentiful in the dining room, at the bookstore, around the dorms, in the green spaces of the campus, at the talent show and Afterthoughts café, and in shared quiet moments.

Planning Committee members each take a day to be on hand to help answer questions and respond to concerns. This year the Friends on duty will be as follows: Wednesday, Tunia McClure; Thursday, Jamie Fota; Friday, Phyllis Martin; Saturday, Dinah Duvall; Sunday, Dale Hayes. Please remember to fill out your evaluation forms at the close of the yearly meeting session. They will surely provide a good starting point for the planning of the 2012 meetings.

## **Executive Committee Minutes**

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
Tenth Month, Two, 2010  
Community Friends Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio**

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.** Paul Kriese read a passage from “What Canst Thou Say”, Swarthmore Lecture of Britain Yearly Meeting by Janet Scott and shared some thoughts on now serving as OVYM Presiding Clerk.

**2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
<b>Miami Quarterly Meeting</b>	
Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Frank Huss, Byron Branson
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	Caroline Taylor sends regrets
Lexington	Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville	No representative
Miami	No representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Susan Hyde
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Ben Griffith sends regrets

**Whitewater Quarterly Meeting**

Bloomington	No representative
Clear Creek	Larry Habschmidt
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	Terre Holada sends regrets
Hopewell	No representative
Lafayette	Ann Pellegrino sends regrets
Maple Grove (inactive)	
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

**Yearly Meeting Officers**

Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Ben Griffith sends regrets
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski sends Regrets
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Angell

**Standing and Special Committees**

Advancement and Nurture	David Garman
Budget and Finance	Steve Angell

Discipline Revision  
Nominating  
Peace and Social Concerns  
Religious Education  
Personnel  
YM Planning  
Children's Program  
Middle Youth  
Teen Activities

Rex Sprouse  
No representative  
Jane Stowe sends regrets  
Diann Herzog sends regrets  
No representative  
No representative  
No representative  
Gail Koehler sends regrets  
Nikki Coffey Tousley

### **Yearly Meeting Staff**

Clerical Support  
Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan  
Carol Simmons

### **Liaisons**

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison  
Lauramoore Home  
Friends Music Camp

Frank Huss  
No representative  
Peg Champney sends regrets

### **Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:**

Auditor  
Braddock Trustees  
Personnel Committee Representatives  
Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees  
Records Coordinator  
Statistician  
Webmaster

Susan Hyde

**3. The Proposed Agenda was approved** with a few additions.

### **4. Items from the clerk's table**

The Presiding Clerk thanked Erik Clevon, Publications Coordinator, for producing the Minute Book; Ben Griffith for his valuable service as past Presiding Clerk of OVYM and continued help in the future; and Deborah Jordan for filling in as Recording Clerk.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Wilson Palmer reviewed the Treasurer's Report. He is working through difficulties with using Quicken (our financial software), especially computing donated travel, and getting the totals in Quicken, the checkbook, the bank account, and the general fund to match. For OVYM Sessions, Table 22, he is waiting for a breakdown of costs from Planning Committee. There seems to be a discrepancy with Earlham over meal charges. Discussion ensued about travel reimbursement and donation. Friends approved the treasurer in consultation with Budget and Finance revising the Travel Form to better reflect the difference between donated and reimbursed travel for a nonprofit. He will send the draft to Executive Committee for consideration at the Fourth Month Executive meeting. Treasurer will send information to the Middle Youth Clerk about IRS regulations for contract employees who earn more than \$600 in a year; Teen Clerk also took note. Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report with gratitude.

## **6. Audit Report**

The Presiding Clerk read the audit report (see attached) saying the books were in order. It recommended that the Treasurer serve a longer term due to the complicated nature of the job and receive some form of compensation. A discussion ensued as to complications of the job, such as dealing with IRS tax policy, and remedies, such as hiring some of the work out. Friends approved of forwarding the recommendation to Budget and Finance, asking them to consider alternative solutions as well. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

## **7. Report on Traveling in the Ministry**

Rex Sprouse read his report (see attached). He gave the clerk a copy of the letter with endorsements. The Presiding Clerk thanked him for his faithful service.

## **8. Friends General Conference Fundraising Campaign**

The Presiding Clerk reminded Friends about the FGC fundraising campaign. Yearly Meetings are being asked to consider a one- time extra gift for this campaign. OVYM currently donates \$4000 a year to FGC. While much support was voiced for FGC, much discussion ensued about how our donations are decided and the current financial need of all Quaker organizations. Friends approved asking Monthly Meetings to have worshipful discussions about the FGC campaign request in the context of the need of other Quaker organizations and report back their priorities at the Second Month Executive Meeting. Appropriate background information will be sent by the Presiding Clerk.

## **9. Property Corporation's status with the announced closing of Lauramoore Home**

The Presiding Clerk reported that Lauramoore Home is laying itself down and not taking any new residents. He will consult with Tom Hill about OVYM documents and talk to the Dean of Earlham School of Religion about possible plans to use the building. Friends approved deferring the annual contribution to Lauramoore Home and revisiting the topic of Lauramoore's status in Second Month Executive Meeting.

## **10. Ad Hoc Naming Committee for the 2012 FWCC World Conference in Kenya**

Friends approved a list of four Friends to contact, with an additional two as back up. Being present, Nikki Coffey Tousley agreed to serve as one of the four. Steve Angell will contact the rest and ask one of them to convene. The committee is asked to give the Presiding Clerk three names for approval before the called meeting on Twelfth Month, 16 at 9pm via conference call.

## **11. Young Adult Friends subsidies at Yearly Meeting**

The Presiding Clerk reminded Friends that the subsidies are approved through 2012, and we will need to revisit this subsidy in 2011.

## **12. Clerical Support**

Deborah Jordan reported that 130 minute books were produced at a cost of \$7.23 each. Meetings

are asked to take 3 to 4 each and request extra, if needed. The minute book will also be posted on the website. Upcoming events of interest are posted on the blogsite.

### **13. Statistician**

Frank Huss will be sending out requests for statistics to Monthly Meetings during Eleventh Month.

### **14. Advancement and Nurture**

David Garman reported that the visioning process and survey will be previewed at Joint Quarterly with suggestions for revisions taken in Tenth Month. OVYM Friends will then be asked to take the survey online with a report back from A&N to Second Month Executive Committee Meeting.

### **15. Discipline Revision Committee**

Rex Sprouse reviewed the addendum on page 65 of the Minute Book. A third draft of Close Relationships Part 1 is being sent to Monthly Meetings for discussion and discernment.

### **16. Teen Committee**

Nikki Coffey Tousley reported (see attached). The recent Teen Committee Meeting had four teens present; she sees new leadership growing in the group. Adam Togami set up a Facebook page for OVYM teens to communicate. They are looking for meaningful service projects with a product they can see at the end. Carol Simmons, Youth Secretary, plans to do more intervisitation. The next gatherings are at Joint Quarterly and then Eleventh Month, 22 to 24 at Fall Creek.

### **17. Peace and Social Concerns**

Richard Mitchell reported that Jane Stowe is the new Clerk. The minute on Gaza is now posted on the OVYM website.

### **18. Announcements**

Joint Quarterly is Tenth Month 9 and 10 at Happy Hollow Camp, IN.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

**The next Executive Committee meeting will be held Second Month, 5 at 12 noon via conference call.**

Submitted,  
Deborah Jordan  
Acting as OVYM Recording Clerk



## **AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2010**

The Auditing Committee would again like to reinforce our comments from last year regarding the term length and volunteer aspect of the Treasurer position. We feel strongly that it should be a longer term and that the degree of work required should result in some form of compensation.

We have examined the financial records relating to the most recent fiscal year, as well as some of the new Treasurer's records (due to the lateness of the audit). The outgoing Treasurer had made some definite improvements in his recordkeeping and we were able to successfully follow paper trails and reconcile those to the financial statement in quite a few of the categories. We discussed with the new Treasurer the issue of split expenses and the need to make sure they are placed into the proper categories. We also shared a concern that the contributions to OVYM from Monthly Meetings need to be better documented. We did verify that the current Fund Balances are correct and we therefore believe that the Treasurer's Report is an accurate reflection of OVYM's financial status.

The Audit Committee will be meeting the current Treasurer again in an effort to possibly simplify the record keeping process for the Treasurer while also making it easier for the Audit Committee to perform their duties.

### **Report on Traveling in the Ministry, Third Month through Fifth Month 2010 Rex Sprouse (Fall Creek Friends Meeting) Submitted to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Tenth Month 2, 2010**

In response to a leading of the Spirit, I approached Bloomington Friends Meeting early in 2009 seeking a travel minute for religious service in the Midwestern region of the United States. I felt led to travel among Friends in Gospel Ministry to foster spiritual connections among Friends and to invite Friends to consider participation in the 2010 Friends General Conference Annual Gathering of Friends, of which I was Co-Clerk. Bloomington Friends united in this concern (in Fourth Month 2009), as did Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends (in Fourth Month 2009) and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends (in Seventh Month 2009). However, due to certain health challenges, I was unable to undertake this religious service in summer 2009. After the transfer of my membership from Bloomington Friends Meeting to Fall Creek Friends Meeting in fall 2009, it did not seem rightly ordered to undertake these travels holding a minute from a monthly meeting of which I was no longer a member. The discernment of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting Friends and Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends was that a new travel minute should be issued, and this minute was approved by both those bodies in First Month 2010 and then by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends through the Executive Committee in Second Month 2010. I received the completed travel letter with all endorsements in Third Month 2010 and felt easy then to undertake this religious service.

