

Reports in Advance 2014

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

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Business Sessions Agenda for 194th OVYM session (2014)

Wednesday 7/30 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Thursday 7/31 10 am – 12:15 pm	Friday 8/1 10 am – 12:15 pm	Saturday 8/2 10 am – 12:15 pm	Sunday 8/3 10 am – 11 am
Centering Worship	Centering Worship	Centering Worship	Centering Worship	Centering Worship
Greetings Roll Call of Representatives	Greetings, Roll Call	Greetings	Greetings	Greetings
Welcome, Introductions, Letters of Introduction	Welcome, Letters	Reports: Faith and Practice Committee	Reports: Quaker Earthcare Witness	Final Nominations
Gratitude to youth workers	Reports: Quaker Heights Care Committee	Planning Committee	Friends World Committee for Consultation	Minute of Appreciation for those leaving service to OVYM
Delegates to youth business	Statistician	Peace and Social Concerns	Friends Peace Team	Site for 2015
Review of Agenda	Treasurer	Personnel Committee	Friends General Conference	Registrar's Report
Epistle Summary	Proposed Budget from Budget and Finance	Quill	Youth Secretary	2014 Epistles from the Youth Middle Youth Teens Young Adult Friends
Reports: Whitewater Quarterly	Executive Committee	Publications	Teen Committee	2014 OVYM Epistle
Miami Quarterly	Friends Music Camp	Records Coordinator	Middle Youth Committee	Closing Worship in McCoy Room
Initial Nominating Committee Report	American Friends Service Committee	Web Administrator	Children's Committee	
Naming Committee	Friends Committee on National Legislation	Announcements	Announcements	
Religious Nurture and Education Committee	Announcements	Closing Worship	Closing Worship	
State of Society Summary	Closing Worship			
Announcements				
Closing Worship				

2015 OVYM Nominations

OFFICERS

(at end of 14 sessions)

Presiding Clerk

Assistant Presiding Clerk

Recording Clerk

Assistant Recording Clerk

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Rex Sprouse

Stephen Angell

Paul Buckley

Terre Holada

Wilson Palmer

2014 SESSIONS	2014
Epistolary Committee	
Summary of Epistles received	
Memorial Meeting	

2015	2016	2017
RELIGIOUS NURTURE AND EDUCATION		
Andy Garrison (1M)	David Garman (1W)	Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson (1M)
	Rex Sprouse (1W)	Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs (2M)
	Nikki Coffey Tousley (1M)	Diann Herzog (2W)
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
Kate Anthony (1M)	Paul Kriese (1M)	Heather Snediker Morschek (2 M)
Kay Wheeler (1 M)	Dinah Duvall (2 W)	Martha Viehmann (2 M)
		Richard Mitchell (2 M)
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
Susan Hyde (2 M)		Beth Parrish (4 M)
Gloria Bruner (2 W)	Hannah Branson (6M)*	Carey Bryson (2 W)
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
Rachel Dean (1M)	Charles Moore (1M)	Martha Viehmann (2 M)
Victoria Burke (1M)	Brenda Furnas (1M)	Richard Mitchell (2 M)
Carey Bryson (1W)	Susan Gerke (1M)	Paulette Meiers (2 M)
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
Russ Wheeler (1M)		Nathan Coppock (2 M)
Chance Duvall (1W)		Heather Snediker-Morschek (2 M)
Peter Hardy (1M)*		Emmett Olis-Carmel (2 M)
Anna Margaret Green (1W)		
6 teens to named at sessions		

2015	2016	2017
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Marjorie Isaacs		Richard Mitchell
David Duvall	Frank Huss	Bob Vetter
Marshall Gibson	Ron Haldeman	Nathan Coppock
EARTHCARE COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Janette Shetter	Bill Cahalan (convenor)	Marci Ankrom
Ria Collee	Nani Ball	David Duvall
John Kunkle, observer		Sue Brungs, observer
AUDITING COMMITTEE		
Veronica Frost (2M)	Donita Barnes (2 M)	Bob Holada (2 W)
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist.Treas, [-- who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)		
Ben Griffith (1M)	Paul Buckley (2M)	Fred Feitler (2 W)
FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE		
	Betsy Neale (4 M)*	Rex Sprouse (4W)*
	Lisa Cayard (3M)	Mary Garman (2W)
		Paul Buckley (3W)
Wilson Palmer–Invited Mmbr		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
Carl Hyde (1M)	Victoria Burke (1M)	Gail Miller (2 M)
	Carolyn Stanley (1M) Anne Whitaker (1M)	
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
Frank Huss	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
Lonny Burger	Assistant Webmaster Emmanuel Greene	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS (4)		
2015	2016	2017
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Peter Fosl (2M)		
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
Howie Baker (1M)	Josh Medlin (1W)	
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
	Rachel Ernst Stahlhut (1 M)	Shannon Isaacs (1M)
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
Julia Thompson (1W)		Frank Huss
Paul Kriese (1M)		Ken Boardwell

The following are one-year YM appointments to the named organization

FLGBTQC	2015
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE	Carrie Shaver
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS	Paul Kriese
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	Ria Collee
	Frank Huss

M = Miami Quarter; **W** = Whitewater Quarter; **1 or 2** = 1st or 2nd 3-year term; **P** = Partial term; * = convener or clerk; Usually 3 year-term appointment slots are limited to 2 terms.

Committees Nominated by Executive Committee (Not Nominating Committee)

Nominating Committee- (6)

2014- Jamie Fota (1M) Yoshiya Togami (PM)
2015- Ben Griffith (2M) Paul Kriese (1M)
2016-

Personnel Committee- Paul Buckley, Paul Kriese, Wilson Palmer

Naming Committee- Betsy Neale, Rex Sprouse, Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

2014 2015 2016

Presiding Clerk's Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from A&N Committee), (1 from Yearly Meeting Planning), (1 at-large from YM)

Clerical Staff Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from Clerks Table), (1 at-large from YM), (1 from monthly meeting or spiritual community of CS)

Youth Secretary Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from Teen Committee), (1 at large), (1 from monthly meeting or spiritual community of YS)

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

Fifth Month 29, 2014

General background information. Within the structure of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, the functions of the quarterly meetings include:

1. seasoning concerns arising in monthly meetings;
2. shepherding new meetings into Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting;
3. receiving State of the Meeting reports at the spring session;
4. offering spiritual support to troubled monthly meetings;
5. considering appeals regarding termination of membership in monthly meetings;
6. gathering for spiritual nurture and fellowship;
7. hosting the Joint Quarterly Meeting in alternate years; and
8. acting as a regional body of Friends.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is comprised of two quarterly meetings: Whitewater Quarterly Meeting (which includes constituent monthly meetings within the State of Indiana) and Miami Quarterly Meeting (which includes constituent monthly meetings within the States of Ohio and Kentucky). It is now customary for these two bodies to hold a residential Joint Quarterly Meeting on a weekend in Tenth Month.

Sessions during 2013-2014. Over the course of the last year, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting held only two sessions: (1) Tenth Month 12, 2013, at Happy Hollow Camp near Nashville, IN; and (2) Fourth Month 13, 2014, Lafayette Friends Meetinghouse in West Lafayette, IN. Friends had to cancel a session originally scheduled for First Month 19, 2014, due to hazardous road conditions. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gratefully acknowledge the faithful service of the Joint Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee and Lafayette Friends who participated in hosting these sessions, as well as those who attended.

Focus of sessions during 2013-2014. The primary focus of this year's two sessions of the Quarterly Meeting lay in the direct experience of worship, fellowship, and community building. The now annual Joint Quarterly Meeting provides an opportunity for a weekend gathering in the beauty of the autumn for many Friends from across Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The sessions hosted by particular constituent monthly meetings provide an opportunity for intervisitation, so that over the course of a couple of years no monthly meeting needs to feel entirely isolated from other Friends in the region. Our worship, work, and fellowship provide opportunities for us to come to know one another more deeply in those things that are eternal.

Quarterly Meeting officers. Rex Sprouse will be ending his service as Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting at the end of the annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in Eighth Month 2014. At that time, Diann Herzog will become Presiding Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, and Dinah Duvall will become Recording Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting. David Duvall will continue his service as Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Treasurer.

Suggested annual contribution. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting currently suggests a \$50 annual contribution from each constituent monthly meeting, which should be sent to David Duvall, 7811 Kimlough Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46240. The Quarterly Meeting uses its funds primarily to cover expenses associated with the Quarterly Meeting sessions, including the Joint Quarterly Meeting session.

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

Miami Quarterly hosted Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp in 2013. The event was well attended, seeming to confirm the idea that having this event yearly is a good idea. Veronica Frost clerked the Meeting for Worship-Attention to Business. After some discussion and a statement of support from the Joint Quarterly Planning Committee, it was decided to host again in 2015. An Ad Hoc committee was formed to search out alternate locations, although hosting at Happy Hollow remains a possibility as well.

Once again, Second Month Quarterly Meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Fifth Month Quarterly was clerked by Faith Morgan. Englewood and Dayton co-hosted at Englewood's meetinghouse. There was a good turnout welcoming the new meeting in our Quarter. The State of Society reports were discussed.

The financing of Joint Quarterly continues to be of major concern and an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to explore options. We continue to believe in the value of Quakers getting together as often as possible and we want to continue to keep the event affordable for families. The attempt to do that in 2013 resulted in a considerable deficit for Miami Quarterly and there needs to be a way to avoid that. We are open to ideas.

Audit Committee Report

We met on November 13, 2013. We were able to review all of the categories for the first time in this Clerk's tenure. There were a few accounts that were only reconciled within ten dollars. The committee feels that, given the numerous people involved in receipts, etc. that degree of reconciling was acceptable.

It is surprising that a number of the organizations that OVYM donated money towards did not write thank you notes. Since the treasurer brought the wrong Quicken information, we were unable to totally verify all the contributions.

This was the first time in this Clerk's tenure that an attempt was made to audit the Yearly Meeting account. We were able to successfully reconcile it but did note that a copy of the registration list maintained by the registrar would be helpful.

Overall, the Committee felt it was a very successful audit. Much of that success is a result of the

Treasurer's competency, helped by his several years in the position. So, once again, the Committee would like to recommend that the Treasurer be a paid position with a longer term.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Budget and Finance Committee Report

The Budget and Finance Committee shepherded the annual budget process, starting with our request for projected expenses to yearly meeting committees and staff early in 2014. Responses were assembled into a proposed budget and unveiled on the first Saturday in April preceding the Executive Committee meeting. This draft included the Middle School Youth Coordinator position approved by the yearly meeting in 2013 and funding for the Young Adult Friends Committee. The total budgeted expenses for the coming budget year are virtually the same as in the current year.

Based upon past experience, we (including twenty-some Friends in attendance) agreed to set the suggested proportional share at \$120 per yearly meeting member, an increase of \$10 over last year. Even with this increase, the suggested shares were intentionally set lower than would be required to create a balanced budget.

The amount of money contributed by monthly meetings to the yearly meeting has declined over the past three years: \$74,200 in 2011-12, \$71,400 in 2012-13, and this year, \$66,600. This is due to a couple of trends: 1) Membership in OVYM is declining. When the number of members decreases, either we must shrink the budget total or the amount each member contributes needs to increase. 2) Some meetings have not been able to give the suggested proportional share. While a few meetings have given more and the vast majority of meetings contribute the amount suggested, the net effect is that the total amount of gifts from monthly meetings is less than what was budgeted.

What makes budgeting even more difficult, some meetings do not respond to the request to pledge some level of support. We are uneasy guessing how much they will contribute and have assumed that it would be the suggested amount. We are also uneasy presenting budgets that are not balanced. This might make sense in some cases, but as an ongoing practice, it is not responsible. We need the guidance of the yearly meeting.

B&F believes our budget and our budgeting process need to be discussed within the wider yearly meeting community and, as needed, modified. OVYM can only fulfill its responsibilities if there is a mutually supportive relationship between the yearly meeting and the monthly meetings. Budget and Finance is willing to lead this discernment process.

We have sufficient reserves for this year's proposed budget. With the involvement and support of OVYM Committees, Quarterly Meetings, Executive Committee, Yearly Meeting officers, and monthly meeting representatives, we can maintain a sound financial condition and continue to have reserves for unplanned needs for the future. We hope to begin this discussion during this year's business sessions.

Respectfully submitted
Ben Griffith (Clerk), Paul Buckley, Fred Feitler, and Wilson Palmer

Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends, the OVYM fiscal year ended on June 30, 2014. How well have we spent our resources to help you and our children grow in spirit and advance the missions in which you believe? Only you can answer these questions for yourselves and your meetings, but I can report the places where we spent our funds.

In support of our teens, we expect to spend over \$21,000. For our missions and other organizations we believe worthwhile supporting we spent just under \$20,000. Beyond what you paid and contributed to attend Yearly Meeting Sessions last year, OVYM spent \$16,500 to make this possible (including printing costs). We gave almost \$3,000 to representatives to wider Quaker organizations to help cover their travel costs. We supported the rest of our committees (other than teens) with \$2,000. We paid about \$1,500 for the Quill and Directories. We pay around \$10,500 for necessary administrative, office, insurance, and other expenses. (See, also, the pie chart)

This work was supported by over \$2600 in gifts to OVYM from individuals, most of it from attendees "rounding up" their bill for last year's Sessions. Friends traveled for committees and as representatives but did not submit a request for reimbursement, which saved us over \$3,500. The rest of the money comes from our Monthly Meetings. Thank you all for your continued support.