I was able to visit four meetings: Wabash Valley Friends (Third Month 28, 2010), Urbana-Champaign Friends (Fourth Month 11, 2010), South Bend Friends (Fourth Month 18, 2010), and Lake Forest Friends (Fifth Month 9, 2010). I feel that the Holy Spirit provided serviceable ministry through me during these visits, not only in meeting for worship, but also through fellowship before and afterwards. Friends in all four visited meetings received this ministry with an open heart, and I feel that they understood it as a gesture of love from Fall Creek, Whitewater, and Ohio Valley Friends, as shown by the endorsements from the four meetings. I cannot say whether even a single Friend came to a decision to attend the Annual Gathering of Friends as the result of one of these visits, but I feel confident that the visits served to lift up wider communities of Friends who love and care for one another.

I wish to thank Fall Creek Monthly Meeting, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for their love and support. I would also like to thank Friends Christine Carver and Matthew Zink, who served as my anchoring committee, Diann Herzog, who served as an additional elder, and Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Committee, who offered further advice and spiritual support. Christine was my traveling companion at Wabash Valley Friends, and Diann was my traveling companion at Lake Forest Friends. Diann also served as companion at a distance for the two additional visits when it proved logistically unfeasible for a Friend to accompany me in person.

In the Spirit,  
Rex Prouse

**Teen Committee Report  
Executive Committee  
October 2, 2010**

The month of August and September are usually quiet for the teen secretary, after the busy summer activities. Since Yearly Meeting, she has been working on upcoming Joint Quarter, which will include a teen retreat. Carol will also be doing more visitation this year.

The teen committee met on 8/28, with most members present, including the three teen clerks and an additional teen. We discussed the last year, focusing on our vision and concerns. The primary concern is communication, and Adam Togami has set up a facebook site for the teens, which will be a primary means of communication along with email and other announcements. The desire was also expressed for more meaningful service opportunities, but it yearly construction projects which might allow the teens to see more tangible results of their work. We would welcome input from executive committee on potential projects and individuals within local meetings who might be able to lead such projects. Many organizations such as Habitat do not allow younger teens to

participate. Members of executive committee are also encouraged to let their teens know about the site, which is ‘OVYM teens” and about the upcoming retreat at Joint Quarter. We will also use the facebook site to gain input from teens about future dates, but have set the date of November 19-21 for the annual Fall Creek retreat. Some of the Alaskan teens have joined the site, and our teens will be writing a thank-you and reflection on the exchange to send to Alaskan friends. We continue to work on how we might be more intergenerational, that this may mean that the teens join in fewer of the activities designed specifically for adults, but invite more adults to join the teens.

**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 9pm Executive Committee Conference Call**

Present: Paul Kriese, Byron Branson, Steve Angell, Terre Holada, David Garman, Diann Herzog, Rex Sprouse, JP Lund, Nikki Coffey Tousley, Elaine Troth, Frank Huss, Richard Mitchell, Ben Griffith (signed off before the decision), Deborah Jordan  
Regrets: Dale Hayes, Susan Hyde, Wilson Palmer, Janette Shetter

After worship and discussion, Friends were pleased to approve the nominations of Erik Cleven(Lafayette MM), Rachel Ernst (Community MM), and Ben Griffith (Lexington MM) as OVYM representatives to the World Conference of Friends 2012 in Kenya. The Clerk will inform both the appointees and FWCC.

**OVYM Executive Committee  
Second Month 5, 2011  
Conference Call**

Friends gathered in the virtual space of the conference call.  
Friends entered into a period of silence, out of which the clerk shared a passage from  
“When Friends Attend to Business” by Thomas Brown.

**1. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
<b>Miami Quarterly Meeting</b>	
Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Byron Branson, Frank Huss
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley sends regrets
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer sends regrets
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Ben Griffith, Betsy Neale, Richard Mitchell
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	No Representative
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	No Representative
<b>Whitewater Quarterly Meeting</b>	
Bloomington	Janette Shetter
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	No Representative
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse
<b>Yearly Meeting Officers</b>	
Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Ben Griffith
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Publications Coordinator	No Representative

Quill Editor

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

No Representative

Wilson Palmer sends regrets

No Representative

### **Standing and Special Committees**

Advancement and Nurture

Budget and Finance

Discipline Revision

Nominating

Peace and Social Concerns

Religious Education

Personnel

YM Planning

Children's Program

Middle Youth

Teen Activities

David Garman

Jane Stowe

Betsy Neale, Rex Sprouse

Diann Herzog

Jane Stowel

Diann Herzog

No Representative

Dale Hayes

No Representative

No Representative

Nikki Coffey Tousley sends regrets

### **Yearly Meeting Staff**

Clerical Support

Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan

Carol Simmons

### **Liaisons**

Friends Home, Inc.

Friends Music Camp

Frank Huss

Peg Champney

### **Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:**

Auditor

Braddock Trustees

Personnel Committee Representatives

Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees

Records Coordinator

Statistician

Webmaster

Friends General Conference Central Committee

Frank Huss

Rex Sprouse

## **2. Minutes of Executive Committee Tenth Month 2, 2010 and Conference Call Meeting of the Executive Committee Twelfth Month 16, 2010**

Friends offered no changes to the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of Tenth month 2, 2010. The minutes stand as approved. Friends offered no changes to the minutes of the Conference Call Meeting of the Executive Committee dated Twelfth Month 16, 2010. The minutes stand as approved.

## **3. Agenda**

Friends offered no changes to the agenda for the conference call meeting of the Executive Committee for the Second Month 5, 2011 meeting. The agenda was approved

as published.

#### **4. Fort Wayne Friends Meeting**

It was announced that Fort Wayne Friends Meeting is now affiliated only with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Friends noted that the Treasurer's Report was distributed electronically. Any concerns or questions should be directed to the Treasurer.

#### **6. Property Corporation in Relation to the Closing of the Lauramoore Home**

The property of the Lauramoore Home has been deeded to Earlham School of Religion to be used as a retreat center. The clerk has requested that the Lauramoore Home be removed from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting budget. Friends were advised that the Lauramoore Home was not owned by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation has met and report that the resolution of the Lauramoore Home status is acceptable.

#### **7. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation**

Noting some hesitancy on the part of Friends to lay down the Property Corporation of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Friends agreed to hold the final decision on the matter to the Fourth Month 2011 Executive Committee meeting.

#### **8. Nominating Committee**

Friends discussed the Naming function of the Executive Committee in support of the Nominating Committee. Evelyn Kellum and Rachel Dean serve as co-clerks of the Nominating Committee. Howie Baker, Diann Herzog and Lisa Cayard serve on the committee. It was noted that the Nominating Committee has need of one Friend to serve on the committee immediately, and that two Friends will complete their term of service at the end of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session. Friends entered into a period of silence to lift names of Friends gifted with the ability of discern spiritual gifts to be approached to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Assistant Clerk will approach the individuals lifted out of the silence. The Clerk will establish the length of the term to be filled. Friends approved.

#### **9. Nominating Committee Proposal Relative to the Position of Recording Clerk**

The Nominating Committee proposed a four year rotation system for the office of Recording Clerk with one year to train with the serving Recording Clerk, two years to serve as Recording Clerk of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and one year to support the incoming Recording Clerk. Friends approved.

#### **10. Nominating Committee Proposal Relative to the Epistolary Committee**

The Nominating Committee proposed that the Epistolary Report approved at the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual session be the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting report to the *Friends Journal*. Additionally, one member of the Epistolary Committee would serve as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting reporter to the *Friends Journal*. Friends

approved.

#### **11. Quaker Heights Care Community Board**

Friends considered the appointment of Wilson Palmer and Eric Wolf to the Quaker Heights Care Community Board. Friends approved.

#### **12. Fundraising to Support Quaker Spiritual Nurture Position at Quaker Heights Care Community**

Frank Huss advised that a letter will be sent to monthly meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting announcing a need to raise \$ 30,000 to continue the position of Spiritual Nurture at Quaker Heights Care Community. Friends agreed to forward this concern to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Budget and Finance committee.

#### **13. Youth Secretary Report**

Carol Simmons summarized the formal report of the Youth Secretary.

#### **14. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Clerical Staff**

Friends expressed gratitude to Deborah Jordan for her faithful service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in the Clerical Staff position.

#### **15. Advancement and Nurture Committee**

David Garman commended Ben Griffith for his work with the online Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting survey. Friends were reminded to participate in the survey.

#### **16. Discipline Revision Committee**

Betsy Neale reported that the second document of the year for monthly meetings to review and respond to has been distributed to monthly meetings. Responses are due to the Discipline Revision committee by early April 2011.

#### **17. Peace and Social Concerns**

The minute approved at the 190<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting relating to the situation in the Gaza strip has been posted to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. Also posted is a resource list on Israeli and Palestinian issues. Peace and Social Concerns is seeking ideas for workshops to be presented at the annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

#### **18. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee**

Dale Hayes reported for the committee that the theme of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is “What Does the Lord Ask of Us? Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service”. Plenary speakers will be Marge Abbot from Oregon and Noah Baker Merrill from Vermont. Friends were advised that a change to the yearly meeting session schedule will incorporate a service project to be performed around the Richmond, Indiana area into the Wednesday afternoon activities, and the Wednesday afternoon business meeting will move to Wednesday evening.

### **19. Teen Committee**

Carol Simmons presented the report, highlighting the activities of recent retreats. Communications among Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens have been enhanced through the use of Facebook. Teens will hold a retreat at Community Friends meeting second month 18 through 20, 2012. They will make a service trip sixth month 25 through seventh month 2, 2012 to Oklahoma and visit the Osage Mission Land. The committee is planning a trip in 2012 to Washington, D.C.

### **20. Friends Music Camp**

Peg Champney reported that registrations for the 2011 Friends Music Camp have begun to arrive, with one from Kenya and one from Japan.

The meeting ended with a brief period of silence.

The next meeting of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee will occur on Fourth Month 2, 2011 at the Earlham School of Religion, with budget review open to all at 9:30 AM and business meeting at 12:00 noon.

Submitted,  
Deb Kociszewski  
OVYM Recording Clerk



**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
Fourth Month 2, 2011  
Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN.**

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.** The Presiding Clerk read a poem from Friends Journal titled “Still Waters” by Mica Coffin. He also welcomed Betsy Neale back.

**2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
<b>Miami Quarterly Meeting</b>	
Campus	No representative
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	Caroline Taylor sends regrets
Lexington	Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville	No representative
Miami	No representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	No representative
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Ben Griffith (as one of the 3)

**Whitewater Quarterly Meeting**

Bloomington	Janette Shetter
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	No representative
Hopewell	No representative
Lafayette	No representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

**Yearly Meeting Officers**

Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Ben Griffith
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski sends Regrets
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Angell

**Standing and Special Committees**

Advancement and Nurture	David Garman
Budget and Finance	Steve Angell

Discipline Revision  
Nominating  
Peace and Social Concerns  
Religious Education  
Personnel  
YM Planning  
Children's Program  
Middle Youth  
Teen Activities

Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale  
No representative  
Jane Stowe  
Elaine Troth  
No representative  
Nikki Coffey Tousley  
No representative  
No representative  
Nikki Coffey Tousley

### **Yearly Meeting Staff**

Clerical Support  
Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan  
Carol Simmons

### **Liaisons**

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison  
Friends Music Camp

Frank Huss sends regrets  
No representative

### **Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:**

Friends General Conference Central Committee      Rex Sprouse

### **3. The Proposed Agenda was approved.**

### **4. Minutes of Executive Committee Second Month 5, 2011 via conference call approved.**

### **5. Items from the clerk's table**

The Presiding Clerk read the minute from the Second month 5 conference call about appointments to Nominating Committee. The Assistant Clerk will approach the Friend(s) named in that conference call in order to fill one immediate vacancy.

Reports sent in for the Second month 5 conference call will be appended to the minutes.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that there was nothing special this time. There is a \$598.31 Indiana IRS refund noted under other income. Friends accepted this report.

### **6. Budget and Finance Committee**

**Budget** The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer reported on the draft budget that was reviewed in detail at a morning meeting. Table 8 (General Fund Summary) is the simplified version. The Statistical Report is not yet incorporated and some changes will be made after the morning meeting's discernment.

**Travel Report** will use 51 cents a mile whether Friends donate or request reimbursement. The Treasurer will send out an acknowledgement letter to those who donate reminding them IRS only allows 14 cents a mile and that other donated costs for hotel room are meals are considered at full cost.

**Limits on reimbursement for travel** - A co-opted representative is defined as someone who is

asked by a Friends' organization other than our Yearly Meeting to serve their organization. Friends approved dropping the distinction between representatives and co-opted representatives, and approved raising the reimbursement to \$300 an event.

### **Treasurer's length of term**

Due to the steep learning curve for Treasurer, Friends approved increasing the length of service to four years and continuing with one year as Assistant Treasurer before and after that term. Nominating Committee will be advised that the last three years of the Treasurer's term will be a trial for new prospective Treasurers.

**Quaker Heights Care Community** While Friends were supportive of the mission of QHCC, they were not united in supporting the spiritual nurture position separate from the operating budget. Friends approved adding \$500 to our next year's contribution to Quaker Heights Care Community.

**Friends General Conference Capital Campaign After** discussion of some Meetings' responses to this concern and contributions in general, Friends approved a one time \$500 contribution to FGC with Eastern Hills standing aside.

### **7. Property Corporation**

The history of the property corporation was once again reviewed, as well as the description in the handbook. It's incorporated in Ohio. There were questions about whether this corporation might be useful with a possible endowment fund or any future ideas to come out of the visioning process. Friends requested this be put on the Sixth Month agenda. The Presiding Clerk will further consult with the founder of this corporation prior to that meeting.

### **8. Miami Quarter**

Richard Mitchell reporting that the Second Month meeting had a discussion about what Friends want in a Quarterly Meeting with the conclusion that Friends want to get to know each other in conversation and activity. A sub-committee was appointed to bring back a proposal in the Fifth Month 15 meeting at Miami Monthly Meeting.

### **9. Whitewater Quarter**

Rex Sprouse reminded Friends that they had a wonderful gathering two months ago and offered loving encouragement to Miami Quarter. Next meeting is Fourth Month 17, 2011 at North Meadow Circle of Friends.

### **10. Youth Secretary**

Carol Simmons reported on recent activities including an upcoming teen retreat 4-29 to 5-1-2011 at Hopewell.

### **11. Clerical Support**

Deborah Jordan reported that past minute books were recently archived at Wilmington College Library after consultation with library staff.

### **12. Statistician**

The statistical report was distributed. This information will be incorporated into the proposed budget to come up with the suggested "proportional shares."

### **13. Advancement and Nurture**

Ben Griffith reported that there have been 250 responses on the survey thus far. The survey will be closed soon.

#### **14. Discipline Revision**

Rex Sprouse reported that the committee will meet in two weeks.

#### **15. Peace and Social Concerns**

Jane Stowe reported that there are many items of interest on the OVYM website. The committee is working on queries about the Middle East. They will not have a workshop this year at OVYM Sessions since workshops are set but were advised to contact Planning Committee during Sessions to state their interest for 2012 Sessions.

#### **16. Religious Education**

Elaine Troth reported that the committee has not been able to meet due to the weather.

#### **17. Planning Committee**

Nikki Coffey Tousley reminded us that the theme of the 191<sup>st</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is “What Does the Lord Ask of Us? Our Everyday Ministry of Love and Service” held Seventh Month 27 to 31, 2011. The Sessions will open with intergenerational service work, planned to be with Habitat for Humanity. All levels of ability will be incorporated. There will be a teen led workshop as well during workshop time.

#### **18. Teen Committee**

Nikki Coffey Tousley said the Teen Committee is asking Budget and Finance to carry over any fundraising, like from the sale of “hoodies”, to the larger planned trip every four years. The current fundraising project (sale of “hoodies”) is going very well.

#### **19. Friends General Conference**

Rex Sprouse reported that early registration is available online through Fifth Month 10. Carpooling is encouraged.

#### **20. Friends Committee on National Legislation**

Jane Stowe reported that FCNL has a new director. They have added a priority related to limiting corporate power. She suggested Friends see the update in the recent Quill.

#### **21. William Penn House**

Jane Stowe reported that they have an emphasis on youth leadership and have 2 work camps planned. She suggested Friends see the update in the recent Quill.

Friends closed with a period of waiting worship.

**The next Executive Committee meeting will be held Sixth Month 4, 2011, 12 noon at North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis, IN.**

Submitted,  
Deborah Jordan  
Acting Recording Clerk

**OVYM Executive Committee**  
**6th Month 4, 2011**  
**North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis, IN**

**1. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

The clerk shared a passage from Thomas S. Brown titled “When Friends Attend to Business.”

**2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
-------------------	----------------

**Miami Quarterly Meeting**

Campus	Dale Hayes sends Regrets
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Ben Griffith
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	No Representative

**Whitewater Quarterly Meeting**

Bloomington	Janette Shetter sends Regrets
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse sends Regrets
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	
North Meadow Circle	Evalyn Kellum
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse sends Regrets

**Yearly Meeting Officers**

Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Ben Griffith
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Angell

**Standing and Special Committees**

Advancement and Nurture	David Garman
Budget and Finance	Steve Angell

Discipline Revision  
Nominating  
Peace and Social Concerns  
Religious Education  
Personnel  
YM Planning  
Children's Program  
Middle Youth  
Teen Activities

Wilson Palmer  
Evalyn Kellum  
Jane Stowe sends Regrets  
No Representative  
Steve Angell  
No Representative  
No Representative  
No Representative  
Nikki Coffey Tousley

### **Yearly Meeting Staff**

Clerical Support  
Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan  
Carol Simmons

### **Liaisons**

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison  
Friends Music Camp

Frank Huss sends Regrets  
Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor  
Braddock Trustees  
Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees  
Records Coordinator  
Statistician  
Webmaster

Christine Snyder sends Regrets

Guests

### **3. Agenda Review**

Friends approved the agenda as published.

### **4. Nominating Committee Appointment**

Friends entered into a period of silence to lift names to serve on the Nominating Committee. There are openings for one committee member to serve through the end of the 2012 annual session, one to serve through the end of the 2013 annual session, and 2 to serve through the end of the 2014 annual session. The Assistant Clerk will contact the Friends whose names were lifted to determine their ability to serve.

### **5. Remembrance and Celebration of the life of Ken Champney**

Friends entered into a period of silence to remember and celebrate the life of Ken Champney. Friends shared their thoughts and memories of Ken, noting the broad connectedness of his life with that of many of ours and our extended families. Friends remembered the fun and simplicity of his life. As his life was winding down, Ken became aware and excited by the effect that individual people can have on the world. One of his final concerns, one that has been shared via e mail throughout Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, was that of the damaging effects of Mountaintop Removal.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer distributed copies of the 2011-12 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Year- To- Date Treasurer's Report as of May 31, 2011, noting changes that have occurred since the previous version. Friends accepted the report.

#### **7. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Property Corporation**

Currently, the Property Corporation exists only in Ohio. The clerk noted that to continue to support the Property Corporation, we would need to have knowledge of the laws concerning property law in three different states, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. There are costs associated with maintaining the Property Corporation in each of the three states. The Property Corporation has never met in the thirteen years of its existence to conduct business, as there was never property acquired by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Tom Hill, who no longer lives in the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting area, and David Hyde have provided insight to the matter of laying down the Property Corporation. The clerk shared a concern that maintaining the Property Corporation does not seem to be right-ordered at this time. Friends agreed that the Executive Committee will recommend laying down the Property Corporation at the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and place the matter before the body of the yearly meeting for any further discussion and action.