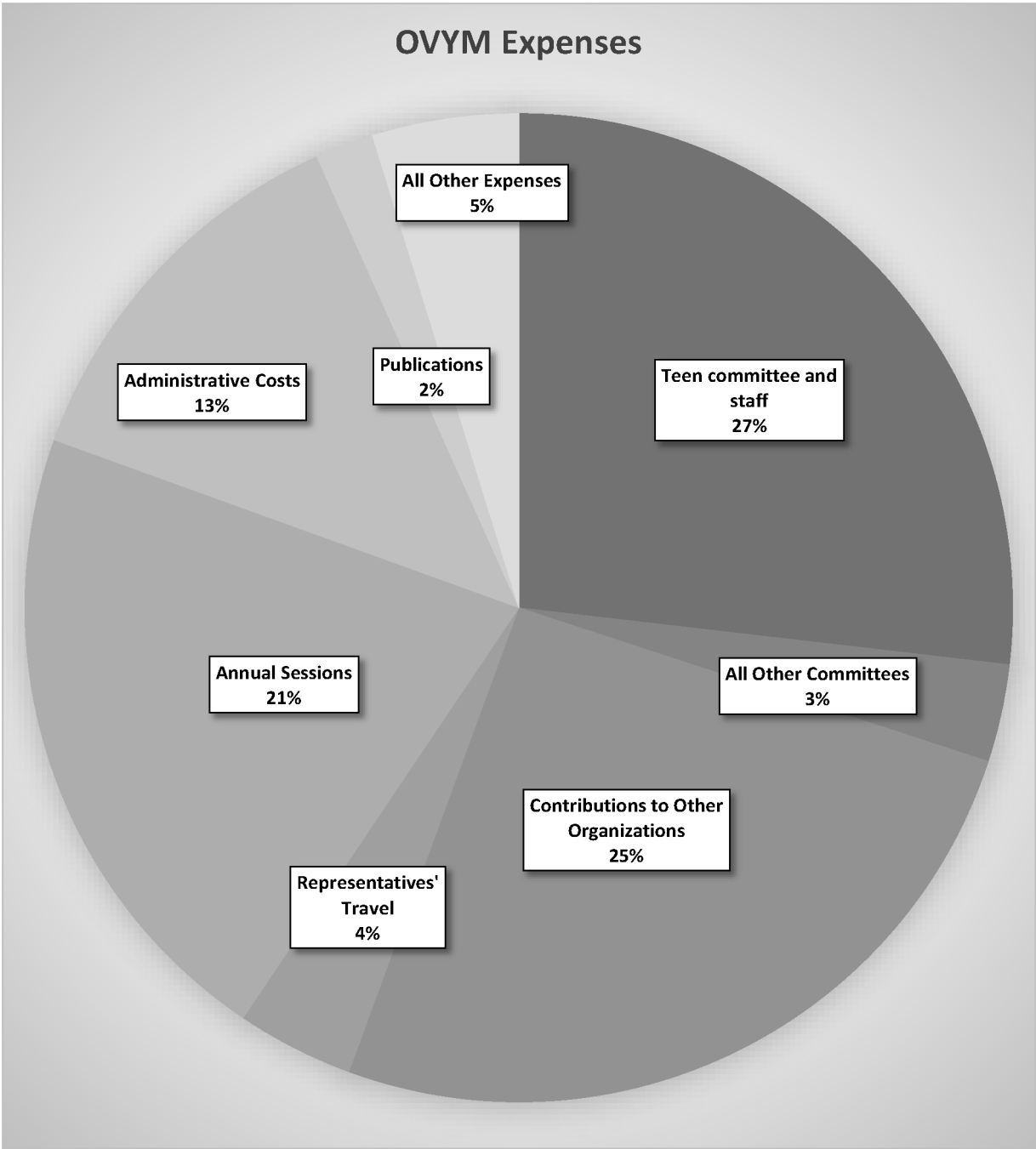
In the following tables, the third to last column is the 2013-2014 budget. This can be compared against the second to last column, which shows the actual income and expenses for fiscal year 2013-14. The last column is the Budget and Finance Committee's proposed 2014-15 budget. The Meetings that responded to that committee with their support pledge for next year are listed in bold typeface in table 9.

Table 1 shows all of the funds related to the Yearly Meeting. Tables 2 through 7 are the details of the income and expenses for those funds, except the General Fund. When the numbers become available, the newly rediscovered Braddock Memorial Trust Fund should be added to this list. Table 8 is a summary of the General Fund, our main account. The rest of the tables are details related to the General Fund.

Although this is supposed to be the final report for the fiscal year, Teen Committee service trip income and expenses have not been finalized. The numbers in Table 20, and therefore General Fund expense and grand totals should be different in the report I submit to OVYM Executive Committee in October. At that time all the numbers for fiscal year 2013-14 should be final.

Our budget predicted we would have about \$8000 more in expenses than income, and indeed our loss for the year is close to that number. Fortunately, there is enough money in reserves to cover this debt.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer, Treasurer, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting



**2013-14 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014**

	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 YTD	2014-15 Budget
Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End							
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	4,516.00	175.67	1,175.67	1,175.67	2,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67
Benevolent Fund (Table 3)	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,803.21	5,800.00	5,805.61	5,800.00
Peace Witness Fund (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Capital Fund (Table 5)	5,630.76	5,626.53	5,651.53	5,629.64	5,639.64	5,632.68	5,637.68
Faith & Practice Printing Fund (Table 6)	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)				(240.51)		159.49	
Fr. Property Corp. \$1361.84 donated to Q Heights		-		-			
General Fund (Table 8)	31,543.63	52,422.39	42,133.39	49,231.21	41,051.21	41,906.71	31,481.21
Total	52,490.39	69,024.59	60,260.59	67,099.22	60,666.52	61,680.16	52,594.56

Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund

Starting Balance	3,516.00	3,516.00	175.67	175.67	1,175.67	1,175.67	2,175.67
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Kenya 2012)		4,340.33					
Ending Balance	4,516.00	175.67	1,175.67	1,175.67	2,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67

Table 3. Benevolent Fund

Starting Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,803.21	5,800.00
Income	25.00	15.07	25.00	3.21	20.00	2.40	5.00
Disbursements to QM (65%=Miami, 35%= WW)	25.00	15.07	25.00		20.00		5.00
Ending Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,803.21	5,800.00	5,805.61	5,800.00

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund

Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Disbursements - Peace Tax Fund	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00

Table 5. Capital Fund

Starting Balance	5,605.76	5,605.76	5,626.53	5,626.53	5,629.64	5,629.64	5,632.68
Income	25.00	20.77	25.00	3.11	10.00	3.04	5.00
Distribution							
Ending Balance	5,630.76	5,626.53	5,651.53	5,629.64	5,639.64	5,632.68	5,637.68

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund

Starting Balance	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Transfer from General Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Distribution							
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund

Starting Balance						(240.51)	
Teen Fundraising/Contributions from Table 20						400.00	
Extra Funds needed for Teens (To Table 20)				(240.51)			
Ending Balance				(240.51)		159.49	

**2013-14 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014**

	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 YTD	2014-15 Budget
Table 8. General Fund Summary							
INCOME							
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	74,232.00	74,030.64	70,001.00	71,398.00	72,570.00	66,647.50	71,120.00
Other Income		10.00					
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	200.00	672.60	200.00	217.14	200.00	652.27	200.00
Donated Travel Costs	5,000.00	2,850.08	4,000.00	5,223.27	4,500.00	3,563.77	4,500.00
Sales of Disciplines				25.00			
Total Income	79,432.00	77,563.32	74,201.00	76,863.41	77,270.00	70,863.54	75,820.00
EXPENSES							
Operating Expenses (Table 10)	30,640.00	25,320.94	30,940.00	26,901.81	29,950.00	27,379.10	31,970.00
Committee Expenses (Table 15)	10,500.00	9,931.71	10,050.00	11,204.21	11,150.00	9,546.25	11,570.00
Representative Travel (Table 22)	7,250.00	4,852.77	7,000.00	5,335.06	6,000.00	4,227.71	6,000.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 23)	14,350.00	13,807.67	14,350.00	14,463.51	17,000.00	15,684.98	14,500.00
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Donations by OVYM (Table 24)	20,150.00	20,150.00	20,650.00	20,650.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00
Total Expenses	84,390.00	75,563.09	84,490.00	80,054.59	85,450.00	78,188.04	85,390.00
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(4,958.00)	2,000.23	(10,289.00)	(3,191.18)	(8,180.00)	(7,324.50)	(9,570.00)

Table 9. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,140.00	4,300.00	5,070.00
Campus	1,817.00	1,819.00	1,760.00	1,660.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,800.00
Clear Creek	10,900.00	12,331.50	10,560.00	13,365.00	10,560.00	8,448.00	9,400.00
Community	8,856.00	8,862.00	8,470.00	8,482.00	8,800.00	8,800.00	8,880.00
Dayton	1,477.00	1,477.00	1,430.00	1,430.00	1,210.00	1,210.00	1,200.00
Eastern Hills	2,214.00	2,200.00	2,090.00	2,100.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,500.00
Englewood					825.00	929.50	1,500.00
Fall Creek	300.00	675.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,430.00	1,430.00	1,320.00
Fort Wayne	454.00	454.00	550.00	440.00	660.00	660.00	720.00
Green Plain	450.00	250.00	300.00	560.00	275.00	400.00	250.00
Hopewell	300.00	300.00	1,210.00	300.00	1,210.00		1,320.00
Lafayette	1,817.00	1,760.00	1,760.00	1,760.00	1,650.00	1,680.00	1,800.00
Lexington	4,655.00	4,655.14	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,920.00
Louisville	9,083.00	10,000.00	8,800.00	8,800.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,080.00
Miami	6,131.00	4,769.00	4,681.00	4,681.00	4,510.00	4,510.00	4,920.00
North Meadow	4,315.00	4,330.00	4,070.00	4,070.00	4,070.00	4,070.00	4,440.00
Oxford	1,249.00	1,250.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,760.00	1,760.00	1,800.00
White Rose	1,362.00	500.00	1,320.00	750.00	1,320.00	1,300.00	1,440.00
Yellow Springs	13,852.00	13,398.00	11,880.00	11,880.00	10,780.00	11,780.00	11,760.00
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	74,232.00	74,030.64	70,001.00	71,398.00	72,570.00	66,647.50	71,120.00

Bold = Meetings responding with pledge of support for 2014-15

**2013-14 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014**

	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 YTD	2014-15 Budget
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Table 10. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 11)	2,100.00	1,351.64	2,400.00	1,650.18	2,050.00	1,154.31	1,860.00
Clerical support (Table 12)	650.00	160.66	650.00	140.56	450.00	181.44	250.00
Staff (Table 13)	22,940.00	22,179.72	22,940.00	22,310.53	23,000.00	23,132.62	26,860.00
Publications (Table 14)	4,650.00	1,328.92	4,650.00	2,500.54	4,150.00	2,610.73	2,700.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total	30,640.00	25,320.94	30,940.00	26,901.81	29,950.00	27,379.10	31,970.00

Table 11. Administration

Bank Charges	50.00		50.00		50.00		-
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	904.83	1,000.00	811.14	1,000.00	684.85	1,000.00
Background Checks	150.00	54.00	150.00	54.00	100.00	63.00	60.00
Officers' Expenses	500.00		800.00	365.00	500.00	400.00	400.00
Treasurer's Expenses	400.00	392.81	400.00	420.04	400.00	6.46	400.00
Total	2,100.00	1,351.64	2,400.00	1,650.18	2,050.00	1,154.31	1,860.00

Table 12. Clerical Support

Office Expenses	500.00	38.33	500.00	62.17	300.00	20.00	120.00
Postage	80.00	78.27	80.00	34.36	80.00	96.56	80.00
Copying	70.00	44.06	70.00	44.03	70.00	64.88	50.00
Total	650.00	160.66	650.00	140.56	450.00	181.44	250.00

Table 13. Staff

Compensation	21,000.00	20,519.64	21,000.00	20,469.64	21,000.00	21,460.14	25,000.00
Workers Comp	360.00	333.33	360.00	315.90	360.00	276.96	360.00
Cell Phone	480.00	396.00	480.00	431.00	540.00	456.00	450.00
Internet Access	400.00	420.00	400.00	423.00	400.00	427.70	450.00
Travel	500.00	510.75	500.00	670.99	500.00	311.82	400.00
Professional Development	200.00		200.00		200.00	200.00	200.00
Total	22,940.00	22,179.72	22,940.00	22,310.53	23,000.00	23,132.62	26,860.00

Table 14. Publications

Quill	2,500.00		2,500.00	976.79	1,500.00	1,466.39	1,500.00
Web site expenses				478.19	500.00		-
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,650.00	1,021.84	1,650.00	1,025.46	1,650.00	953.53	1,000.00
Directory	500.00	307.08	500.00	20.10	500.00	190.81	200.00
Total	4,650.00	1,328.92	4,650.00	2,500.54	4,150.00	2,610.73	2,700.00

Table 15. Committee Expense

Religious Nurture & Education (Table 16)	400.00	-	400.00	161.38	1,000.00	543.50	310.00
Middle Youth (Table 17)	600.00	-	600.00	257.34	400.00	480.37	330.00
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 18)	550.00	122.57	550.00	229.78	250.00	-	40.00
Religious Education (Table 19)	200.00	119.37	-	-	-	-	-
Teen Program (Table 20)	5,800.00	8,081.53	6,300.00	6,300.00	6,300.00	5,147.79	6,300.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 21)						(440.00)	1,390.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	200.00		200.00	50.00	200.00	133.89	200.00
Travel - Donated	1,750.00	857.21	1,000.00	2,765.30	2,000.00	2,338.14	2,000.00
Travel - Reimbursed	1,000.00	751.03	1,000.00	1,440.41	1,000.00	1,342.56	1,000.00
Total Expenses	10,500.00	9,931.71	10,050.00	11,204.21	11,150.00	9,546.25	11,570.00

2013-14 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014

	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 YTD	2014-15 Budget
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Table 16. Religious Nurture & Education Committee

Pamphlets, copying and printing	150.00		150.00		100.00	5.00	10.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	150.00		150.00	75.00	800.00	538.50	300.00
Resource Materials	100.00		100.00	86.38	100.00		-
Total Expense	400.00	-	400.00	161.38	1,000.00	543.50	310.00

Table 17. Middle Youth Committee

Joint Quarterly Gathering				50.00		16.51	20.00
Staff	400.00		400.00	200.00	300.00	390.00	130.00
Supplies and Programming	200.00		200.00	7.34	100.00	73.86	180.00
Total Expense	600.00	-	600.00	257.34	400.00	480.37	330.00

Table 18. Peace & Social Concerns

Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop	370.00		220.00	229.78	100.00		10.00
Postage	130.00	32.57	130.00		50.00		30.00
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials	50.00	90.00	200.00		100.00		-
Total Expense	550.00	122.57	550.00	229.78	250.00	-	40.00

Table 19. Religious Education Committee - combined into RN&E

Lending Library		69.37					
RE Newsletter							
Postage	50.00						
Fall Retreat & Spring Workshop	150.00	50.00					
Total Expense	200.00	119.37		-			

Table 20. Teen Program

INCOME

Contributions		1,215.00				400.00	
Fundraising	500.00	751.96	500.00		500.00		500.00
Registration Fees	1,200.00	4,310.00	1,700.00	2,595.00	1,700.00	50.00	1,700.00
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	5,800.00	8,081.53	6,300.00	6,300.00	6,300.00	5,147.79	6,300.00
Total Income	7,500.00	14,358.49	8,500.00	8,895.00	8,500.00	5,597.79	8,500.00

EXPENSE

Publicity	100.00		100.00		100.00		100.00
Teen Events	1,400.00	545.40	1,400.00	467.44	1,400.00	947.79	1,400.00
Service Trips	6,000.00	13,482.63	7,000.00	8,668.07	7,000.00	4,250.00	7,000.00
Cost of Fundraising		330.46					
Total Expense	7,500.00	14,358.49	8,500.00	9,135.51	8,500.00	5,197.79	8,500.00

Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)	-	-	-	(240.51)	-	400.00	-
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Table 21. Adult Young Friends

(Income)						(580.00)	(500.00)
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions						140.00	690.00
Scholarships							1,200.00
Total Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(440.00)	1,390.00

Table 22. Representative Travel

Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,500.00	2,200.00	2,500.00	2,435.19	2,500.00	2,050.00	2,500.00
Additional Reimbursement	1,500.00	659.90	1,500.00	441.90	1,000.00	952.08	1,000.00
Donated Travel	3,250.00	1,992.87	3,000.00	2,457.97	2,500.00	1,225.63	2,500.00
Total Expenses	7,250.00	4,852.77	7,000.00	5,335.06	6,000.00	4,227.71	6,000.00

2013-14 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014

	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 YTD	2014-15 Budget
Table 23. Yearly Meeting Sessions							
INCOME							
Contributions	500.00	1,334.98	500.00	1,260.80	900.00	1,590.64	1,000.00
Registration	2,800.00	2,151.60	2,800.00	4,740.00	3,400.00	4,860.00	4,000.00
Room & Board Charges	12,500.00	11,468.50	12,500.00	12,876.95	12,500.00	13,476.00	13,000.00
Bookstore Income	1,400.00	1,520.68	1,400.00	1,909.51	1,900.00	983.89	1,000.00
Total Income	17,200.00	16,475.76	17,200.00	20,787.26	18,700.00	20,910.53	19,000.00
EXPENSES							
Administration	50.00	143.07	50.00	10.00	50.00	2,200.00	50.00
Adult Program	1,600.00	1,225.87	1,600.00	1,022.39	1,000.00	693.25	1,000.00
Extra Facilities Costs					3,000.00	2,275.00	750.00
Teen Program	1,400.00	1,313.13	1,400.00	1,486.20	1,500.00	1,228.69	1,500.00
Middle Youth Program	1,400.00	1,282.62	1,400.00	1,304.00	1,325.00	1,434.40	1,400.00
Children's Program	2,800.00	2,272.76	2,800.00	3,105.30	3,000.00	3,738.17	3,500.00
Adult Room & Board	13,000.00	11,909.30	13,000.00	12,488.26	12,500.00	12,344.00	12,500.00
Room & Board Subsidies				300.00			
Children, middle youth, teens	5,100.00	7,488.00	5,100.00	9,052.40	7,475.00	6,700.00	7,000.00
Staff and officers	1,800.00	2,142.00	1,800.00	2,716.20	2,500.00	2,654.00	2,700.00
Guests	400.00	476.00	400.00	1,041.20	700.00	400.00	700.00
YAF attenders subsidy	1,200.00	521.60	1,200.00	1,122.40	1,000.00	1,117.00	1,000.00
First-time attenders subsidy	1,000.00	243.30	1,000.00	340.20	400.00	1,161.00	400.00
Simple Meal Donation	500.00	415.00	500.00	278.85	250.00	650.00	300.00
Bookstore Expenses	1,300.00	850.78	1,300.00	983.37	1,000.00		700.00
Total Expenses	31,550.00	30,283.43	31,550.00	35,250.77	35,700.00	36,595.51	33,500.00
Net Cost of Session	14,350.00	13,807.67	14,350.00	14,463.51	17,000.00	15,684.98	14,500.00

Table 24. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries							
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Friends Music Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Subtotal	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00
Major Quaker Organizations							
AFSC	2,650.00	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	2,000.00
FGC	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Friends Journal	600.00	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	3,000.00
Quaker United Nations Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Subtotal	13,250.00	13,250.00	12,750.00	12,750.00	12,750.00	12,750.00	12,750.00
Quaker Education and Outreach							
Earlham College	300.00	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	300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	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	300.00
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus							
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	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	500.00
William Penn House	200.00	200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	200.00	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	500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Subtotal	2,200.00	2,200.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Total Contributions	20,150.00	20,150.00	20,650.00	20,650.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00

Statistical Report

MIAMI QUARTER

Monthly Meeting:

MEMBERSHIP 12/31/12

CAM	COM	DAY	EH	ENG	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
30	80	13	24	23	11	40	68	41	14	98	442

Correction by addition

Births/Adoption

Request of parent(s)

Convincement

Children accepted as adults

Transfers to

TOTAL GAIN

						1					1
											0
											0
1	1						1		1		4
											0
			1								1
1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	6

Correction by subtraction

Deaths

Removal by request

Children becoming adults

Transfers from

Loss of Contact

TOTAL LOSSES

Net gain or loss

MEMBERSHIP 12/31/13

											0
											0
	2	1					5				8
											0
		2									2
	5						5				10
0	7	3	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	20
1	-6	-3	1	0	0	1	-9	0	1	0	-14
31	74	10	25	23	11	41	59	41	15	98	428

Members and Regular

Attenders under 10

Members and Regular

Attenders 10-13

Members and Regular

Attenders 14-18

Members and Regular

Attenders 19-25

Members and Regular

Attenders 26-35

Members and Regular

Attenders 36-65

Members and Regular

Attenders over 65

						9	12		2		23
			1			3	2		1		7
			2			9	1		1		13
	12	2	2			1	5		0		22
	6	2	0			4	31		3		46
	42	9	8			64	25		6		154
	27	4	9			16	15		6		77

United Meetings

Budget members

*			*	*							3
15.5	74	10	12.5	11.5	11	41	59	41	15	98	388.5

Worship Attendance - Adult

Worship Attendance - Children

Regular non-member attendance

First Day School

Friends in school/college

10	45	10	13	13	0	25	25	14	10	30	195
0	7	0	1	6	0	5	0	6	3	4	32
2	12	3	2	3	0	15	11	5	1	12	66
0	6	1	1	6	0	5	7	6	3	4	39
0	6	5	0	1	0	3	4	7	0	11	37

WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting:	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/12	74	96	13	6	11	15	37	12	264	706
Correction by addition		6							6	7
Births/Adoption	1								1	1
Request of parent(s)									0	0
Convincement	4	2				1			7	11
Children accepted as adults									0	0
Transfers to									0	1
TOTAL GAIN	5	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	20
Correction by subtraction									0	0
Deaths		2							2	2
Removal by request		6							6	14
Children becoming adults									0	0
Transfers from		5							5	7
Loss of Contact		17				1			18	28
TOTAL LOSSES	0	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	31	51
Net gain or loss	5	-22	0	0	0	0	0	0	-17	-31
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/13	79	74	13	6	11	15	37	12	247	675
Members and Regular										
Attendees under 10	17	7							24	47
Members and Regular										
Attendees 10-13	8	2							10	17
Members and Regular										
Attendees 14-18	5	0							5	18
Members and Regular										
Attendees 19-25	24	10							34	56
Members and Regular										
Attendees 26-35	30	16							46	92
Members and Regular										
Attendees 36-65	35	49							84	238
Members and Regular										
Attendees over 65	30	22							52	129
United Meetings									0	3
Budget members	79	74	13	6	11	15	37	12	247	635.5
Worship Attendance - Adult	43	35	12	10	7	13	17	2	139	334
Worship Attendance - Children	5	2	5	0	0	2	0	0	14	46
Regular non-member attendance	20	8	17	4	0	5	6	0	60	126
First Day School	9	2	5	0	0	2	0	0	18	57
Friends in school/college	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	42

Middle Youth Committee Report

The Middle Youth Committee, consisting of Martha Viehmann, Victoria Burke, Rachel Dean, Richard Mitchell, Charles Moore, and Carey Bryson, met during annual sessions and conducted business via email this year. We organized programs for middle schoolers during yearly meeting and joint quarterly and, with the assistance of youth secretary Carol Simmons, planned an overnight to coincide with May's Miami Quarterly meeting. The number of youth that we served in 2013-14 has been small, which makes group dynamics challenging. We look forward to seeing several new middle youth move up from the children's program.

During yearly meeting in 2013, five youth cycled through the program, yet only two attended for most of the session. Joining with other groups (inviting older children to Wilmington's Peace Resource Center, playing ultimate frisbee with young adults, and playing volleyball with teens) helped make the time together more lively. One of our youth invited a friend to attend joint quarterly, which brought the middle school group up to five, a more comfortable number than two! Middle youth participated in an intergenerational round of the Right Sharing of World Resources "Graham Cracker Game," a simulation of the uneven distribution of land, resources, and people in our world. The children, including middle youth, impressed the adult participants with their generosity and clear moral vision. Our youth had no doubt that those of us with more must share. Moments like these make working with our youth programs inspiring.

Carol Simmons expressed interest in helping our committee hold an overnight. It's been several years since the last one. With many children scheduled to move up to our program at yearly meeting, we welcomed the opportunity to invite "new middle youth" to attend their first activity in this smaller setting (youth typically transition between children, middle youth, and teen programs at the end of a school year). Carol planned a wide range of activities for the 24 hour period and found a college-age helper who grew up in Dayton Meeting. Although only three boys were able to spend the night, they quickly made friends and had a wonderful time. The two youth who joined on Sunday had difficulty fitting in. Creating a welcoming atmosphere in a small group with diverse personalities is a challenge.

Staffing for our programs has strayed from the ideal. We prefer to have one male and one female staff, but at joint quarterly, we were only able to hire men, but at yearly meeting, our two staff were both women. We are especially grateful to Rachel Dean who stepped into the role of staff for OVYM 2013 when no one else was available. It is difficult to find people interested in working with this age group who have five free days in the middle of the summer.

The creativity, energy, playfulness, and good humor of this age group are infectious. Their introspection, generosity, and pure spirits touch us deeply. Through our service we experience the joy of nurturing the yearly meeting's youth and the joy of growing and learning from them. Won't you join us? We need two new members on our committee!

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Viehmann, clerk

Teen Committee Report

This year was the first year that the teen Committee has been without the capable leadership of Nikki Coffey Tousley. Without Nikki's competent leadership we have had a rough transition. The Teen Committee should, but did not meet regularly to support the Teen Secretary. As a result the Teen Secretary has had to manage largely on her own this year. Carol has been able to arrange several retreats for the teens including one at Joint Quarter in Happy Hollow in October and a second retreat at Fall Creek in November. Additionally, some OVYM teens also got together with teens from several other Yearly Meetings for the Quake-That-Rocked-the-MidWest in Evanston, Illinois in January. We have been finding it difficult to arrange retreats mid-year as many teens are busy with other activities.

The high point of the Quaker year is the annual service trip which this year is taking place from June 21 – 29 in Philadelphia PA. The group has eleven teens and is assisted with three adults including the Teen secretary. The group is staying at the historic Germantown Meeting house whose origins date from the late 17th century and whose members were early abolitionists. Many of the Teens have been on previous service trips and so a seasoned group, familiar with one another and eager to perform meaningful work, will be laboring on three service projects over this week. These projects are: helping Share Warehouse and Gardens, a community farm project; helping to clean and restore to health the Tookany / Tacony – Frankford watershed; and thirdly, to assist the Philly AIDS Thrift – a thrift store that devotes the proceeds from its sale of donated items to agencies combating the Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome and helping individuals with AIDS.

While traveling, working, cooking and living together for a week the group becomes very close. Times for spiritual reflection are built into the schedule so that the group can integrate into their conscience and world view what they have experienced during the day – experiences which can be surprising and possibly disturbing. Universally, teens who participate in the Service Trip find their sense of Quakerism enriched and their commitment to a simpler life devoted to service strengthened.

In the coming year we look forward to another yearly meeting back at Earlham College and another enriching year of Teen activities.

Peter Hardy

Planning Committee Report

The committee started our work with Paul Kriese clerking, Dinah Duvall continuing her work as recording clerk, and Martha Viehmann, Kay Wheeler, Carol Simmons and Kate Anthony continuing their service from the previous years, along with registrar Eric Wolff regularly attending. New members on the committee were Richard Mitchell and Heather Snediker-Morscheck. Martha represents the Middle Youth and Carol represents the Teen Committee. Our planning would be enhanced by occasional participation of or communication with a representative from the Children's Committee. We met the first time at the close of the 2013 gathering to begin reviewing evaluations and to consolidate our own impressions of the gathering, what worked and what could be improved.

At our fall meeting we had a more detailed review of evaluations, which are always very helpful for guiding the planning committee process. From the evaluations we took a leading towards finding a theme that would integrate looking outward (action in the world) and looking inward (personal

spirituality) and finding plenary speakers who could address this in an engaging way. With worshipful consideration, this led us to this year's theme "Living Up to Our Light" and to suggestions for our plenary speakers. George Lakey, Visiting Professor at Swarthmore College and author of *Powerful Peacemaking: A Strategy for a Living Revolution* and other works and director of Training for Change, will share with us on the "Art of Getting More Light." Susan Stark, Quaker singer/songwriter/songleader/recording artist/peace educator and formerly one of our own OVYM members, will present on "Trying to see the Forest for the Trees with the Fog Rolling In: Reflections on Discernment" in a format both spoken and sung and with audience participation. When both of these noted individuals agreed right away to be plenary speakers, we felt that we had truly been spirit guided. The workshop topics and descriptions suggest that we have succeeded in the goals we had set and we expect to be greatly inspired together.

Unfortunately, soon after that, Paul Kriese found that the pressure of other and new commitments lead him to step down from the committee. We had no one else who felt able to clerk the committee, so we decided to continue on without a clerk. This has been an interesting process and in fact seemed to lead to everyone taking on more responsibility, rather than centering so much of it on the clerk. Every person in the committee stepped up and took on many tasks and we worked very well together. Since it took us awhile to regroup from the loss of our clerk and find our direction again, the committee did not meet again until March 1, in conjunction with the Memorial Meeting for Byron Branson. But through that time we continued our work via email and individual efforts. We met again in April. Through these spring meetings we recruited workshop leaders, developed the schedule, confirmed a service project, dealt with location of all the events and various site issues. We came up with a list of worship sharing leaders and we decided to invite Cindi Goslee and Roland Kreager to be our Living Witness presenters. They were OVYM members for many years and through their work with Right Sharing of World Resources and in many other ways they truly represent our theme of Living Up to Our Light.

We are glad to be back at Earlham this year, and many of the practical details have been made easier by being in a familiar location. We met in late May at the College to tour the site and finalize all the locations and details, as well as assigning site managers for the days of the gathering. Each meeting of the committee led us to be inspired and energized; it is a truly caring and dedicated group. We are anticipating another wonderful gathering this year and are already beginning to look towards the 2015 gathering. We are considering moving the date forward a week in 2015, partly because school starts earlier.

Website Administrator's Report

Administering the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Website continues to be a source of joys and challenges. Regular maintenance of the site, in particular the Calendar, Events, and News Article Pages, takes place at least weekly and we continue to maintain the standard of posting changes within 24 hours of receiving the request.