#### **8. Review of the Abuse Prevention Policy**

The clerk requested that Deborah Jordan and Nikki Coffey Tousley, as Clerk of the Teen Committee review the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Abuse Prevention Policy with the Religious Education, Children's and Middle Youth Committees and advise the Executive Committee if any changes are needed, pursuant to yearly meeting practice of reviewing the abuse policy every three years. Friends agreed that this review should be undertaken during the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session, and that recommendations be brought to the Tenth Month 2011 Executive Committee session.

#### **9. Youth Secretary, Teen Committee Report**

Nikki Coffey Tousley presented the report of the Youth Secretary and Teen Committee, noting that the Teen Service Project will take place from June 25 through July 2, 2011 at Hominy Friends Meeting on the Osage Nation land which falls within Great Plains Yearly Meeting of the Friends United Meeting. The 2012 service trip is being planned to Washington, D.C. Participation in Teen Committee activities has been strong, but the spring joint retreat with Middle Youth was cancelled due to lack of registration.

#### **10. Clerical Support**

Deborah Jordan reported that due to a computer crash earlier in the year 2011, she has been re-constructing some files and reports. Deborah has requested updates for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Directory.

#### **11. Advancement and Nurture**

David Garman advised that Advancement and Nurture has met via conference call, and will meet face-to-face soon to evaluate the Yearly Meeting Survey. Two members of Advancement and Nurture will visit Louisville Monthly Meeting on June 5, 2011, in response to a request by the monthly meeting.

#### **12. Budget and Finance**

Steve Angell distributed copies of the Budget and Finance Update, detailing monthly meeting responses to the covenanting process. It was noted that only four meetings have responded to the

April 27, 2011 mailing.

### **13. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Website**

Registration Forms for the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session are available on the Website. Lonny Burger has invited articles from Friends about ministry and activities.

### **14. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is seeking an Assistant Presiding Clerk and an Assistant Recording Clerk, and requests help in identifying names. Friends entered into a period of silence to lift names for the position of Assistant Presiding Clerk and Assistant Recording Clerk. The clerk of Nominating Committee will contact the names lifted out of the silence. Friends noted gratitude for the work and service of the current Recording Clerk.

### **15. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee**

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is considering re-opening discussion about site for future Yearly Meeting sessions. Arrangements for the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are proceeding.

### **16. Friends Music Camp**

Peg Champney reported that the 2011 Friends Music Camp has over-filled. Peg commended the dedication of the Friends Music Camp staff and offered thanks to all Friends for support of the Scholarship Fund of Friends Music Camp. Peg noted that the leadership succession plan is progressing well, and she feels calm about the leadership into the future.

### **17. Miami Quarterly Meeting**

Miami Quarterly Meeting met Fifth Month 15, 2011 at Miami Monthly Meeting. The program celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the White Brick Meetinghouse. Miami Quarterly Meeting shared State of Society Reports and considered a letter from Englewood Friends requesting association with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A visitation committee was named to meet with Englewood Friends to get to know each other, and explore the best association for Englewood Friends.

### **18. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting**

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting met Fourth Month 17, 2011 to share State of Society Reports and consider a minute on same sex close relationships. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting approved the minute and will bring it to the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

### **19. Discipline Revision Committee**

Wilson Palmer reported that the Discipline Revision Committee is meeting regularly, and is shepherding the various Discipline sections through their approval process.

Friends approved the minutes

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends will meet next Seventh Month 27, 2011 at Earlham College for the 192<sup>nd</sup> annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Executive Committee will next meet Tenth Month 1, 2011 at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati,



Ohio.

Submitted,  
Deb Kociszewski  
OBYM Recording Clerk

Youth Secretary/ Teen Committee Report  
Executive Committee  
June 4, 2011

Although we have had increased participation this year, we had to cancel the spring joint retreat with middle youth due to lack of registrations. We had scheduled for the first week in May rather than April, because of the date of Easter this year, but May seems to be a busy time for youth. We had planned to use this time for the teens to rewrite their community guidelines and begin planning the teen led workshop for Yearly Meeting. We will continue working on these during the service trip and at Yearly Meeting.

The teens designed a Quaker hoodie which Friends can order for \$35. Order forms have been sent to the monthly meetings and to executive committee representatives. The first batch of hoodies has been made, but we will continue to take orders through Yearly Meeting, where we will have a display at the bookstore. Fundraising supports our annual service trip, and any overage will go to a more substantial trip every four to five years.

Plans have been made to return to Hominy Friends Church in Oklahoma from June 25-July 2 for our annual service trip. The church is a predominantly Native American Meeting on Osage Nation lands, and is part of Great Plains Meeting (FUM). Our teens worked with the church about five years ago. Pastor David Nagle is planning a week of work, participation in Native dancing and games, and learning about the relationship between Friends and the Osage. The cost to individual teens is \$125, with the remaining cost (about \$350 per teen) to come from our OVYM budget and fundraising. We expect at least 15 teens on the trip, and have three FAPS in addition to our youth secretary: Dan and Nathan Coppock will be paid FAPS and Gloria Bruner has offered to attend as a volunteer. We are planning ahead for a 2012 trip to Washington, D.C.

We are working with planning committee on the service project for Yearly Meeting sessions, as well as developing the teen program and helping the teens develop a workshop for adults based on the experiences of the group over the year. Teens may not attend all of the activities designed for adults, but we want to create the opportunity for genuinely intergenerational activities.

The teen committee and teen leaders are continuing discussion of how we create an emotionally and physically safe space for teens with regard to exclusive relationships. This discussion arises from concerns after the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, where there did not seem to be a clear procedure for dealing with repeated challenging of the guidelines, as well as from experience within our own group. We are trying to find the balance between helping the teens respect and monitor their own guidelines, on one hand, and exercising of adult authority when necessary.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

Clerk, OVYM Teen Committee

## **State of Society Report 2011**

Community is a central theme heard in the voices from across the Yearly Meeting in the State of Society Reports this year. The support of community is celebrated and the gifts of those that make up these varied communities are described with appreciation. There are also loving descriptions of the losses that communities have experienced as the inevitable changes of life are grieved.

The reports speak of the importance of worship as Friends gather. The Spirit is sought as teacher and calming presence. A balance between vocal ministry and a gathered silence is described and celebrated. Folks seek after the guidance needed to forge the inward and outward journey. Fruit comes from the shared experience of seeking corporately. Numbers are increasing in some places and others experience a new sense of spiritual depth. A phrase that captures in part the spirit of the reports is a “sweet fellowship of people who want to be together”. There are reflections upon the diversity of creative ways the Spirit is grounded in meetings' practices including meals, singing, upgrading meeting houses as environmental statements, recreation, and discussion to name a few.

When differences occur OVYM people strive to seek unity through deep listening to one another. The reports share that this task is not easy and talk about how best to practice loving pastoral care. Corporate seeking leads to new challenges. Fresh ideas, new people, and looking at property and buildings in different ways become times of both growth and tension. This leads to opportunities of individual and corporate growth and service. This growth often comes from turning to our traditions, queries, and business practices.

Reading the reports is a reminder that we are a people called to be lifelong learners. Across the diversity of ages there are second hour discussions, fellowship opportunities, retreats, and shared meals that give opportunity to grow in spiritual depth from being in conversation with others. The reports also name the ongoing search for how best to offer the Quaker spirit in outreach activities from hospitality to visibility. In summation, the words that OVYM Meetings have put on paper this year lay out how we are trying with great care to discern God's call to be faithful people.

Advancement and Nurture Committee

## **State of the Meeting Reports**

## **Bloomington Monthly Meeting**

It was a calm and quiet year for Bloomington Friends. We maintained good attendance, typically 50 to 60, including 10 or more children. We welcomed several new regular attenders. There has been an increase in the number of children and young people. Understandably, monetary contributions were down, but so were our expenditures. While we haven't been as socially active as some people might like, every Sunday we have the FCNL update, and letter-writing is encouraged. Families with young children, and older people, may feel out of steam. We continue to help at Community Kitchen one day a month, and the vigils for peace continue on the courthouse square.

Some meetings for worship have been very vocal, especially near the end, but there is generally a good balance between silence and ministry, and almost all of the messages have clearly been spirit-led. As the meeting room acoustics are not the best, and an increasing number of us are not hearing as well as we used to, speakers need to speak louder. We have fellowship and refreshments after worship; some then adjourn to a restaurant for further time together. We have been reading the query of the month within the first fifteen minutes, while the children are still present, in addition to during announcements after worship. Attendance at query discussion has been robust. We have mingled new queries with those from the OVYM Book of Discipline.

The Pastoral Care Committee continued its concern for the community spiritual life in several ways, one of which has been sponsoring the well-attended discussion series 'Bridges to Contemplative Living,' using quotations from Thomas Merton and others. Another well-attended group is 'Praying the Psalms.' Weekly Bible discussion continued. We invited Friends to fill out a questionnaire naming three people they would like to be alerted in case of an emergency or concern. We continued the 'Parents Night Out,' free child care once a month for a hopefully carefree evening.

We continue to be blessed by the presence of our children in 2010. In addition to the nursery, several classes met on First Days. During the first half of the year, our classes focused on our testimonies; later we studied the Old Testament, a basis for this year's Christmas play. To increase interaction between children and adults some intergenerational activities were introduced. All classes interviewed a member or attender each month.