Because of the amount of available real estate on the individual Monthly Meeting Pages, we would like to remind Monthly Meetings that they can email electronic photos of their activities, copies of newsletters, and information to promote their Meeting to visitors to their Meeting Page, as well as updates to their current information as it changes.

Our Average Daily and Total Monthly visits to the OVYM Website have experienced a slight decrease from 2013 but visits to the website are still higher than in 2011 and 2012. We are averaging 1,350 total visits per month and a daily average of 45 as of the end of May, so we know that people are using the website, both members wanting to keep up with upcoming events and news items, and non members wanting to learn more about us. One hundred nineteen site users have accessed the online Faith and Practice document, 140 accessed the Annual Sessions page, 112 have looked at the pages about OVYM and its history, and the individual Monthly Meeting pages continue to get visited regularly.

Lonny Burger
Website Administrator

Administrative Secretary Report

Clerical Support didn't seem quite accurate so my working title is now Administrative Secretary. The work, by whatever name, continues. Thanks for answering my emails and my requests; I try to answer those I receive as well. When everything doesn't run smoothly, I remember to pray. Please keep in touch.

Deborah Jordan

Quaker Quill Report

Quaker Quill could still use an editor. Deborah Jordan has been the interim editor this year. It is now distributed through an email system called MailChimp, as well as by postal mail. If you are not on one of these lists and would like to be, please contact Deborah.

Publications Coordinator Report

This is my second year of preparing the Reports in Advance, and the process went more smoothly than it did last year. Production of this year's Reports in Advance also got closer to being done entirely with free/libre software. (That's important to me because it feels more consistent with my values to produce Quaker documents with software that prioritizes community sharing instead of a corporation's profits.)

Thanks to everyone who submitted their reports on time! If you have any thoughts about how future editions of this document or the Minute Book could be improved, please let me know.

David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee has been busy this year. Annual reviews were conducted with the Youth Secretary and the Administrative Secretary. In addition, the number of hours worked were reviewed. The job descriptions for those positions were reviewed and updated, along with the associated sections in the OVYM Handbook. Based on this work, new contracts were developed that more clearly describe the work expected from each position. These contracts have now been signed.

In preparation for the addition of a Middle Youth Coordinator, a new job description and the associated Handbook section were written. A master contract has been created for the Middle Youth Coordinator and will be executed when a candidate is selected and approved.

The sections of the Handbook that have been updated are:

- 3.1 **Staff** – a new section, 3.1.3 Middle Youth Coordinator, was added
- 3.2.4 **Treasurer** – designated as an ex-officio member of the Personnel Committee
- 3.6.11 **Personnel Committee** – procedures for appointment and responsibilities were clarified
- 4.5 **Personnel Policy** – updated to reflect the change from employees to contractors

Faith and Practice Committee Report

Committee Members Paul Buckley, Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, Betsy Neale (co-clerk), Wilson Palmer, Rex Sprouse (co-clerk).

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2013-2014

This past year the committee continued to develop and revise texts for the section on Quaker testimonies. In the fall we developed Peace, draft 3, based on comments from the threshing session at the 2013 OVYM sessions. This draft was circulated among monthly meetings for their review and comments. In the spring we developed Peace, draft 4, based on those responses.

As we worked on Peace, draft 3, we realized we need a section to introduce and explain what Quaker testimonies are. We developed Quaker Testimonies, an introduction to the testimonies section, which was sent to monthly meetings over the winter. In May, the committee reviewed the responses received from monthly meetings and created the second draft of this introduction. Over the winter we also developed the first draft of a section on Integrity. This draft was also sent to monthly meetings, and in the spring we developed Integrity, draft 2.

Thus, at this summer's OVYM sessions, the Faith and Practice Committee will present three documents for threshing: Quaker Testimonies, draft 2; Peace, draft 4; and Integrity, draft 2. These documents appear below.

In closing Once again we thank Friends for their participation in the work of *Faith and Practice* revision this past year. We appreciate Friends' patience and faithfulness with this task. We look forward to a productive year in 2014-2015. Monthly meetings can again expect assignments for their review.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee

Quaker Testimonies

2nd Draft

2014-05-31

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you. (George Fox)

Quaker spirituality is grounded in a direct relationship with the Divine. Quaker testimonies are visible manifestations of our corporate spiritual relationship, flowing naturally from a shared experience of God's call. They are not rules we follow or things we do in order to get close to God; they are the fruits of faithfulness. As we follow the guidance of the Inward Light, our lives become simpler and our relationships characterized by integrity, equality, and peace. We are drawn into loving community with each other and with all of creation. We become patterns and examples, because testimonies are outward and public acts – shared expressions of the beliefs of the whole community.

For the first 300 years of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers expressed their inward spiritual relationship through various outward behaviors. These included ministry under the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit; distinctive manners of dress and speech; and the rejection of professional clergy, outward rites and rituals, and what they termed “the world's recreations and pastimes.” Such corporate witness could be dangerous. In times of persecution, publicly identifying with the Society of Friends exposed some to scorn and harassment, fines and imprisonment, even death.

What we now call testimonies have evolved over time. For example, Quaker plain dress, which initially only meant avoiding unnecessary ornamentation, later hardened into the classic gray uniforms for men and women. In the middle of the nineteenth century, most Friends came to see that wearing “plain clothes” was merely a way to enforce outward conformity rather than an expression of an inward spiritual relationship. Today some Friends wear distinctive plain clothes as a personal witness, but most have returned to our earliest understanding of plain dress by adopting a simple, modest appearance.

Continuing revelation also results in new testimonies. For many years, individual Friends felt a personal concern for humanity's relationship with the natural world. More recently, monthly meetings and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting came to see that this is more than a personal witness. Sustainability is a corporate spiritual imperative, in other words, a Quaker testimony.

The origin of our contemporary concept of “Quaker Testimonies” can be found in the mid-twentieth-century writings of Howard Brinton. He proposed that over time Friends had come to realize the social implications of our religious beliefs, and this had resulted in the development of four corporate testimonies – community, harmony, equality, and simplicity. In the intervening years, this list has been

modified and expanded in a number of ways by different groups of Friends. In Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, the Quaker testimonies are generally understood to be simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and sustainability. These are broad categories, not an exhaustive list of the ways in which we witness as a religious society. Each will be addressed in a subsection below.

While living our testimonies can be a source of joy, the Spirit has often directed Friends to challenge the customs and standards of the wider society. Faithfulness may require us to act contrary to comfortable and familiar ways. It can lead us into action we would rather avoid, but if we are true to our calling as Friends, we can do no less.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee

Peace

4th Draft

2014-04-14

What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war...

James 4:1-2 (RSV)

I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars...I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strife were.

George Fox, 1651

Our principle is ... to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all. All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world.

Declaration to Charles II, 1660

May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garment, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possession.

John Woolman, A Plea for the Poor

Through continuing revelation, Friends testimonies against war and for peace have evolved over the centuries. At first, Friends simply refused to participate in war or military service. Over time, Quakers came to understand that mere opposition to war was insufficient and were led to work for peace. Our peace testimony has led us individually and corporately to work for the abolition of practices rooted in violence and coercion and to sow the seeds of peace in our lives and in the world.

We live in a society that glorifies war and entertains itself with images of violence. Friends seek to follow the teaching and example of Jesus in rejecting the use of coercion and violence. We believe that God calls us to live together in the covenant of peace envisioned by George Fox. Our path is

grounded in deep spiritual listening for the guidance of the Inward Teacher, in humility and openness to multiple perspectives.

Living this way requires patience, perseverance, and courage, and often results in legal, social, or financial sacrifices. When faced with military registration and conscription, many Friends claim conscientious objector status or refuse any cooperation with the military. Some refuse to pay war taxes or restrict their incomes to avoid the assessment of such taxes. Some Friends voluntarily place themselves in harm's way in order to witness for peace and against oppression and the use of violence. Friends also encourage governments to refrain from military responses to international conflicts and other acts of violence. Quaker organizations like the American Friends Service Committee and Right Sharing of World Resources contribute to building a more peaceful world.

If violence and war are to be avoided, whether between individuals, groups, or entire nations, their sources must be recognized. The seeds of conflict are in our hearts. Fear, greed, and intolerance wound the human spirit and obscure the Inner Light given to each person. Quaker peace witness seeks to heal these wounds by answering that of God in each person with courage, compassion, and justice.

We believe that God has called us to lead lives of non-violence, seeking creative alternatives to resolve conflicts when they arise in our lives. The path of peace is in many ways at odds with the world around us and may lead us to act in ways that challenge the values of the dominant culture. On occasion, it may also require patience as we lovingly hold the tension of an as-yet-unresolved conflict, awaiting a transformation of mind and heart within others and within ourselves.

Friends have a special responsibility to nurture the spirit of love in young people, teaching them to practice non-violence in their own lives, to stand against coercion and intimidation, and to stand for mutual respect and peace. In this way, we foster a future rooted in peace and freed from historical cycles of violence, resentment, and strife.

Over the centuries, the Inward Light has guided Friends to oppose slavery; to end the death penalty; to improve conditions in prisons; to feed and clothe victims on all sides of wars; to empower the disenfranchised, the outcast, and the stranger. This work continues. As our understanding of God's leadings for us grows, new expressions of our peace witness will emerge, develop, and mature.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee

Integrity

2nd Draft

2014-05-31

"Above all, my beloved, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No,' no." (James 5:12)

"Let your lives and conversations preach, that with a measure of the spirit of God you may reach to that of God in all." (George Fox)

"If the Soul be still thinking and working in her own Will, and busily exercised

in her own Imaginations, though the matters, as in themselves, may be good concerning God, yet thereby she incapacitates herself from discerning the still, small Voice of the Spirit.” (Robert Barclay)

“Fear is a common obstacle to integrity.” (Philip Gulley)

Integrity is expressed when all our words and deeds consistently reflect our most basic values. It is more than simply being true to ourselves and others. The Quaker testimony of integrity places God at the center of our lives. It arises from discerning divine truth as best we can and acting in accordance with that discernment. Such faithfulness leads to wholeness – to the integration of soul, mind, and spirit – expressed in sincerity, honesty, and fair dealing. These outward signs grow out of ongoing, inward work.

Our meeting communities are essential to a life of integrity. We, as individuals, can hear the voice of God only dimly. Impatience may tempt us to follow our own desires. Shame, pride, or insecurity can lead us to seek human approval. It takes patience and humility to stand still in the Light, to genuinely question our sense of a leading, and to submit it to the discernment of our faith communities before we act. When we follow divine guidance, we find the strength and nourishment to be faithful and to speak and act in accordance with Truth in all relationships. Then, there are no boundaries between our religious and secular selves, and integrity becomes our way of life.

Earthcare Committee Report

Earthcare Committee did not meet at the fall joint quarterly meeting as originally planned. We finally met June 21 for an extended meeting and retreat in Oldenberg, Indiana as we have in previous years. Invitations were offered to several potential new members, but only the established members attended. Our focus was again on how to sustain our own Earthcare work as we attempt to inspire attenders at yearly meeting toward reflection and action.

Extreme fossil fuel extraction—such as mountaintop removal, deep ocean drilling, gas fracking, and Canadian tar sands extraction—was again discussed. We plan to show the “Do the Math” film and explore the fossil fuel divestment movement at an evening discussion session next month at Earlham. We also want to make people aware of the challenges to corporate power occurring through the community rights work of Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (celdf.org).

We want to support and balance this kind of political activism through a focus on building neighborhood community. We will have displays that highlight neighbors at work together growing food, tending landscape water flow and rainwater harvesting, and creating wildlife corridors.

Opening to divine Presence in all creation continues to ground us and lead us to seek an Earth restored.

Bill Cahalan, clerk

Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report

The charge of this committee includes the work of the former Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education Committees, which are still separate committees in the OVYM Handbook. Our work includes visitation and consultation with monthly meetings, supporting meetings' diversity and inclusion. nurturing individual leadings to ministry, offering retreats and other programming, and staying in touch with the spiritual wellness of the Yearly Meeting and its Quarterly and Monthly Meetings.

This year,

- a) we offered a day retreat on renewal at Quaker Hill Conference Center. More than twenty attenders from seven monthly meetings spent a sunny spring day together in worship, worship sharing, personal renewal, and fellowship. We look forward to offering more retreats, perhaps in other locations as way opens.
- b) we labored with individual OVYM Friends to discern and articulate callings to ministry in new and creative forms.
- c) we responded to requests from individual meetings for consultation on matters both individual and corporate by arranging timely visits from committee members.
- d) we planned and served supportive roles for the clerks of OVYM sessions.
- e) we began to consider suggestions for nurture and education at the 2014 Joint Quarterly Meeting.
- f) we offered a workshop at the fall Joint Quarter on introducing children to meditative practice.

Our concerns for the future include

- g) The need to identify and support young Friends in OVYM as spiritual resources, especially through the nomination process.
- h) Finding opportunities for meetings to identify and support the wide range of gifts of ministry, including practical service as well as spiritual ministry.
- i) Extending the membership of this committee, especially among younger friends.

Submitted by Andrew Garrison, committee recording clerk

Quaker Heights Care Community Report

Quaker Heights Care Community has struggled most of the year with a low census. This has impacted our finances and our employees. We employed a consultant to assist us with marketing and improve our occupancy rate. Additionally, we discontinued health care as a benefit, and assisted our employees in obtaining health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act. It also was necessary to make some reduction in staff. There appears to be a trend toward lower census in surrounding long term care facilities, and we have learned that several families elected not to come to Quaker Heights because of a lack of private rooms.

We expect to hear soon from HUD regarding a loan for building a new short-term stay rehabilitation wing, and we anticipate ground breaking for this wing in late summer. This would allow us to offer more private rooms and bring in added revenue. We have been able to hold the cost of care for our residents to the same rate charged in 2013, and we gave \$220,000 in charitable care.

The staff at Quaker Heights continued to provide excellent care, and sought innovative ways to improve resident care. A new concierge program, where one employee works with a new resident and family

through admission to the time the resident has settled into the facility, was initiated. To date, the response to this program has been very positive. An emphasis has been placed on resident and employee satisfaction, and our satisfaction scores for both resident/family and employee have been higher than national benchmarks. In early 2014, we had an excellent Ohio Department of Health survey, and we expect that this will increase our rating on the CMS website.

We are striving for a CMS Five star rating on quality measures. To help us achieve this rating we have added more hours from our advanced practice nurse, and as an LPN leaves our employment, we replace this position with a registered nurse.

We continued to partner with Warren County to assist developmentally challenged young adults in learning daily living skills. We added a partnership with Masonic Homes Hospice Division, Cornerstone, and we have reached out to our area hospitals and physicians. Effort has been made to be more visible in the Waynesville area. Several of our administrative persons have participated in local groups. Staff and board members participated in providing rides up the hill to the bus stop for persons who found the walk difficult during the sauerkraut festival.

Our development director, Lisa Gooding, has been able to increase 2013 giving by 25% over 2012. She also applied for and received two grants (\$47,800 and \$13,000) from Friends Services for the Aging Foundation to assist in two of our programs (Concierge-based Deliver Model and the Virtual Quilt).

This has been a difficult year, yet we look forward to being able to improve our financial situation, and continue to “make love visible by service” to our residents and the surrounding area through our partnerships and soon to be short-term stay rehabilitation unit.

Eugenia Mills, Presiding Clerk, Board of Trustees

Friends Music Camp Report

Friends Music Camp is excited for its 35th summer session. We have a solid base of returning campers this year and are looking forward to welcoming many new campers as well. We continue to find that scholarship requests are up, and we are thankful for the yearly meeting’s financial support as well as the support of our individual donors, all of whom enable us to help deserving campers attend FMC.

This year’s campers come from seventeen different states; notably, this year we have an increase in numbers from the Southeast, where the New River Ensemble, a group comprised of FMC staff, toured and recruited for camp in January. The campers will be taking lessons on over twenty different instruments altogether. They will participate in large ensembles such as chorus, musical theater, band, orchestra, and jazz band, as well as a number of smaller groups. As always, we look forward to our annual visit to Yellow Springs, where we perform our concert entitled “Musicians for Justice and Peace” to benefit the Glen Helen ecology center.

Musically, FMC continues to flourish. We continue to welcome campers at all levels of musical ability, proud of each student’s success. Our teachers help campers set individual goals that are appropriately challenging for their level. We believe that FMC is distinctive among many performing arts camps for its cooperative, rather than competitive atmosphere, and many campers and parents tell us how much

campers learn, and how much confidence they gain, from just one month at music camp. Our staff recitals display the wide variety of talents among both our teaching staff and our dorm staff, who collectively play in many different genres. Staff recitals also continue to help us reach out to the local community in Barnesville, who are invited to attend through notices in the newspaper.

The staff community is strong and many of our staff members are returning; some who have been with us for a long time are expanding to new roles. Bonds among staff members, both musical and friendly, help to sustain the larger camp body from year to year, and our staff members have taken much initiative for bringing new campers to camp, often their own private students.

Starting last summer, we have had an increased focus on alumni development and communication, for the main purpose of building community among former music campers, many of whom point to their summers at FMC as a highlight of their adolescence. We also hope to increase knowledge about FMC in the wider musical and Friends communities through this network. We have begun publishing an electronic newsletter, and we have increased our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr; in addition, we are excited to be hosting an alumni “homecoming” weekend this year, and we hope to continue this tradition. We are looking forward to widening our community and welcoming old friends back to campus.

Friends Music Camp appreciates for the yearly meeting’s continued sponsorship and support of our musical growth and our community.

-- submitted by Drea Gallaga, co-director

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

After a number of years of distress, the American Friends Service Committee has recovered its footing and now enjoys again financial stability. This recovery has come at some cost, however, principally by reducing staff and cutting programs. But the organization has been able to maintain its core operations and seems poised to expand in the future. The AFSC currently operates 38 US offices and 15 offices abroad.

Total liabilities and net assets in FY 2009 stood at \$132.6 million. For FY 2013 that number had reached \$157.6 million, an increase of about 19%. While general reserves were negative in just FY 2011, this past year they have reached nearly \$30 million. Over the course of this past year alone net assets grew by \$15.5 million. The AFSCs endowment stands at about \$40 million, and amount that, however, must grow to ensure the organization’s long term viability, especially in light of the volatility of equities markets as well as donations and considering the organizations continuing substantial pension obligations. About 50% of the AFSC’s expenditures are for US programs, 30% for international programs, 11% for fund raising, and 9% for management (a very small number compared to peer organizations).

The AFSC has also successfully restructured and now operates with a smaller board and committee structure.

Among the most prominent AFSC programs have been:

- Anti-poverty work in West Virginia
- Immigration work in Colorado
- Peace Work
 - Partnering with FCNL to produce a booklet, *Shared Security*
 - Advancing peace in the Middle East through the Israel BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) campaign
 - In conjunction with the BDS campaign, AFSC has curated a traveling exhibition: “Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism.”
- Prison reform and abolition: ending mass incarceration and solitary confinement
- Opposing economic injustice and growing inequality
- Resisting unjust discrimination

The AFSC seeks Meeting/Church-AFSC liaisons to help the AFSC connect better with MMs. We encourage you to volunteer.

We also encourage you to visit the AFSC’s *Acting in Faith: Connecting Friends to the Work of AFSC* blog and to subscribe to the *Acting in Faith* newsletter: www.afsc.org/friends

The AFSC publishes *Quaker Action* magazine, covering issues related to Quaker activism.

Reporting:

Peter S. Fosl (Louisville MM)

Jana Schroeder (Richmond MM)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God’s spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. For more than 70 years, FCNL has carried on this witness of the Spirit through action on Capitol Hill. Governed by a General Committee of 184 Friends that includes representatives of 25 yearly meetings and seven Quaker organizations around the country, FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation’s capital.

Driven by faith.

At FCNL’s Annual Meeting in November 2013, the General Committee approved a new statement of legislative policy entitled *The World We Seek*. Revised every ten years, the new document was the product of an 18-month process of prayerful discernment involving more than 240 Friends meetings and churches. The statement sets forth FCNL’s broad objectives for public policy and is the foundational document for FCNL’s legislative priorities, which are set every two years. Meetings and churches have been invited to participate in setting the new legislative priorities, which will be approved at Annual Meeting this November, just after the congressional elections.

Grounded in policy.

In 2013 FCNL welcomed a record 271 people to our Annual Meeting. During Quaker Lobby Day prior to the start of Annual Meeting, 200 people visited 140 congressional offices to urge Congress to invest

in our communities and impose budget discipline on the Pentagon. In the last year alone, Friends in FCNL have made more than 300 personal visits to lobby congressional offices in Washington and in their local districts. Our national FCNL network has also sent 126,000 issue-related messages to Congress, and in the first two months of 2014, Friends in FCNL published 60 letters to the editor in newspapers around the country.

Focused on the future.

A record number of young adults attended FCNL's Annual Meeting, providing energy, innovation and leadership for the future of Quaker advocacy. As I write this report, FCNL is preparing to host Spring Lobby Weekend, at which more than 150 high school and college students from around the country will learn, through skill building and policy seminars, about Quakers and government, public policy advocacy and how Congress works. This year our young adults will be lobbying Congress for repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. By creating opportunities for young people to engage in peace and social justice policy during the formative years of their lives, FCNL is ensuring that Friends' values will help shape public policy for years to come.

We are thankful for the meetings and churches, yearly meetings and individuals who provide FCNL with sustained and vital support. We are convinced by our faith and experience to continue building the peaceful, just, equitable and sustainable global community we seek. Above all, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

DeAnne Butterfield, Clerk
FCNL General Committee, March 2014

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war
We seek a society with equity and justice for all
We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled
We seek an earth restored

FCNL's staff and volunteers work with a nationwide network of thousands of people to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, care for the earth and good government. The following is a list of some of the issues that have been the focus of our work in 2013-2014:

Words into Action in Central African Republic: FCNL played a behind-the-scenes leadership role in connecting on-the-ground relief groups and conflict prevention experts with members of Congress and the administration. FCNL coordinated and drafted a policy document signed by nine colleague organizations urging a comprehensive U.S. government strategy to address the violence in the Central African Republic. The document was used by FCNL staff, who worked closely with the administration to help form the White House response to this ongoing crisis.

Campaign Finance: Last month, the 18 faith communities of the Faith and Democracy Working Group, including Quakers, sent a letter to Congress urging support for a Constitutional amendment to repair the damage done by the Citizens United case. FCNL co-convened the group that last fall finished brief reports on three topical areas where money in politics has skewed or prevented congressional debate on issues of importance to faith groups. The selected topics were climate change, gun violence and private prisons.

Hope for Averting War: FCNL's persistent and strategic lobbying on Capitol Hill has helped keep the door open for diplomacy with Iran. The historic first-step nuclear deal with Iran is significant movement toward a final agreement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. FCNL lobbyists in Washington have worked closely with administration officials and congressional offices to support negotiations with Iran. Grassroots advocates have been in regular contact with members of Congress to support these steps toward peace and security in the Middle East. We believe that these new diplomatic talks are the best opportunity in more than 30 years to end the cycle of confrontation between our countries.

Advocating for Rebalanced Federal Budget Priorities: The FCNL community worked very hard on the \$850 billion reduction in Pentagon spending over 10 years that Congress approved. Yet the military budget is still far too bloated at a time when funds for necessary domestic programs are dwindling. We continue to press assertively for better budget priorities that serve human and community needs.

A New Approach to Climate Disruption: FCNL is partnering with faith, citizen, diversity and youth communities on the local, state and national level to ask elected representatives to acknowledge the reality and impact of climate disruption as a moral issue. FCNL advances the shared concern for and commitment to Creation and lifts the voices of people of faith, young people and people from communities directly affected by climate disruption. Through this lens of a shared future, the initiative strives to minimize partisanship and create political space for meaningful legislative solutions.

Repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF): We have the best opportunity in more than 12 years to roll back the law that has kept our country in an endless war since 2001. Passed immediately after the 9/11 attacks, the AUMF has been used to justify not only the war in Afghanistan but also everything from indefinite detentions at Guantanamo Bay, to a growing number of drone attacks, to widespread warrantless wiretapping. This year we are working hard to repeal the AUMF in the House through intensive Hill lobbying and a focused mobilization around the country.

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

FGC Programs and Services

FGC continues to offer many programs and services to monthly meetings and yearly meetings including, Quaker Quest, Faith and Play, Traveling Ministries, Ministry for Inclusion (Racism, Youth), Couple Enrichment, Quaker Cloud, Religious Education, Friends Meeting House Fund QuakerPress, QuakerFinder, Stewardship Services and the New Meetings Project. Monthly meetings may invite a traveling minister to come and do a program or a form of Gospel Ministry through the traveling ministries program. The bookstore, quakerbooks.org continues to offer a wide range of Quaker titles. The New Meetings project has launched a new website this year containing tools for both new and old meetings, available at newmeetingsproject.org. The New Meetings Project has also received a grant in the past year to intentionally plant new meetings. They will be hiring six friends to move to locations where there currently is no Quaker meeting to start one. For more information about FGC Programs and services visit fgcquaker.org.

FGC Gathering

The 2014 FGC Gathering was held at University of California Pennsylvania. The theme was Let Love be the First Motion. The 2015 FGC Gathering will be held in the mountains of North Carolina at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee in July.

Spiritual Deepening

In line with FGC's priorities of Deep Worship, Loving Community and Outreach, FGC held a Spiritual Deepening Consultation at Pendle Hill, March 6-9 2014. Sixty-four Friends, including representatives from all of FGC's affiliated yearly meetings, gathered to explore how FGC can support spiritual deepening within the Religious Society of Friends. The vision statement explored at that consultation was to: "Make the full depth, joy and fire of Quaker faith and practice highly available, teachable and experiential for those who are or would become part of our faith communities." FGC has hired a limited term Spiritual Deepening Coordinator to create programming around this vision and the results of the Spiritual Deepening consultation.

Respectfully Submitted, Shannon Isaacs

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report

Friends from all over the eastern half of North America gathered from April 11 to 13 in High Point, North Carolina. FWCC Section of the Americas is undergoing a massive restructuring with the hopes of engaging more Friends in FWCC's ministry. As part of this experiment, FWCC SoA will have regional gatherings every other year and meet as a whole in the years in between. Next year's gathering will take place in Bolivia, and will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

In contrast to previous events, no business was conducted at this gathering. The majority of the program was devoted to workshops which were geared to build skills that Friends might find useful. Howie attended a workshop on conflict transformation which was presented by Friends from New York YM. Josh attended a workshop by Lisa Graustein and Debbie Humphries from New England YM which explored deep listening and communication.

But the jewel of this gathering was the time with small groups. Howie was privileged to facilitate a small group where programmed and unprogrammed Friends discussed their frustrations with how the concept of sin is abused, and (if time had permitted) might have found unity around a way to use this tricky theology in a healing manner. It is conversations like this that continue FWCC's healing ministry between the branches of Friends in the USA.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Report

It's my hope that most Friends are already familiar with the Quaker Earthcare Witness network. But if not, QEW is a network of Friends (Quakers) in North America and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. At the 2014 Spring meeting we reaffirmed our original purpose statement which is: To search and help others to search for that life which affirms the unity of all creation; To apply and to help others to apply Friends' practice to live in deep communion with all life spirit; To be guided by and to help others to be guided by the light within us to participate in the healing of the earth; To provide resources, networking, and support to Yearly and Monthly Meetings, and to others of whatever persuasion; to help them in their search for effective ways to achieve the above objectives; To provide a reflective and energetic forum that will strengthen and deepen that spiritual unity with nature which values the integrity, diversity, and continuity of life on earth.

Almost all Yearly Meetings have at least one representative who is encouraged to attend one or both QEW's yearly Steering Committee meetings and will join one or two standing committees or working groups of their choice and he/she also serves as a liaison to their Monthly and Yearly Meetings. OVYM appoints a representative for a 2-year term which can be renewed and I am currently in my third year. I am a member of the Nominating Committee and the Sustainability, Faith and Action working group. There are currently 9 standing committees and 7 ad-hoc and working groups.

A good way to learn more about QEW is to explore their website at: <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>
You will find links that allow you to:

Join the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness with your energy, ideas, and efforts; by joining, you will receive an email subscription to the bi-monthly journal, *BeFriending Creation* and the alternate bi-monthly newsletter, *Resources for Earthcare Action*.

Join the QEW Discussions email list and join in conversations Friends have on current earthcare issues and initiatives.

Like our Facebook page and get updates and news links related to Earthcare issues.

Order and share pamphlets produced by QEW.

Submit an article, photo, poem, or book review to their publications coordinator for possible publication on the website or inclusion in *BeFriending Creation*;

Become a QEW Yearly Meeting or Monthly Meeting representative;

Come to the gatherings in fall and spring;

Apply for a QEW Mini-Grant and complete an Earth-friendly project in your meeting;

Make a donation to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

I was unable to attend the Fall Gathering on October 2013 where the focus was on The Impact of Population on Climate Change: Our Response? I did attend the 2014 Spring Steering Committee Meeting in Chicago. Quaker Earthcare Witness has seen a lot of changes in the last year. Anne Mitchell stepped down from her role as Secretary General after 3 years. Our new Secretary General is Shelley Tanenbaum and she gave a wonderful report that highlighted QEW's concerns and new initiatives. We also have a new clerk in Roy Taylor. Shelley and Roy will be available to speak or conduct an interest group about QEW at Yearly Meetings or come and visit Monthly Meetings as requested by contacting the Publications Coordinator, Katherine Murray (http://www.quakerearthcare.org/email/node/281/field_email) The Sustainability, Faith and Action Working Group has been actively working on the fossil fuel divestment issue. You can read several articles about this issue in *Befriending Creation* Nov.-Dec. 2013 issue, which can be read on-line. I always love to hear the reports from the UN Working Group and the FCNL Working Group. They work hard to keep us up-to-date on current issues.