At the outbreak of the Iraq war there was an influx of new families with children; these children are now tweens, teens, and young adults who have grown up in meeting. We note their ever increasing maturity vis-à-vis the silence. Some of the young people have been moved to offer vocal ministry during meeting for worship.

We mourn the unexpected death of member Betsy Caulfield just before Christmas. She was passionate about the need to care for our earth and respect and care for life in all its diversity. She helped initiate projects that made our meetinghouse more energy efficient. She is greatly missed by us all.

### **Campus Friends Meeting**

The scriptural basis for this year's State of Society Report is Colossians 3:15-16; specifically, the following queries:

1. How does your monthly meeting experience being part of the one body called to peace?
2. How do praise, gratitude, singing, and thanksgiving enhance your fellowship?
3. How do you share the message of Christ which dwells within you?

In response to the first query, we strive to maintain an openness to engage any seeker on any topic at any time. We experience being part of the body of peace by committing ourselves to look for ways of relating to others with an open heart and to avoid looking for justification to exclude others.

The second query concerns what happens in our meetings for worship. Spontaneous expressions of praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving often arise during silent worship. Sometimes, musical ministry enriches our silence. At the conclusion of silent worship we ask those in attendance to share any joys and concerns. We also ask if anyone has something to share which did not rise to the level of spoken ministry out of the silence. Often this is the point of departure for useful exchanges among Friends.

Once a month, we have a time for hymn-singing at the rise of meeting for worship. Our memorial meetings always give rise to spontaneous celebrations of the lives of departed friends and gratitude for their gifts to our body of peace.

The third query challenges us to let our lives speak, as expressed in the Quaker Peace Testimony. Jesus never put conditions on his love. Similarly, we have no preconditions on our relations with other seekers or on membership in our meeting. We make peace, love, and simplicity the foundation of our outreach to the campus community and our dealings with the wider world.

Campus Friends Meeting  
January 23, 2011

Patricia Thomas, Clerk  
Bob Powell, Recording Clerk

## **Clear Creek Monthly Meeting**

Approved 4th Month 2011

On first day mornings, a deepening stillness settles upon our meeting room as people gather for worship. This stillness nourishes our life in the spirit and serves as a foundation for discernment of how we are being called to service and ministry. We sometimes struggle to translate our spiritual principles into everyday ways of creating and living in community, yet we are always thankful when we experience a shared sense of God working within and among us.

Our numbers in worship vary widely as our core group of members and attenders is occasionally joined by large numbers of visitors from near and far. We also usually have several sojourning Friends among us for a period of a few months to a few years. The process of welcoming, integrating, and saying goodbye to wonderful people has been both a joyful energizing experience and a challenging one for our meeting over time. As we recognize this aspect of our meeting identity we labor to more fully live into offering spiritual nurture for all earnest seekers who choose to enter into our community for any length of time.

The past year has given our meeting the gift of two weddings. This gift has provided us with an opportunity to participate in and reflect upon the importance of clearness, planning, celebration, and ongoing support. Clear Creek community members are making use of small groups and the clearness process for their spiritual growth.

We have the challenging and happy task of seeking together the best way to use a gift from the estate of long time members of our community. This has been a time of growth as we seek to find the most appropriate use of this gift for the carrying on of our inward and outward journey.

An exploratory Quaker Quest workshop and follow-up discussions have been another opportunity for us to look both inward and outward. Though we have decided not to proceed with the public Quaker Quest program at this time, we are in process of deciding the way forward for growth and outreach. We have held a series of “Quakers and....” second hour discussions that have been engaging and enlightening occasions for us to get to know and learn from each other on deeper levels. Discussions of the revisions for our yearly meeting discipline have proven to be rich times of seeking to discern a broad yet

rooted understanding of our faith and practices. Through these discussions, we have sensed a strengthening of our connections with one another. We have begun to use a new curriculum, “The Joyful Path,” that suits the needs of our current first day school students and teachers.

We continue a number of activities that offer us additional chances for developing and experiencing a sense of community and spiritual nurture. We have held group sessions to address the questions brought by new attenders from our community inquiring into Quakerism. The book group, writing group, and other small gatherings still take place. We maintain our Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Friends Fellowship Community.

This year we held a solstice labyrinth walk that provided the opportunity for folks to reflect upon all that the year-end celebrations bring up in our individual and collective memories. This event provided a deeply spiritual opportunity to experience the tensions of darkness and light with the positive and negative feelings that seem always to be a part of the holiday season.

Our Ministry and Oversight committee has embarked upon a process of contacting all members, attenders, and former members and attenders. This has provided the opportunity for support, reconnection, and coordinating our meeting directory and membership rolls.

A fun community event that took place in early summer was an intergenerational workday at the Cope Environmental Center. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee continues to be active on our behalf in the community as well as providing the information that we need to be active for change in the world.

The reflection in preparation for this report on the state of our meeting has brought us to the realization that we are often a busy and tired group of people. Feelings of being stretched too thin may be contributing to some of our current difficulties in discerning paths for meeting outreach, service, witnessing for peace and justice, and filling important roles in the meeting and the wider Society of Friends. Recognizing the toll of living over-extended lives, the planning committee for our upcoming retreat has chosen Sabbath as our theme.



## Community Friends Meeting

The past year has been a time of fruitful activity in Community Meeting as we enjoyed a high spirit of cooperative energy reflected in our shared work and the supportive efforts of the Meeting as a whole. Committees worked closely together to tend to our spiritual needs as well as the needs of our house and grounds. This shared work has made our love more visible to one another and to our local community. We have welcomed two new members and several new regular attenders into our community. We regularly have about 40 people in attendance at worship on Sundays.

Adult Education Committee and Ministry and Counsel Committee worked together to plan and coordinate our fall renewal with the theme “Welcoming the Soul and Weaving Community,” based on the book *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life* by Parker Palmer. Our facilitators, Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland, helped us “explore how we can practice the process of clearness to weave community and welcome each soul.” The renewal was preceded by a series of discussions of the book. After the renewal, a Circle of Trust group met for six weeks to experience this clearness and community-building process. Adult Education Committee also facilitated a variety of other educational opportunities for the meeting, including a Quakerism 101 class.

The spirit of cooperation and shared work was also made visible in the efforts of Stewardship, Friends in Unity with Nature, and House and Grounds Committees. A Capital Campaign concluded, having raised over several years a total of nearly \$72,000, in spite of hard economic times. These funds helped our meeting to come closer to unity with nature and express the integrity testimony by green retrofitting the Meetinghouse with energy efficient windows and a zoned furnace. These improvements made the caretakers' apartment more comfortable and enabled us to conserve energy by using less natural gas and electricity for heating and air conditioning. Due to our energy-saving projects, gas and electric usage decreased 52% from 2008 to 2010, saving approximately \$4,000 a year.

The Meetinghouse and grounds are lovingly cared for by our current caretakers, and several improvements have been made through the work of Friends in Unity with Nature and House and Grounds committees. We now have a bee hive, a new garden shed, and a new outdoor stage for special events. The garden area has been cleaned up and reclaimed, a larger rain barrel has been installed, native trees have been planted, and invasive honeysuckle is regularly removed from the woods. These projects have helped to restore and preserve the Meeting's woodland, and have made the Meetinghouse more appealing for other prospective groups interested in renting space.

We have participated in several cooperative efforts in the wider community. Activities shared with Cincinnati Friends Meeting and Eastern Hills Meeting have included a renewal last spring on Spiritual Friendships co-facilitated by Cathy Barney, a monthly game night for a group of 10 to 15 teens from our meetings, a Quakerism 101 class hosted by Cincinnati Friends, and several shared spiritual nurture opportunities. We have developed a closer relationship with Xavier University, which uses our Meetinghouse for a variety of retreats and meetings. We hosted a Peace Church brunch with a showing of the movie “No Impact Man” and a discussion of energy conservation and growing a local food economy.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has organized an ongoing ministry of providing meals for Tender Mercies which feeds about 30 local people who are mentally ill and homeless, as well as collecting food and volunteering regularly for the Free Store Food Bank. Other projects of Peace and Social Concerns Committee have included getting FCNL information about military recruitment into high schools and letter writing campaigns on peace topics and the Supreme Court decision allowing corporations to make unlimited donations to political candidates.

Religious Development Committee has provided First Day School classes for our delightful group of five to eight year old children on the theme of Exploring the Bible. A favorite quote from one of the children was heard after a class held outdoors: “I wish we could always have class outside so we can be closer to God!” Our teens have participated actively in OYYM teen activities, and they have been spiritually nurtured by the ongoing ministry of Wilhelmina Branson, who continues to lead our group of four to six lively and talented teens. We enjoy a monthly “intergenerational activity” after worship that gives young and old a chance to get acquainted and have fun together. Community Committee has lovingly coordinated our monthly fellowship and carry-in meal. This committee has also provided many opportunities for community building with events such as making pizza, making holiday cards, carving pumpkins, and decorating cookies.

Community Meeting has experienced challenges as we seek ways to minister to our elders who are coping with aging issues. We also reach out to support members and attenders who are facing difficulties of health issues and loss of jobs. At times we wrestle with varying levels of commitment and seasoning in spiritual development that can result in discord among us. We are still struggling with discerning a balance between the needs of the community and the needs of individuals. Our meeting includes a wide diversity of spiritual practices and experiences, which can be challenging, but for the most part we experience this diversity as a strength. We have learned to hold one another in love and to celebrate and appreciate each person’s experience of the Divine. We are

enriched by each other's deep passion and the many expressions of the limitless ways that God works in our lives.

Our meeting for worship is often gathered, with spirit-led vocal ministry, and this shared worship experience remains the center of our spiritual life. We are very grateful for the great gift of this spiritual community and for the deep still center that holds us together in love.

## **Dayton Friends Meeting**

Fourth Month 2011

Dayton Friends Meeting shares in deep and fulfilling worship experiences grounded in a depth of wisdom and spiritually rich practice. We gather in space rented from the Brethren and have been able to make that space a welcoming place for worship and fellowship. Our meetings for business are conducted in a climate of spiritual care. We do, however, have concerns about our long-term future. Our membership is less settled than it has been for many years. We have many members who are older. Some have retired and moved in new directions. Others are planning retirement soon and will probably also move. Some remain in Dayton but are less able to participate in all aspects of the life of the meeting. Our financial resources are also affected by this change in our demographics.

Much of the focus of the Meeting this year has given priority to the pastoral care of our members. We have had members with health concerns, and our prayerful support has been, and continues to be, important to them. We are delighted that one of our members who lives at a distance and has difficulty driving has begun a Quaker worship group with others who live near by. We are encouraged that out of difficulty such spiritual growth can emerge.

Our members and attenders span a large age range, and we are strengthened by the consistent presence of several new attenders. We provide First Day programming for children and have enjoyed the participation of several younger children when they attend. We have several young adults who are still well-connected to Quakerism and are pleased to see them moving from the base they have formed in the meeting to new and rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Two of our young adults graduate from college this year and another from high school.

We find time for study and fellowship. We completed our discussion of Michael Birkel's *A Near Sympathy: The Timeless Quaker Wisdom of John Woolman*. We held a day-long retreat at the Snyder's home and family farm with a follow-up discussion after this retreat to think about the short and long-term health of the meeting. We celebrate Christmas and Easter together, sharing a meal as well as worship. We occasionally meet together with Englewood Friends for worship and to share meals.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has focused on writing letters on issues of concern and has developed a system for facilitating letters by individual members. We continue to provide

food and service to a local homeless shelter on a monthly basis. We hosted a Right Sharing simple meal with Roland Kreager as the guest speaker.

While we are concerned about the long-term future of the Meeting, we are thankful for the presence of the Spirit in our midst and continue to be sustained by the richness of our worship together, our loving support for each other, and our work together in the hope for the well-being of all creation.

## **Eastern Hills Meeting**

Eastern Hills' members express their commitment to the traditional Quaker Peace Testimony in many ways: participation in community organizations promoting peace and justice, engaging in meeting-wide activities that help us examine our own lives for evidence of the violence of racism. Violence continues and peace--social, political, or international--remains elusive, but we have faith that each of us bears the seed of peace within.

We can know with others the peace given us not by the world but by the Inner Christ (John 14:27). We know this peace through corporate and individual worship. With the early Quaker Isaac Pennington, we learn "in quietness and stillness to retire to God, and wait upon the Spirit in whom [we] feel peace and joy."

We are grateful for the opportunity every first day and on other occasions to worship together. Vocal ministry arising from our "expectant waiting" upon God commonly reminds us of God's loving gifts. Our praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving for the spiritual riches that come to us through waiting upon the Spirit receive robust and joyful expression every First Day morning in the singing that opens our meeting for worship. Our gratitude for what God has done in our lives opens us to looking for that of God in others. Finally, we have posted on our website members' and attenders' statements about what they are grateful for in their lives.

We are a small meeting made smaller, not only in numbers but also in spiritual fellowship, by Tom and Barbarie Hill's relocation to Charlottesville, VA. We are pleased that the Hill's have found a new spiritual home in Charlottesville Monthly Meeting. However, we miss the many expressions of their ministries, particularly Tom's vocal ministry and the gift of Barbarie's beautiful singing.

We know the life abundant (John 10:10) that grows from the planting of the Seed among us and would like to help others find that life, as well. While we are not given to evangelizing as a meeting or as individuals, we continue to consider ways that we can engage in effective outreach to the community in which our meetinghouse is situated. Many of us believe our most effective means of sharing the message of Christ is by

letting our lives speak. As one of our number expressed it, Christ's message is not so much a "what" that can be captured in tracts or sermons but a "how" and "why" for each of us to attend to in our own stories and in the stories of those around us.

## **Fall Creek Monthly Meeting**

Fall Creek Meeting continues to grow in grace, In Spirit, in depth and in numbers. Meeting for Worship is the cornerstone of our meeting and is nourished by the presence and companionship of the Living Christ. Members and faithful attenders have grown together in the bonds of Love and there is great depth in the stillness of our Meetings for Worship. Vocal ministry is alive and meaningful and is shared by nearly everyone in worship at some time. The messages range from fresh insight into our spiritual conditions, to illumination of timeless Truth found in scripture, song that stirs our souls and vocal prayer that joins us with the speaker in communion with God. There are also Meetings for Worship that are infused with Holy living silence, when time seems to stop and we emerge at the end of worship feeling awed and humbled by the experience and find our hearts opened and greatly tendered toward one another and all of life.

Our Meetings for Worship with attention to business are fairly informal but stay to Quaker practice and guidance. The queries are read and discussed in a very personal way, sharing from the truth about how Spirit is working in us in our daily lives and how and where we find ourselves either growing or lagging behind. There are sometimes differences of opinion, but love and fellowship are very important to us as a Meeting community, so we take time to listen and bear with one another and we work to find unity and peace.

After Meeting for Worship, there is always time for food and fellowship. It is not unusual that we stay till late afternoon on First Day. We stay to bask in the love, acceptance, and safety of our friendships. "Sweet" is a word often used to describe our experience of Fall Creek Meeting. We have found love together through the Inner Lover and it is sweet beyond any earthly experience.

## **Fort Wayne Friends Meeting**

This past year has been one of great change for Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. During the last year, and at the request of Indiana Yearly Meeting, Fort Wayne Friends ended its ties to Indiana Yearly Meeting. We note with sadness the continuing disagreements within Indiana Yearly Meeting's monthly meetings over the issue of being open and affirming

meetings. We said goodbye to four members of Fort Wayne Friends, who did not agree with our joining Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. We now move forward, with open arms and hearts, continuously searching for the Inner Light to guide us.

During the past year, and in spite of contentious discussions at Monthly Meeting for Business, we have also been active. Two new members, Bob and Terre Holada, were welcomed in our group, and are very active in our Meeting life. We raised money through a spring lunch for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and fed parents at Children's Hope House, a home where parents of hospitalized children stay. We participated in a retreat in February, where we enjoyed fellowship and discussions. We finished Parker Palmer's book, "A Hidden Wholeness", and are currently studying "Exploring Quakerism" in our second hour discussion. Some of us have also been able to attend Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting quarterly meetings in October and March.

Our Meeting is becoming more organized and purposeful. There are now several committees, Ministry, Nurture, and Outreach, Finance, and Religious Education. In the past, our numbers were so small that committees were almost unnecessary. We have enjoyed the visits of seekers at our Meeting, and hope to continue to reach out to the community.

Fort Wayne Friends is focused on the Spirit, we feel a renewed sense of peace and purpose within our group. We welcome all people to our circle: seekers, attenders, and members. We look forward to the future, discerning where God is leading us.

### **Green Plain Monthly Meeting**

Green Plain Monthly Meeting has a very small membership and many of the members reside in other states. However, contact is maintained with all the members during the year. They are asked to share any thoughts and concerns that they might have at any time. A summary of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting reports and events is provided to all the members. The members that reside in the area maintain the Meeting House and grounds. The non-resident members serve the Meeting in other capacities.

Caroline Taylor

Clerk

### **Hopewell Friends Meeting**

Our meeting continues to struggle with issues of attendance and potential personal discouragements, but this year has drawn us closer together and left the meeting with a

strong core of regular, supportive attenders. We are looking within ourselves and towards the future.

We have opened our doors to the greater community through our Peace Garden, hosting labyrinth walks and peace discussions. Friends also supported two local families at Christmas, an event that proved to be a reciprocal blessing. We celebrated our young and young-at-heart friends with a camp-out and bonfire.

Our year began with discussions of *The Sun and the Umbrella* and Phil Gully's *If the Church Were Christian*. In response to the proposed actions of a now infamous Florida pastor and in order to assure the world and ourselves that Christianity and interfaith appreciation are not mutually exclusive, we began a meeting-wide study of the Qur'an that culminated with a sharing of food and ideas with the leader of the Kokomo Muslim community. We found this experience enlightening and uplifting, and we look to continue in the coming year with similar studies of other world religions.

We have had a change of roles at Hopewell Friends. Long-time Clerk Susan Scott has passed the baton to first-time Clerk Kate Glen. Our Recording Clerk Donnita Barnes has also been succeeded by Sally Wilson.

Hopewell Friends Meeting continues to be more than a quaint building far out in the country. We are a supportive, caring community who seek the Light, wherever it may lead.

## **Lafayette Friends Meeting**

### **Fourth Month, 2011**

Lafayette Friends Meeting is a small meeting with 16 members. Nonetheless attendance is stable with on average 10-12 members or attenders at Meeting for Worship on a given First Day. Vocal ministry has been rare at LFM the last few years, but recently vocal ministry has been offered more frequently, witnessing to the movement of the Spirit among us. In the last year we have met once a month for Quakerism 102 and have read the book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice*. In addition to learning about Quaker history, these discussions led us to talk about how our meeting functions today and what issues in our world might be similar to those that 18th and 19th century Friends struggled with. The discussions also led Friends to get to know one another on a deeper level which has contributed to a deepening spirituality in the meeting. In January Paul Buckley visited LFM while we were hosting Whitewater Quarterly Meeting and spoke about Elias Hicks, another topic of our Quakerism 102.