The October 2014 session will be held at Pendle Hill and the theme will be contemplative action. I encourage you to visit the QEW table at our Yearly Meeting where you will find among all the free published tri-fold pamphlets and other information a new pamphlet Contemplative Action in the Time of Climate Change.

Submitted by Ria Collee, Bloomington Monthly Meeting.

Quaker Heritage Center Report

If this year had a theme word, it would be **REASSESS**. We've been reassessing everything – from the programs we offer to the exhibits we host to the way the office functions. We (myself, the student staff, other Wilmington College staff, individuals in other Quaker organizations, and museum professionals from across the state) have taken the opportunity to examine every aspect of the work of the Quaker Heritage Center this year. Our first three years were spent figuring out who we were as an organization. The next five years were spent building our track record and our reputation. And so this – our ninth year of operations – seemed like an appropriate and natural time to look back...**and look forward**.

Since last year's report, we have hosted nine different exhibits in the Quaker Heritage Center Gallery. We Travel to Learn (March 18 – August 5, 2013) featured the stories of Wilmington College students, faculty, and staff who have traveled with the assistance of the Isaac Harvey Fund. We hosted *Ohio in the Civil War* (July 1 – July 29, 2013) from the Ohio Historical Society's CW150 program, an exhibit that I helped to develop several years ago, including the story of the Quaker response to the war. *Inspired by Cranes: The Art of Craig Dove* (August 12 – September 27, 2013) was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the work of a local artist whose inspiration came from the 1500+ paper cranes hanging in the gallery. We followed that with another art exhibit, *A Show of Respect: A Body of Work Painted for the Children of War* (October 7 – December 13, 2013). On loan from the Missing Peace Art Space in Dayton, this powerful exhibit proved to be a great conversation-starter with the visitors from the Freshman "Individual in a Global Society" classes. We started the new year with a bang by hosting *Journey Stories* (January 8 – February 7, 2014) from the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program, with support from the Ohio Humanities Council. We worked closely with the Wilmington Public Library for the programming for this grant-support exhibit, and hosted numerous public programs and school tours. Related to this large exhibit, we opened *A Quaker Journey Story*, a semi-permanent student-researched exhibit featuring items from the Meriam R. Hare Collection. The spring saw *The Long March* (March 19 – May 2, 2014) from the Herblock Foundation and *Freedom Riders* (March 19 – April 16, 2014) from the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, two exhibits examining the Civil Rights Movement, which proved very popular with the community. Currently, we are displaying *Images of Wilmington Yearly Meeting* (May 12 – July 11, 2014), the product of a year-long internship by Hannah Finnegan Anderson, Wilmington College Class of 2014. This exhibit was designed to travel, and is available – in whole or in part – to any interested monthly meeting or organization.

At the invitation of the Ohio Humanities Council, I prepared two posters (one on Larry Gara and one on Luther Warren) for an exhibit hosted by Wittenberg University in September, *Voices of Peace in Southwest Ohio*. This traveling exhibit has been touring the state and will be at Wilmington College sometime in the 2014/2015 academic year.

This was an exhausting year, in terms of exhibits, and while the student staff and I were pleased with each of the exhibits, we were frustrated by the pace of the exhibit calendar, which did not allow for very much programming. And so, we **REASSESSED** our exhibit calendar for the coming year, cutting back on the number of exhibits, but expanding on the related programming opportunities. *The Pity of War: Words and Images of World War I* (July 28 – December 12, 2014) will open on the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I. In addition to be a completely student-produced exhibit, the 5-month run will allow for multiple guest speakers on a variety of topics in the summer and fall, and a special musical performance in November. In the spring, we'll present *What If They Gave a War and Nobody Paid? War Tax Resistance Among American Friends* (January 12 – July 31, 2014). Presented in conjunction with war tax resistance research conducted by Earlham School of Religion Faculty Member Lonnie Valentine, this exhibit will provide historical context for the contemporary movement...and opportunities for visitors to consider their own role in funding the military. Another bit of **REASSESSMENT** came as I worked with the Wilmington Public Library to evaluate our programming with Journey Stories. Our brilliant conclusion? Never host a major exhibit with multiple programming opportunities during the depths of winter!

Another important part of our work is preserving the artifacts that are so important to the history of Friends in our region. We were blessed this year with a number of artifact donations, including a large collection from the Collett family. It was this donation that led to the **REASSESSMENT** of our collections management procedures...I know, unless you're a museum registrar, that sounds really dull, but trust me, it's not! We were also blessed with a financial gift that allowed our student staff – Bri Knisley and Isaac Garrison – to work full-time for one week between the fall and spring semesters to implement that change in procedure.

Each year, we touch the lives of hundreds through visits, tours, and programs at the Quaker Heritage Center: I welcomed Junior Campers and their counselors from Quaker Knoll (23) in June; provided an introduction to Wilmington's Quaker history to members of the Clinton County Fellows Class of 2013 (8) in July; partnered with member of the Isaac Harvey Fund Committee to host a program (35) sharing student travel experiences in the past year in November; hosted a showing of "The Grapes of Wrath" (8) as part of the programming for Journey Stories in January; provided tours of *Journey Stories* and related educational programming to students from The Experiential Academy (41) and Lebanon Christian School (52) in January; provided a tour of *Journey Stories* for members of the Greenfield (OH) Baptist Church (10) in January; provided a tour of Freedom Riders and The Long March for the Columbus YMCA Youth Service Club (9) in April; hosted a film showing of "The Freedom Riders" (15) in April; partnered with Campus Friends Meeting to host Paul Buckley speaking on Elias Hicks (32) in April; hosted Patti Kinsinger and Lee Bowman for "A Shared History: Selections from the Archives of Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Wilmington College" (31) in May; presented "William's Story," an educational program on Quaker settlement of Southwest Ohio for 3rd graders from Denver Elementary School (108) and East End Elementary School (37) in May; and welcomed the members of the Heritage Advisory Council for a program on successful internships (6) in May.

Attendance at various events this year led to another **REASSESSMENT** in terms of exhibit openings: if we want people to attend exhibit openings at the Quaker Heritage Center, we need to offer a formal speaker or program, not just a "mix and mingle" event...so watch for exhibit opening programs in the coming year!

In addition to on-campus programming, I also: provided programming for campers at Quaker Knoll's Day Camp and Beginner Camp (50) in June; presented a program on the Underground Railroad in Clinton County at the Wilmington Public Library (10) and Clinton Massie Branch Library (10) in July; worked with the Clinton County Historical Society, Wilmington College's Watson Library, and the Wilmington News Journal to present "Friendship Out of Adversity: The German POW Experience in Clinton County" (100); presented "Filling the Need for Programs Teachers Can't Live Without" (45) at the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting in October; presented "Caring for Your Family's Treasures" for the Greenfield Genealogy Society (9) in April; discussed Quaker involvement in the Civil Rights Movement with a GED class at Southern State (14) at the invitation of Judy Santee. The Quaker Heritage Center and the *Freedom Riders* and *Long March* exhibits were also featured on The City Show in March.

Two major points of **REASSESSMENT** came early in the year, both of which were associated with the Ohio Local History Corps AmeriCorps program. For the past three years, the Quaker Heritage Center has hosted an AmeriCorps member as a part of the program sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society. The members were each tasked with different individual projects, but all with a common goal: organizational sustainability. Because those members (Sonja Koehler in 2010/2011, Melanie Janiszewski in 2011/2012, and Cathy Harrelson in 2012/2013) did their jobs so well, we determined in July that as we had no need for their continued support, we would not apply to host an AmeriCorps member for the 2013/2014 program year. Sadly, we were also faced with the decision to discontinue our annual 4th grade history program in September. Although the program was very well received in 2012 and 2013, changes in the local schools made it impossible for their participation in the program in 2014.

Almost ten months after submitting the initial application, and after a serious **REASSESSMENT** of the sites included on the route, in February we received word from the Ohio Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways Program that we have been approved to move onto the Designation Phase of the Quaker Scenic Byway project. Thanks to the continuing hard work of the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission, volunteer historian Christine Hadley Snyder, and project manager Sonja Koehler, the 50-mile route (which includes museums, homes, scenic vistas, parks, and neighborhoods that all help to illustrate the impact Friends have had on the lives of those in Southwest Ohio) is on its way to being a reality. The Designation Phase calls for community involvement, so watch for announcements of public meetings in the coming months.

As usual, I spent quite a bit of time this year "on the road" sharing the mission and vision of the Quaker Heritage Center with members of Wilmington Yearly Meeting at their annual sessions and participants in Earlham School of Religion's Quaker Leadership Conference in August, members of the Ohio Local History Alliance in October, and attendees at the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Annual Meeting in November. This summer I will be visiting Wilmington and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, participating in Friends United Meeting's Triennial, and attending Friends General Conference's Annual Gathering. This last comes from a college-wide **REASSESSMENT** of our relationship with the wider body of Friends.

As a part of the Wilmington College campus community, I was able to provide training in exhibit research, development, and design for two students. I have continued as a member of the Isaac Harvey Fund Committee, a member of Staff Council, the WISE (Wilmington Institute for Stewardship & Engagement) Advisory Committee, and served as the Coordinator for the Westheimer Peace Symposium, where I worked closely with Eric Guindon as the new coordinator of the Wilmington

College Peace Resource Center, **REASSESSING** the role the Peace Resource Center can – and should – play in that signature event. I was also invited to serve as part of the Search Committee for the new faculty member in the History Department, and as an advisor for a Senior History research project. In the wider Quaker community, I continue my involvement as a Trustee for Friends United Meeting. In the wider museum community, I was invited to serve on the History Fund Grant Application Review Committee and the Ohio Historical Society's AmeriCorps Host Site Application Review Committee. I continue to represent the Quaker Heritage Center and Wilmington College at Wilmington/Clinton County Chamber of Commerce events and in the Clinton County Young Professionals group.

None of what we have accomplished this year – nor any of what we have planned for next year – would be possible without the generous financial support we receive from numerous individuals. To each and every one of you, I offer my heartfelt gratitude. To those of you who have not considered donating to the Quaker Heritage Center, I offer you this opportunity to **REASSESS!**

With gratitude,

Ruth M. Brindle
Curator, Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College
Intersection of College & Douglas Streets—1870 Quaker Way—Pyle Center 1182
Wilmington, OH 45177
937/382-6661 x 719—qhc@wilmington.edu
www.wilmington.edu/qhc—www.facebook.com/QuakerHeritageCenter

William Penn House

William Penn House is one of the best kept secrets in Washington, D.C. It provides bed and breakfast for amounts lower than anywhere else in D.C. It is a Quaker witness in D.C. William Penn House is blocks from The Capitol, The Library of Congress, and many other D.C. places. It hosts many meetings between people in government discussing issues of national import. It hosts high school and college students and is a place for them to base their seminars about D.C. and his workings. It is a place where work camps are organized. The House provides a daily Meeting for Worship. It also bed and breakfast for delegates from Yearly Meetings who come to D. C. for the annual FCNL meetings. Those who come for FCNL are provided a room the night before the sessions and breakfast that morning in time for people to go cross town for the FCNL meetings

Paul Kriese

Executive Committee Minutes 2013-14

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
Executive Committee
10th Month, 5th Day, 2013
Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio

1. The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee: Representative(s):

Miami Quarterly Meeting:

Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Kate Anthony
Dayton	No representative
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	No representative
Green Plain	No representative
Lexington	Richard Mitchell and Betsy Neale
Louisville	David Klaphaak and Howie Baker
Miami	Lonny Burger
Oxford	Shannon Murray
Yellow Springs	Deb Kociszewski
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Veronica Frost sent regrets

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting:

Bloomington	No representative
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	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

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk	Steve Angell
Assistant Clerk	Rex Sprouse
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk	No representative

Publications Coordinator	No representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer

Standing and Special Committees:

Budget and Finance	Wilson Palmer
Faith and Practice	Rex Sprouse
Naming Committee	No representative
Nominating Committee	Ben Griffith sent regrets
Peace and Social Concerns	Betsy Neale
Religious Nurture and Education	David Garman
Personnel Committee	Wilson Palmer
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee	Kate Anthony
Children's Program	No representative
Middle Youth	Martha Viehmann
Teen Activities	No representative

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan sent regrets
Youth Secretary	No representative

Liaisons:

Quaker Heights Care Community	Wilson Palmer
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney sent regrets

Not required to attend Executive Committee but Welcome:

Auditor	Veronica Frost sent regrets
Braddock Trustees	No representative
Records Coordinator	No representative
Statistician	Frank Huss sent regrets
Webmaster	Lonny Burger

3. Agenda

Agenda was approved.

4. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

Report is attached. The report shared today is the final fiscal report for 2012/2013.

Change to note since 2013 Sessions:

The teen committee requested that any remaining funds in their account be added to the next year's resources for them. Their annual service trip is close to the end of our fiscal year which delays the exact budget report.

Most Yearly Meeting Sessions final expenses are included, but there are a few items that are not settled. Expenses were less than expected and less than the previous year at Earlham.

The budget item "Clerk's Expenses" will be changed to "Officers' Expenses" to provide a resource for all officers of the Yearly Meeting.

Report was accepted.

5. Young Adult Friends Proposal for Creating a New Committee, Howie Baker

With encouragement, the Young Adult Friends Committee was established as a standing committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and given the tasks of revising their proposal to create the committee charge and preparing a budget proposal for the Budget and Finance Committee. The treasurer will aid the committee with financial concerns.

6. On-Line Directory, Lonny Burger

The issue of having the directory available on the website was discussed. Security is the top priority. It was recommended to have hard copies and a computer file available by request from individuals and meetings having a legitimate reason to have a copy. Also, Yearly Meeting staff is capable of communicating with all members.

7. Quaker Quill

Deborah Jordan is still responsible for The Quaker Quill until a new person is found.

8. The Yearly Meeting Minute Books for 2013 are available.

9. Website report, Lonny Burger

No changes. Thanks and praise to Lonny for the great work he does and the speed in which he does it.

10. Statistician, Frank Huss

Frank was unable to attend, but sent a request to change the data that the Yearly Meeting requests from Monthly Meetings. The recommendation was approved for age categories in data collection to match the Yearly Meeting's age group designation for children, middle youth, youth and young friends. The upper age categories could also be changed.

11. Budget and Finance, Wilson Palmer

Nothing new since yearly meeting. Report was accepted.