Lafayette Friends have also engaged in increasing cooperation with other faith communities in the Lafayette area. Last fall we cooperated with the Lafayette Church of the Brethren in running a stand at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon in order to create a "peace presence" there and show that the 17th century in Indiana was not only about cannon, muskets and troops. This cooperation continues as we work with the Brethren to prepare and serve a bimonthly community meal for low-income individuals and families in Lafayette.

Three children are members of our meeting and we have struggled to develop a First Day School program for such a small group. Most of the time the children take part in meeting for worship for the full hour and this solution works well both for the children and the adults. The children also attend yearly meeting sessions and are thereby connected to the wider community of Friends. Several students from Purdue have also attended meeting for worship with us, some regularly, and we are glad for their presence among us.

## **Lexington Friends Meeting**

5th month, 1, 2011

A review of our Meeting over the last twelve months shows us that the Spirit was moving among us at many times and in many areas but also that there were times and areas where we should have been readier to seek spiritual guidance so that our community might become more loving and more grounded.

Religious education in our Meeting has benefitted from the devoted efforts of a large and energetic team of parents and volunteers who have consistently provided a warm and nurturing First Day School program well grounded in love for children. The success of this labor is manifest in the relatively large numbers of children (primarily boys) of all ages who regularly attend First Day School. An adult discussion is available most First Days, and it provides education about historical and contemporary Quakerism and other religious issues as well as fellowship for many Friends. These discussions encompass wide-ranging opinions and deep feelings, but they are shared in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere.

Worship has been consistently high quality with messages delivered by both long-time and relatively new Friends. The messages arise from deep places: at the rise of Meeting, one or more Friends often comment that they appreciated the messages. Worship is enriched, many Friends feel, by preceding the worship with the singing of hymns accompanied by piano.



The Meeting intentionally nurtures community in several ways – particularly through potlucks that are held twice monthly, typically at the Meetinghouse. At these events Friends enjoy community and good food and enrich their spiritual lives through discussion of a topic; hearing a Friend relate their spiritual journey; worship sharing over a challenging issue; or enjoying dancing, games, or putting on skits. We also try to stay abreast of each other's lives through introductions offered at the rise of Meeting. Friends are invited to share a high and/or a low from their week.

The spirit of the Meeting is enriched through a spring and a fall retreat – the spring retreat in the idyllic setting of the Pine Mountain Settlement School in rural SE Kentucky, and the fall retreat being a joint retreat for the three Kentucky Meetings. The fall retreat, also known as All Kentucky Gathering, is important for maintaining connections with the other Meetings in our state especially because Berea Meeting is a member of a different yearly meeting.

The economic challenges that our nation faces have not passed over our Meeting. Friends have lost jobs, and others have lost their houses. In two cases the Friends were only able to find work by moving out of the state. We also continue to receive calls from outside our Meeting from individuals in precarious circumstances who are seeking financial assistance, but we are unable to help them.

The Meeting has tried to be welcoming to newcomers, and over the past year we have experienced a rise in the number of young adults who have become regular attenders and have felt welcome and accepted. We recognize that some have departed feeling excluded and unwelcome and are reminded of how, without a determination to be consistently welcoming to all, we might become a homogenous and closed group that is puzzling and arcane to outsiders. While our Meeting appears to welcome people with backgrounds in many different faiths, we continue to struggle to reach out to the wider community in Lexington believing that there are many people who would enjoy our community but who either do not know about us or feel they might not be welcome because of their racial, marital or socio-economic status.

An ongoing challenge in our Meeting is dealing with disputes between Friends. An electronic listserv was intended to foster spiritual sharing among Lexington Friends. Unfortunately, in some instances it has been used for bickering and trading of insults. We recognize yet again the need to listen more than we speak and when we do speak to relate what is in our heart more than what is in our head. We realize the value of our tradition to speak plainly but tenderly to one another seeking always to see “what love can do.”<sup>1</sup>

The Meeting has been called upon frequently to help Friends deal with personal concerns. One longtime attender was arrested and convicted of sexual abuse. The Meeting has struggled with how to approach this situation and with the ongoing repercussions. In order to be better prepared should a similar situation arise again, we recognize the need for education about sexual abuse and self examination about caring for both the victim and the abuser. We are discovering the challenges of reaching out to Friends in great pain and distress. Our Care & Nurture committee continues to hold in the Light the many Friends who are struggling with life's challenges and burdens. They have labored to publicize the availability of Clearness Committees and have organized several such committees.

The Meeting is active both in our immediate neighborhood and in the wider peace and justice community in Lexington. Over the past year our Meetinghouse was used by a large group of home schoolers who met weekly to conduct art and other activities. The group was instrumental in securing an ecological arts grant from the city with which they transformed our back parking lot into a model garden complete with artistically painted rain barrels and hand painted tiles. We continue to rent our Meetinghouse to an African-American congregation that meets there weekly. In the wider community, several members of our Meeting are active in important groups within our town and our state. These include the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, Building a United, Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action (BUILD) as well as national groups such as FCNL and committees to abolish the death penalty. The involvement of Friends in these groups and mention of the activities sponsored by these organizations does occasionally bring up tensions within the Meeting between those who do and those who do not wish to be involved in political action and social justice work. There are different opinions of how politically active the Meeting should be.

The Meetinghouse and its renovation demands a large amount of our time and energy. Some feel that this has been a spiritual drain. Nevertheless, we recognize that a healthy, energy efficient, and accessible building is essential if we are to be a vital Meeting. Consequently, we continue to plan for the renovation and raise money to carry it out. A dedicated group has been visiting Friends to invite their commitment of energy and money to renovate the Meetinghouse. This work is taking longer than expected but has been encouraging.

Despite our struggles and limitations Lexington Friends find our Meeting to be a refuge and an inspiration. In the words of members and attenders, Meeting is: "a place where I can seek without someone telling me what I should seek," Meeting is a place where "all are welcome no matter where they are in their spiritual journey," and "Meeting feels like there is a lot of love that is not measured out and that there are not too many conditions."

Conscious of our shortcomings but encouraged by our successes, we look forward to the challenges and joys of the next year.

<sup>1</sup> William Penn 1682. Some Fruits of Solitude in Reflections and Maxims. Epigram No. 545.

### **Louisville Friends Meeting**

It's been an interesting year. Some of our concerns continue, but we find that our joys are increasing. We continue to struggle with questions of how and if we should expand our meeting facilities. We have trouble finding enough active Friends with time available to do the work of the Meeting. Therefore, it is sometimes not done. Although over 30 Friends participated in a 1-day Quaker Quest workshop in April 2010, we did not find unity in going forward with Quaker Quest this year. Vocal ministry in worship is sparse, but nourishing when it is given. At times, our egos can distract from a sense of community. Ongoing conflicts during Meeting for Business can be difficult but also provide the opportunity to grow together if Friends are willing.

That said, we have several joys that sustain us. We have several children who are brought to Meeting frequently and about a half dozen new young adults that have been attending Meeting for Worship regularly. We draw people who seek a community with the Divine who hunger for honest conversations about faith. Weekly Friendly Bible Studies have been productive for those who attend. We had monthly Women's Worship Group and Meeting for Healing, both of which have been nourishing for the Meeting. Considering the size of our Meeting (25-35 on any given First Day), we are more diverse than we have ever been.

In short, we are a Meeting that continues to search for ways to have dialogue with each other and the Divine. With the help of our Clerk and an active Ministry and Nurture Committee we continue to seek that dialogue and a true reflection of the Light within us all.

### **Miami Monthly Meeting**

Miami Monthly Meeting meets weekly in one of two of its meeting houses for reverential worship services. We meet in a white brick house build in 1811 during warmer months or during winter in a red brick meeting house across the street completed in 1837. A well

tended Friends' cemetery is adjacent to the red brick structure. We welcome worshipers to share the unprogrammed services with us.

We support Quaker Heights, a retirement community adjacent to our meeting houses. Each month we go to the center activity room and share hymns with those present. We have some people living at Quaker Heights attending our weekly meetings.

Each month we conduct a business meeting hearing reports from our most active committees: the Ministry and Oversight Committee, the House and Grounds Committee, the Religious Education Committee, the Nominating Committee and our Treasurer, Bill Hoch. We conduct the business meeting in the light of Quaker beliefs with silent worship, consensus in decisions and reading a query.

We publish and mail a newsletter yearly. It allows our members to keep up to date on all activities. Our recording clerk Lonny Burger has constructed and maintains a web page: see [Miami.quaker.org](http://Miami.quaker.org) for our web page with links and articles.

Tom Nowel of our meeting attended a meeting in Xenia 7<sup>th</sup> month to place the ending of the death sentence on the state ballot this fall. Lonny Burger and Tom Nowel represented us at the OVYM and reported to us on some of the topics. One interesting item came from the Young Adult Friends, Teens: the desire for deeper spirituality and guidance of scripture in home meetings.

May 15, 2011 we host the Quarterly Meeting/ Bicentennial Celebration of the White Brick Meeting house.

We continue to meet and worship each first day and welcome visitors to join our services. We believe the Quaker meeting has much to offer and share.

## **North Meadow Circle of Friends**

Spring 2011

We are happy to report that the average attendance at First Day Meeting for Worship is substantially higher than last year. This is doubly exciting for after a number of years without a children's program, we are now blessed with very young attendees and an organized program to meet their needs. We have even seen an increased attendance at Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business. Where we were reporting in the past

that North Meadow was growing older, we can now say that our average age is substantially younger, and newcomers always out-number our founding members at Worship.

The health of our Meetinghouse is also seeing improvement. This year we paid off our mortgage and immediately turned around and obtained a new mortgage. First we replaced a dying gas furnace with a state of the art, geo-thermal system. Then we moved the caretaker's apartment from the first floor to the second floor, which now allows us to have all the Meeting activities on the first floor. It also allows us to build a handi- capped accessible restroom on the first floor with a composting toilet.