12. Nominating Committee, Ben Griffith sent report

Ben sent a report but was unable to attend.

There is a person considering *The Quaker Quill* Editor Position. It was suggested to consider making this a paid position or adding it to the Yearly Meeting's paid staff responsibilities and increasing that person's pay. It will be revisited at the next Executive Committee meeting.

There is need for new members of nominating and naming committees. Names were shared from the silence. Betsy Neale and David Garman will continue serving on the Naming Committee, but Rex Sprouse will not since he is now Assistant Clerk.

Steve Angell and Rex Sprouse will draft a realistic explanation of the current nominating and naming process and bring it to the February Executive Committee meeting.

13. Peace and Social Concerns, Richard Mitchell

The scheduling of the pre-meeting workshop presented by this committee at the beginning of Yearly Meeting Sessions will be looked at with a concern to not conflict with the work project and to make it more a part of the sessions. The growing gap between rich people and poor people is a committee priority.

14. Youth Committees

The Middle Youth Committee, Martha Viehmann

Shortage of Staff for Quarterly Meeting and other events is an ongoing issue.

Young Adult Friends, Howie Baker

Young Adults Friends is now a standing committee!!

15. Faith and Practice Committee, Rex Sprouse

Friends' input is needed for the revision process, but are asked to have faith in this committee for the word-by-word editing.

In response to a query regarding the recording of ministers, the committee prepared a report which is attached.

16. Middle Youth Staff Person

Martha Viehmann presented a draft of the job description of the Middle Youth Staff person. Her report was accepted. The details are charged to the personnel committee to bring back to the Executive Committee in February with the hopes that this position will be filled by July 1st 2014.

17. Religious Nurture and Education, David Garman

There is a retreat scheduled for April 25 – 27, 2014. Contact Diann Herzog with suggestions for topics. Report was accepted.

18. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Kate Anthony

The theme for the 2014 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Session will be: Living Up To The Light.

Two plenary speakers have confirmed: George Lakey and Susan Stark. Report was accepted.

19. Quaker Heights Care Community, Wilson Palmer

They are struggling to keep their census numbers higher. Friends are asked to recommend Quaker Heights Care Community to friends and family. Report was accepted.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be a conference call on 10:00 am February 1st 2014.

The meeting ended in grateful worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terre Holada

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
2nd Month, 1st Day, 2014
Telephone Conference Call

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

2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	Dale Hayes sent regrets
Community	Deborah Jordan and Frank Huss
Dayton	Nikki Coffee-Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	No Representative
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Betsy Neale, Richard Mitchell
Louisville	Howie Baker and David Klathaak
Miami	Lonnie Burger
Oxford	Steve Angell, Paul Kriese
Yellow Springs	Veronica Frost, Carol Simmons
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Veronica Frost
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting	
Bloomington	No Representative
Clear Creek	Jane Stowe, David Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	Michelle Tomarelli
North Meadow Circle	No Representative
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Officers	
Presiding Clerk	Steve Angell
Assistant Clerk	Rex Sprouse
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk	No Representative
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	No Representative
Standing and Special Committees	
Budget and Finance	Wilson Palmer
Faith and Practice	Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale

Naming	Betsy Neale
Nominating	Ben Griffith
Peace and Social Concerns	Jane Stowe
Religious Nurture and Education	Rex Sprouse
Personnel	Wilson Palmer
YM Planning	No Representative
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	No Representative
Teen Activities	Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Carol Simmons

Liaisons

Quaker Heights Care Community	Frank Huss
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney sent regrets

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor	No Representative
Braddock Trustees	No Representative
Personnel Committee Representatives	Veronica, Auditor
Records Coordinator	No Representative
Statistician	Frank Huss
Web Administrator	Lonnie Burger

3. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

The report is attached. The new budget will be written soon, so Friends with recommendations should contact Wilson.

Report was accepted with gratitude to Wilson for all his work.

4. Youth Secretary's Report, Carol Simmons

Eight teens attended *The Quake That Rocks the Midwest*. The next service trip will be to Philadelphia in June. The teens want to focus on homelessness and water as well as explore their Quaker heritage. Heather Snediker-Morscheck of Yellow Springs Meeting Monthly and Susan Lee Barton from Friends General Conference are helping. Other activities are still being planned as well as fund raising and an international trip in 2015. Possible fund raising activities include an Etsy account selling crafts and activities in individual Monthly Meetings. Carol is planning on visiting monthly meetings to share the program more in depth.

Report was accepted.

5. Clerical Support

Deborah Jordan reported that all is well.

6. Quaker Quill, Deborah Jordan

Deborah is acting Quill editor and always looking for submissions. The next issue will be finished this next week.

7. Statistical Report, Frank Huss

The report is being updated. Forms were sent out to Monthly Meetings

8. Finance Committee, Wilson Palmer

There was discussion of continuing with the mileage rates from the Federal government for charitable and business purposes. The Budget and Finance Committee should continue to publicize that Friends can, and many do, donate all or a portion of this expense. The matter was referred back to the committee for further consideration.

9. Audit Committee, Veronica Frost

Report was accepted as submitted. Much appreciation was given to the Treasurer and this committee. Monthly Meetings should be reassured that the Yearly Meeting is being a good steward of their money.

10. Naming Committee, Betsy Neale

Yoshiya Togami was submitted and approved for Nominating Committee. The report was accepted with thanks.

11. Clerk's Table, Rex Sprouse

A draft of the Procedures for Nominating and Naming was shared.

The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service as Yearly Meeting officers and representatives and for service on most of the Yearly Meeting's committees. A crucial aspect of this discernment process involves worshipful discussions with Friends about the gifts, skills, and responsibilities associated with various service opportunities. It should be understood that Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee brings forward names for Friends' consideration. Final approval rests with the Yearly Meeting gathered at annual sessions or with Yearly Meeting Executive Committee between annual sessions.

The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Naming Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. A crucial aspect of this discernment process involves worshipful discussions with Friends about the gifts, skills, and responsibilities associated with service on Nominating Committee. It should be understood that Yearly Meeting Naming Committee brings forward names for Friends' consideration. Final approval rests with the Yearly Meeting gathered at annual sessions or with Yearly Meeting Executive Committee between annual sessions.

Yearly Meeting Executive Committee appoints Friends to serve on the Naming Committee.

Questions and comments were shared.

12. Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Jane Stowe

The committee is distributing the Minute that was approved at the 2013 Sessions of Yearly Meeting on Nuclear Weapons Abolishment. The committee is preparing an Economic Inequality workshop for yearly meeting. The report was accepted.

13. Personnel Committee, Wilson Palmer

There was concern as to the make up and functioning of this committee. An ad-hoc committee was formed and a pay raise was granted to contractual staff.

The clerk charged the committee to focus on the Personnel Handbook to help this committee function better. There are other personnel issues that are not being dealt with. A middle-youth staff person position is still being developed and the Personnel Handbook needs revision. This committee will also serve as a resource to Yearly Meeting Committee Clerks who have paid staff helping them. There was approval for this charge.

Steve Angell will find a convener or convene this committee.

14. Faith and Practice, Rex Sprouse

A document the third draft of the subsection on Peace and the first draft of the brief overview of Quaker Testimonies has been distributed and the committee is waiting for feedback from Monthly Meetings.

The committee is also working on the first draft of the subsection on Integrity and is hoping to distribute that soon.

The report was accepted.

15. Nominating Committee, Ben Griffith

There is still a need for someone to accept leadership of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Ben will convene the Budget and Finance Committee.

The committee is still looking for someone to take over *The Quaker Quill* and the Assistant Treasurer position.

Report was accepted.

16. Religious Nurture and Education Committee, Rex Sprouse

No report.

17. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Paul Kriese

No report.

18. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report, Rex Sprouse

From Rex:

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends met for business on Tenth Month 12, 2013, in the context of the Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp near Nashville, IN. The Presiding Clerk shared with Friends that his service as Clerk will end at the end of his current term, that is, at the end of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions in summer 2014. Friends appointed a Nominating Committee charged with bringing forward at the next session of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting the name of a Friend to serve as the next Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Clerk. This committee includes Marcia Ankrom, Michele Tomarelli, and Emmanuel Greene. The winter session of the Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for First Month 19, 2014 had to be cancelled due to hazardous travel conditions across the State of Indiana. The spring session is scheduled for Fourth Month 2014 at Lafayette Friends Meeting. The date is yet to be confirmed.

19. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report, Veronica Frost

Two ad-hoc committees were formed. The first will be a search committee for a location for the 2015

Joint-Quarterly Meeting in a more central location for Miami Quarter. The second is to address the issue of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting financially supporting Joint Quarterly Meeting. The next Miami Quarterly Meeting will be February 16th at Miami Monthly Meeting.

Friends approved the minutes.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held fourth month 5, 2014 in Richmond, possibly at Earlham School of Religion, at noon. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet earlier, possibly at 10am.

Submitted,
Terre Holada
Recording Clerk, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting
April 5, 2014
Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH.**

Present:

Stephen Angell (OVYM Presiding Clerk, Oxford MM)
Paul Buckley (OVYM Assistant Recording Clerk & Personnel Committee Clerk, Community MM)
Deborah Jordan (OVYM Administrative Support, Community MM)
Milton Cook (Miami MM)
Peg Champney (Friends Music Institute, Yellow Springs MM)
Lonny Burger (OVYM Web Administrator, Miami MM) Linda
Sears (Campus MM)
Wilson Palmer (OVYM Treasurer, Eastern Hills MM)
Carol Simmons (OVYM Youth Secretary, Yellow Springs MM)
Diann Herzog (OVYM Religious Nurture & Education Clerk, Fall Creek MM)
Susan Hyde (OVYM Records Co-coordinator, Yellow Springs MM)
Deb Kociszewski (Yellow Springs MM) Fred
Feitler (Fort Wayne MM)
Ben Griffith (OVYM Budget & Finance Committee Clerk, Lexington MM) Paul
Kriese (Oxford MM)
Rex Sprouse (OVYM Assistant Presiding Clerk, Whitewater QM Presiding Clerk, Faith & Practice
Committee Clerk, Fall Creek MM)

Regrets:

David Garman (Clear Creek MM)
Terre Holada (OVYM Recording Clerk, Fort Wayne MM) Ann
Pellegrino (Lafayette MM)
Richard Mitchell (Lexington MM)

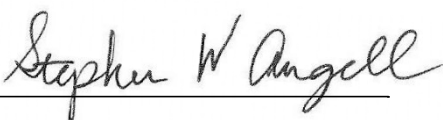
Betsy Neale (Lexington MM) David
Klaphaak (Louisville MM)

Frank Huss (OVYM Statistician, Community MM)
Jane Stowe (Peace & Social Concerns Committee Clerk, Clear Creek MM)
Veronica Frost (Miami QM Clerk, Yellow Springs MM)

Howie Baker (Louisville MM)

1. The meeting opened at 1:30 PM with a period of worship.
2. Friends introduced themselves.
3. The proposed agenda was reviewed and **approved**.
4. Treasurer's Report (Wilson Palmer) – report attached
There are no outstanding issues with the current year's budget. Friends were reminded that contributions for the current fiscal year are due by June 30. **Accepted**.
5. A draft "Procedures for the Nominating and Naming Committees" was presented by Rex Sprouse (attached). This was **approved** without comment.
6. The Braddock Charitable Trust of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting was established in 1992 in memory of Raymond Braddock's work with prisoners in the Lebanon Correctional Institution. With the recent death of Byron Branson, the family has asked that the yearly meeting become more involved in the operations of the trust. The presiding clerk is following up on this request.
7. Youth Secretary Report (Carol Simmons) The annual teen service trip (June 20-29) will be in Philadelphia this year, which will also allow the teens to visit with Friends organizations headquartered there. She hopes more than 15 teens will participate.
8. Clerical Staff Report (Deborah Jordan)
The deadline for the next issue of the *Quaker Quill* is May 15.
9. Web Administrator (Lonny Burger) – report attached
Traffic on the website is consistent. It was suggested that the *Quaker Quill* be delivered by a link to the website.
10. Statistical Report
The number of members in the yearly meeting is down by 31 in the past year – cumulatively we have lost 77 members in the last three years. Some of this is due to meetings purging their rolls of inactive members, but this does not make the trend less worrisome.
11. Susan Hyde, the Records Co-coordinator, asked that the name of the individual who is responsible for archiving records in each meeting be sent to her or Christine Snyder.
12. Adult Young Friends are hoping to have a retreat again this year and are looking to establish a Skype book discussion group.
13. Budget & Finance Committee met immediately before the Executive Committee meeting to firm up the draft budget for next year. They will be proposing a per-member contribution of \$120.
14. Faith & Practice Committee will be sending out the fourth draft of a subsection on Peace, a second draft on Quaker Testimonies, and a second draft on Integrity for consideration at the summer sessions.
15. Naming Committee needs another member. One name was brought forward. The presiding clerk will contact that person.

16. Nominating Committee (Ben Griffith)
Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and Nikki Coffey Tousley were nominated for Religious Nurture and Education. **Approved.**
The committee is still seeking someone to produce the *Quaker Quill* and an assistant treasurer. They asked for help in identifying candidates.
17. Personnel Committee (Paul Buckley)
New contracts are being written for the two current contract workers. These should be in place by the end of May.
The committee is also revising the descriptions of its duties and of the yearly meeting staff positions in the Handbook.
18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee (Diann Herzog)
The committee is sponsoring a day of renewal on April 26 at Quaker Hill. An announcement has been sent out (attached). The day will close with bell ringing.
19. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee reports that work is moving along for this year's sessions.
20. An overnight gathering for middle youth is being planned for the weekend of May 17-18.
21. Quaker Heights Care Committee (Wilson Palmer)
Quaker Heights is having trouble filling beds and meeting their budget. This situation is not unique to them. The care industry as a whole is under a lot of pressure.
22. Friends Music Camp (Peg Champney)
The number of campers is currently down from earlier years and efforts to identify and recruit more are underway. They are hopeful of raising enough money to provide for scholarships to several young people from Ecuador. Friends were asked to share literature on the camp at their meetings.
This year's sessions will run between July 6 and August 3. Some scholarship funds are available. The report was **accepted**.
23. Miami Quarter was cancelled because of the weather in February. They will meet at Englewood Meeting on May 18.
24. Whitewater Quarter also had to cancel their winter meeting. They will meet at Lafayette Meeting on Sunday, April 13. The quarter is seeking new presiding and recording clerks. A Joint Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee will be named at the April meeting.
25. Friends were reminded that registration has opened for this year's Friends General Conference Gathering at California University of Pennsylvania. It will take place from June 29 to July 5.
26. We will meet next at noon on June 7 at North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis.
27. The minutes were reviewed, edited, and **approved**.
28. The meeting closed at 3:20 PM with a period of worship.