We have managed to continue most of our normal meeting life while undergoing an extensive period of construction. Groups continue to use the building as a meeting place. We maintain a food and clothing pantry as the need around us continues to grow. We have continued to provide locally grown vegetables to a home for women with children, through a Community Supported Agricultural program that uses empty inner city lots and hires unemployed youth.

North Meadow experienced a death again this year as David Pilbrow passed away. David has been greatly missed! The Meeting held a Memorial Meeting, with loving tributes to one who did so much after the manner of Friends. This summer North Meadow plans to establish a Memorial Garden. The garden will feature a path with benches to facilitate meditation and thought.

Ministry and Council established an adult religious education committee, which has undertaken monthly pot-luck evenings in homes, and has plans for occasional gatherings after meeting with films and discussions. Ministry and Council has continued the practice of having a Friend tell of his/her Spiritual Journey each month after Meeting with a pitch-in luncheon. This has been quite meaningful to both the teller and the listeners.

North Meadow Circle of Friends has had a good, spiritually filling, busy year and sees a bright future as new, younger people find their places in our maturing meeting.

## **Oxford Monthly Meeting**

**Oxford, Ohio  
April 2011**

Our Meeting for Worship is in a fairly quiet phase. Some Friends yearn for more spiritual depth in worship. Some Friends have talked about the need to cultivate vocal ministry. One Friend mentioned that vocal ministry helps one to keep one's thoughts centered. The

reading of the query at the beginning of the month also helps with our centering practices. Our youngest member, Rita, enjoys getting to sit quietly in Meeting.

We remain a large vessel, with room for varied theologies, including non-theism, across the Quaker spectrum.

We also have a fairly large age spectrum, and we delight in the company of our oldest and youngest members. Our oldest member, Nancy McDowell, has recently moved to an assisted care community, Woodland Manor, and we meet periodically with her there on First Day afternoons, to her and our delight.

Great joy and energy is invested by all meeting members in our active First Day School for Rita, with a varied group of topics including Quakerism, other religions, animals, insects, the Bible, and Nobel Prize winners.

We also have varied second hour programs, and we continue to mark the seasons with our “Advent Event” and our “Spring Fling.” We haven’t gone out to lunch after Meeting with each other quite as often as we have in the past.

Our members are active in the community, working for peace, economic justice in a climate of deregulation and privatization, and opposing discrimination against gays and lesbians. One of our members visited Quakers in Cuba during the past year. We are active supporters of the Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice and we write lots of letters to our legislators. We help with the Empty Bowls Project to raise funds to feed the poor and homeless members of our community.

We are happy about renting space from Campus Ministries in Oxford, but we are concerned about their recent loss of funding. We hope for stable meeting space.

Our Meeting Community remains close and supportive, a warm and welcoming circle to be a part of (and to enter, we hope, as we have had a variety of visitors and guests over the past year).

## **Yellow Springs Friends Meeting**

Fifth Month 2011

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting continues to thrive. In good faith and without a revised lease from Antioch College we took responsibility for the environmental waste created by our old airy building.. Rockford chapel now has well insulated walls and new windows. During the weatherization work we had meeting for worship in the multi purpose room. In May the meeting and Yellow Springs Havurah (a Jewish worship group that shares Rockford) co-sponsored an open house to celebrate the completion of this work.

A new “Godly Play” curriculum was inaugurated in our First Day school for children and also adults who attend on certain days. This was learned at a Pendle Hill workshop and brought to us by Heather Snediker-Morschek. Adult First Day school is also active and with good attendance. Other groups and committees also continue to be active. These include Seventh Day peace vigil, witnessing to end the death penalty, worship sharing, Course in Miracles, meditation and more. Peace & Social Concerns now presents every 4<sup>th</sup> First Day. Membership & Pastoral Care has recently done a careful job of checking and culling the list of members. There is now a special Nominating Committee for Friends Care Board and Friends continue their presence there. Friendly dinners are about to begin again and a retreat is planned for the Fall.

This year we lost three beloved friends, Irwin Abrams, Barbara Preis and most recently Ken Champney. This year will see several graduations including Mary Hyde from Otterbein College, Uta Brewington from Greene County Career Center and Porter and Hollister Finch from Miami Valley School. Christian Snediker-Morschek joined by convincement. We now number 118 Friends. Recently 45 of us were present at the 11 a.m. First Day Meeting for Worship.

All thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted, Victoria Burke

## **White Rose Monthly Meeting of Friends**

June 6, 2011

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We meet the first and third First Day of each month for fellowship and worship. We are presently at three regular attendees. Three of our members make up the Ft. Wayne Worship group, and they on occasion meet with us in Wabash, and we on occasion join them in Ft. Wayne.

Due to the activities of each, we do not meet some of our scheduled days by mutual agreement. The size of the meeting does not easily allow participation by the meeting itself in many activities, but we believe the commitments of the individuals to their various organizations takes the place of these responsibilities, which are usually fulfilled through the meeting. We remain, each in our own way, active in Christ’s and Quaker’s affairs.

Murray Cox, Clerk  
White Rose Meeting.

## **Memorial Minutes**



## **Betsy Caulfield**

Betsy Caulfield, a member of Bloomington Monthly Meeting died unexpectedly on December 20, 2010, after suffering a massive stroke. She is dearly missed by all for her passionate work on behalf of the environment, for her love and care for the children in the Meeting, and for her peace activism.

Betsy was born in Indianapolis on April 27, 1942 to Leonard and Hildred (Hudson) Pearson. She grew up in Indianapolis, and attended Technical High School and Indiana University in Bloomington. Betsy married Richard Caulfield on her twenty-first birthday. They moved to a farm once owned by her Aunt Grace and Uncle Cyrus, and where she and Dick lived for about 20 years, raising two sons and two daughters. She often spoke with great fondness of her life on the farm. She later worked as a librarian at the Indianapolis Star and News newspapers. Betsy was an avid reader all her life and wrote many book reviews for the Indianapolis Star. She also loved writing and with her daughter Holly published a book, *Finding the Way*, about a young woman's surprising involvement with the Underground Railroad.

After Betsy's retiring, she and Richard moved to Bloomington, Indiana. Betsy's family had roots in the Quaker community and she felt a strong desire to start attending the Bloomington Friends Meeting. Betsy was accepted into membership in 2004 and she, with her daughter Holly and grandchildren, became active and beloved members of the Bloomington Friends Monthly Meeting. She was delighted when her brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Julia Pearson, also moved to Bloomington and joined the Monthly Meeting. Betsy showed her love for children in so many ways, helping in the nursery, teaching First Day classes and initiating earth care projects, for children and adults, at the Christmas celebrations. Over the years she served on the Library Committee, the Religious Education Committee and the Publications Committee. She helped establish and was the co-clerk of the Earthcare Witness Committee since 2003 where she helped initiate projects to help the Meeting house become more energy efficient.

When she attended the first Northwest Earth Institute discussion project in Bloomington about deep ecology, which was sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Living and held at the Bloomington Friends Meeting house, she became very passionate about the need to care for our Earth and to respect and care for life in all its diversity. She planted fruit trees, created a vegetable garden and established many flowering native plant beds. She said she really loved hanging the laundry out on the line to dry.

Betsy lived and demonstrated her Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, and living in right relationship with all Creation also outside the Friends Meeting. She was an active

participant in the bi-weekly Peace Vigils on Wednesdays and was a member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She became actively involved with the Center for Sustainable Living in 2004 where she was the volunteer secretary on the CSL Board. She took on many other duties, including overseeing and keeping the records for CSL's Food Project. She became a member of the interfaith group Earthcare Bloomington's Steering Committee in 2007 and helped promote their projects to help congregations and their members practice energy efficiency. Her quiet and friendly ways, her smiles and thoughtfulness made her a beloved presence at all these gatherings.

Betsy is sorely missed by her husband Richard; daughters Holly Cedar and Elizabeth (Andy)Felt; sons Michael (Laura) and David; sisters Nancy Drew and Susan (Ken) Steeves; brother and sister-in-law Bruce and Julie Pearson, and twelve grandchildren, Raistlin, Heidi, Tristan, Craig, Nick, Naomi, Tom, Grace, Emily, Blaine, Katie and Abigail.

## **Mary Kay Rash**

Mary Kay Rash, member of Bloomington Monthly Meeting, died age 101 at Meadowood Retirement Community on February 10, 2011. She was born March 22, 1909 to Joseph Luther and Shirley Beyers Strain in Bloomington. After graduating from Bloomington High School, she attended Indiana University and obtained her bachelor's degree. She then attended Indiana University Training School for Nurses and followed a career in nursing for many years.

Mary Kay spent much of her middle years overseas. In the late 1950s, she returned to Bloomington where she continued her nursing career at the University Health Service. Her association with Bloomington Monthly Meeting started when she met and married Keogh Rash, a founding member of our meeting. She started attending the meeting and, in 1967, became a member.

Mary Kay is often remembered in connection with two important men in her life. One was her husband, a professor in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, who was very active in our meeting; the other was her brother, William Strain, a local architect responsible for the design of our present meeting room that so well radiates the Quaker spirit. Mary Kay was a steady presence in our meeting in her own right, however. She gave excellent service on many committees such as Ministry and Counsel, Social, Welcoming, and Peace and Social Concerns. She also served as Custodian of the Records for several years and represented our meeting in the wider community on Church Women United.

Mary Kay loved to share colorful stories of the people and places she felt so privileged to see and encounter. She cherished her Monroe County roots and had a keen appreciation of local history and architecture. Although slipping away physically in her later years, she made the most of her limited surroundings and continued to make visitors smile through her ready sense of humor. Bloomington Friends remember her life and her presence in the meeting with gratitude.