Stephen Angell, Presiding Clerk



Paul Buckley, Acting Recording Clerk

**Procedures for Nominating and Naming
For Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting
2014-04-05**

Please note: This document is a summary of procedural matters. It is not intended to address the spiritual underpinnings of the nomination process.

The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service as Yearly Meeting officers and representatives and for service on most of the Yearly Meeting's committees. A crucial aspect of this discernment process involves worshipful discussions with Friends about the gifts, skills, and responsibilities associated with various service opportunities. It should be understood that Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee brings forward names for Friends' consideration. Final approval rests with the Yearly Meeting gathered at annual sessions or with Yearly Meeting Executive Committee between annual sessions.

The primary work of the Yearly Meeting Naming Committee is to discern the names of Friends to bring forward for service on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. A crucial aspect of this discernment process involves worshipful discussions with Friends about the gifts, skills, and responsibilities associated with service on Nominating Committee. It should be understood that Yearly Meeting Naming Committee brings forward names for Friends' consideration. Final approval rests with the Yearly Meeting gathered at annual sessions or with Yearly Meeting Executive Committee between annual sessions.

Yearly Meeting Executive Committee appoints Friends to serve on the Naming Committee. Ideally, the Naming Committee will consist of three members, serving staggered three-year terms.

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting
June 7, 2014
North Meadow Circle of Friends**

1. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.
2. **Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

<i>Meeting/Committee</i>	<i>Representative</i>
Miami Quarterly Meeting:	
Campus	No Representative
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey-Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	No Representative
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Betsy Neale, Richard Mitchell
Louisville	No Representative

Miami
Oxford
Yellow Springs
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter

No Representative
Stephen Angell
Deb Kociszewski
Veronica Frost

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting:

Bloomington
Clear Creek
Fall Creek
Fort Wayne Friends
Hopewell
Lafayette
North Meadow Circle
White Rose
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter

Marcia Ankrom
David Garman
Diann Herzog sent regrets
Terre Holada
No Representative
Ann Pellegrino
Evalyn Kellum
No Representative
Rex Sprouse sent regrets

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Recording Clerk
Assistant Recording Clerk
Publications Coordinator
Quill Editor
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Steve Angell
Rex Sprouse sent regrets
Terre Holada
No Representative
No Representative
Deborah Jordan
Wilson Palmer
No Representative

Standing and Special Committees:

Budget and Finance
Faith and Practice
Naming
Nominating
Peace and Social Concerns
Religious Nurture and Education
Personnel
Yearly Meeting Planning
Children's Program
Middle Youth
Teen Activities

Wilson Palmer, Ben Griffith sent regrets
Wilson Palmer
Betsy Neale
Ben Griffith sent regrets
No Representative
David Garman
Wilson Palmer and Steve Angell
Dinah Duvall
No Representative
No Representative
Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Administrative Secretary
Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan
Carol Simmons

Liaisons:

Quaker Heights Care Community
Friends Music Camp

Wilson Palmer
No Representative

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor Committee	Veronica Frost
Braddock Trustees	No Representative
Records Coordinator	No Representative
Statistician	No Representative
Web Administrator	No Representative

Visitors:

Lexy Torke, North Meadow

1. The proposed agenda was reviewed and **approved**.
2. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer – report attached
 - a) There is a projected deficit of \$4,000.00 – \$5,000.00 but the budgeted deficit was \$8,000.00.
 - b) Meetings are reminded that donations given by June 30th will be included in this year's fiscal report.
 - c) The report was accepted.
3. Youth Secretary, Carol Simmons
 - a) The teens held a retreat over Memorial Day Weekend at Fall Creek focused on the spirit of community service. They made crafts to sell for fund raising. They met with Josh Medlin who spoke about the Burdock House. The youth shared their thoughts, feelings and experiences of living their Quaker Witness through community service.
 - b) The upcoming Philadelphia service trip information is on the website.
 - c) The report was accepted.
4. Administrative Secretary, Deborah Jordan
 - a) There has been an email sent about advanced reports for Yearly Meeting . The deadline is June 15th.
 - b) Memorial Minutes are also being collected.
 - c) As part of the Yearly Meeting's Policy on Abuse Prevention, FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) training will be 1:30 – 2:45 on Wednesday, the first day of Yearly Meeting. This is mandatory training for those working directly with the children, but everyone is welcome to attend to get this valuable information.
 - d) There was a committee established to review the Policy on Abuse Prevention and make recommendations to Yearly Meeting about appropriate changes. Members of this committee will be Steve Angell, Deborah Jordan, Richard Mitchell and Carol Simmons.
 - e) The report was accepted.

5. *Quaker Quill*, Deborah Jordan

- a) Registration information for Yearly Meeting is included in the most recent *Quaker Quill*. It is also available via an email service called Mail Chimp. Mail Chimp provides feedback on who receives the Quill and who views it.
- b) Monthly Meetings are requested to update the email and mailing lists for *Quaker Quill* distribution. Please share them with Deborah. Currently each Monthly Meeting and some individuals receive a paper copy.
- c) The report was accepted.

6. Web Administrator Lonny Burger

The website is very nice and easy to navigate. Lonny is doing a great job keeping it up to date.

7. Braddock Trust, Steve Angell

- a) Steve Angell and Rex Sprouse spoke with Wilhelmina Branson and Ramona Buck. The Braddock family established the trust to be used in prison ministry and inmate education. It has been with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting since 1992, but detailed information is scant. Ramona has offered to write a history of the trust.
- b) Several people shared ideas and are interested in working on this trust to bring it into good working order, including revising policies for disbursing grants. Among those who expressed interest in serving on this committee are Veronica Frost, Richard Mitchell, Steve Angell, and possibly John Eastman. Wilhelmina is interested in continuing this work for the time being. The Executive Committee asks the Nominating Committee to consider those named for service with the Braddock Trust. This minute is approved.

8. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Dinah Duvall. Report is attached.

- a) The theme for 2014 is "Living Up To Our Light."
- b) Registration information and forms are in the *Quaker Quill*.
- c) There is no clerk for this committee, so the Nominating Committee is requested to seek someone for this position.
- d) The committee recommends having Yearly Meeting a week earlier because some schools are starting in July. Also, the date conflicts with Wilmington Yearly Meeting and the final weekend of Friends Music Camp. Approval was given to proceed with the logistics of moving the date and presenting the information at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting this summer. Moving the date is recommended by the Executive Committee.
- e) The report was accepted with gratitude.

9. Budget and Finance, Wilson Palmer

- a) Monthly Meetings are reminded to return their pledge for the next fiscal year by June 15th.
- b) The report was accepted.

10. Naming Committee, Betsy Neale

- a) The composition of the committee was discussed and the clerk was given the name of a Friend to approach to serve on this committee.
- b) The report was accepted.

11. Faith and Practice Revision, Betsy Neale

- a) The committee will be presenting three drafts at Yearly Meeting this summer: Introduction to the Testimonies, Peace and Integrity.
- b) The report was accepted.

12. Nominating Committee, No Report

13. Peace and Social Concerns, Richard Mitchell

- a) There will be a letter writing table at Yearly Meeting.
- b) There is a need for more committee members. Any Friends interested in serving should contact Richard or Jane Stowe.
- c) The report was accepted.

14. Personnel Committee, Wilson Palmer

- a) The committee updated the current guidelines and job descriptions of paid positions. There is a new position to be filled for a person to work with Middle Youth.
- b) Thanks were expressed to the committee for their time and care.
- c) The report was accepted.

15. Religious Nurture and Education, David Garman

- a) There was a day-long retreat recently at Quaker Hill in Richmond. Feedback was positive, so the committee will probably plan another retreat for next year.
- b) The committee is welcoming requests from Monthly Meetings for visits and support. Several visits have already happened and are planned for the near future.
- c) There was clarification of the role of this committee in supporting the people writing the epistle at Yearly Meeting. Specifically, a few members of this committee will act as a sounding board for those assigned to write the epistle be-

fore presentation to the Yearly Meeting.

- d) Steve Angell will approach the nominating committee informing them of this offer of help.
- e) The report was accepted.

16. Middle Youth, Richard Mitchell

- a) Information was shared about the retreat. There was a concern about children arriving later in sessions, catching up and integrating with the current attending youth.
- b) There is hope that the position of Middle Youth Coordinator will be filled soon. Friends are asked to share the information of the position with Friends they know.
- c) The report was accepted.

17. Quaker Heights Care Community, Wilson Palmer

- a) The future of the facility is always a concern. They are still in the process of getting a HUD loan for adding more single rooms and a rehabilitation facility for short-term care.
- b) With so many changes to health care, and dealing with Medicare, there are many challenges.
- c) The report was accepted.

18. Friends Music Camp, no report

Steve saw Peg Champney recently and said she told him that all was well.

19. Miami Quarter, Veronica Frost

- a) Plans are being developed for Joint Quarterly Meeting. It is planned that every other year, Joint Quarterly Meeting would be located somewhere in Miami Quarter.
- b) There is an ad hoc committee working on financing issues for Joint Quarterly Meeting.
- c) The report was accepted.

20. Whitewater Quarter, Rex Sprouse – report is attached

21. Agnes Moon has entered Hospice care. Friends are asked to hold her and her family in the Light.

22. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be October 4th at Community Friends in Cincinnati.

23. Closing Worship

**Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report
For Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee meeting, Sixth Month 7, 2014**

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting held a session on Fourth Month 13, 2014, at Lafayette Friends Meetinghouse in West Lafayette, IN.

After greetings and opening fellowship, Friends joined Lafayette Friends in regular meeting for worship.

During meeting for business, Friends approved the appointment of Diann Herzog to serve as Presiding Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting and of Dinah Duvall to serve as Recording Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting. Both appointments will become effective at the end of the annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in Eighth Month 2014. David Duvall will continue his service as Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Treasurer.

After the customary potluck lunch, Friends received State of the Meeting reports and had opportunities to reflect on them in small groups.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends thank Lafayette Friends meeting for their hospitality in hosting this session and the Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Nominating Committee for their service in seeking to discern names to bring forward to serve as Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends are reminded that Whitewater Quarterly Meeting currently suggests a \$50 annual contribution from each constituent monthly meeting, which should be sent to David Duvall, 7811 Kimlough Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46240. The Quarterly Meeting uses its funds primarily to cover expenses associated with the Quarterly Meeting sessions, including the Joint Quarterly Meeting session.

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

State of the Meeting Reports

BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS

Bloomington Friends have kept moving forward this year under the guidance of the Divine Spirit. New young Friends have joined us and become active in our Meeting. Several new attenders and sojourners have been attracted to committee work and serve the meeting well. Friends in mid-career find time and energy to participate actively. Older Friends remain vital members of our community. Our children continue to amaze us with their accomplishments and their character. We are heartened by the many Friends who contribute their time, energy and financial support to keeping the Meeting functioning well.

We committed with a high degree of unity to move forward on a major renovation of our Meetinghouse. Our two-year process, relying on the guidance of the Spirit, helped us to discern our needs as our Meeting goes forward and the legacy we want to leave future generations of Bloomington Friends. Although not everyone agreed completely, everyone was lovingly heard. Sustainability and environmental responsibility were major goals of our planning process. The final long-range plan, which we call "Green Embrace," was a Sense of the Meeting that combined the best aspects of two architectural plans and embodied many Friends' dreams for the meeting. Although the renovation will cost a great deal, it will make our meetinghouse safe and healthy and provide room for First Day School, fellowship and community service. We hope that the first phase of the renovation, including solving the air quality issues in the Meeting Room, can be undertaken as early as this summer.

Our worship has benefited by many inspired messages balanced by good silences. The pattern of messages varies greatly. Some Friends speak frequently, but not excessively. We finish our announcements after meeting for worship by inviting Friends to state their joys and concerns. This has enhanced our sense of community and encouraged Friends to speak when they might not otherwise.

We continue to build community through social events such as the Christmas party and the Evening of the Arts as well as by Intergenerational Activities such as First Day School students interviewing elders. We were disappointed that our annual Retreat was cancelled this year. This has renewed our commitment to future retreats.

We contribute to the community beyond meeting by volunteering for the Community Kitchen and contributing to the Monroe County United Ministries Pantry. Members of our Peace and Social Concerns committee and other Friends have witnessed through guest columns and letters in the local newspapers and letters to legislators. We have worked with other faith communities to witness to our common beliefs in peace and the environment.

Our Meeting community grew this year by four convinced Friends: Ruth Kelly, Deborra Sanders, Amanda Dubinski and Rob Dubinski. We rejoiced in the birth of Orion William Roy-Ehri, born July 14, 2013. We mourn the passing of our dear Friend George Henry "Hank" Swain, who died Monday, March 3, 2014 at the age of 95.

CAMPUS FRIENDS

Query #1: In our silence and in our speaking, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst?
Query #2: How does our Monthly Meeting encourage its members to step out in faith in serving Christ?

In our gathered meetings for worship, it is our experience that God's power is made manifest in the love we have for each other. It is God's Love which draws us together in the expectant, waiting worship. This love is elastic and expansive to include any and all who wish to add their loving presence to our meetings for worship. When someone is moved to spoken ministry, we are open to the movement of the Spirit as expressed in their words. It is our experience that a message from the heart expressed in love is best received with 'mind and heart prepared', and in a spirit of gratitude for the movement of the Spirit in our midst.

As we gathered in January for our Campus Friends Winter Retreat, it was enormously gratifying to hear again and again that the life and ministry of Campus Meeting remains a source of spiritual and emotional joy and sustenance for each of us. The power of God's love for all of Creation which surpasses our human understanding, remains the Center of our worship, is experienced in our fellowship and undergirds all outward ministry.

We continue to experience the power of clearness committees and willingly appoint one when requested. Clearness Committees are one way to encourage our members and support their leadings. We encourage our members to support those organization which are important to them. We encourage each other to name and claim our gifts.

Campus Friends Meeting continues to appoint Circles of Care as a most effective and loving way to provide pastoral care for individual members facing long or short-term needs. Our membership and attendance has declined. We are limited in our corporate ministry. We, however, were fed by our efforts to maintain Canby Jones's quality of life for as long as he was able to remain in Wilmington. We grieve his loss and miss his presence on the facing bench.

Campus Friends Meeting
Patricia Thomas, Presiding Clerk

CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS

This past year has brought both continuity and newness.

We had a well-attended retreat in the spring at Quaker Hill retreat center, which was an opportunity to get to know one another better and to consider how we might present ourselves to the wider world. Since the retreat, more of us have been exploring spiritual friendships and finding nurture in them.

After a time of dormancy, the meeting newsletter has been reborn. Concurrently, our website has undergone significant development, and we recently completed our first year as part of the FGC Quaker Cloud.

In recent years we received a bequest, and after much reflection we began to make use of the fund. This has included supporting a Palestinian student's peace project, purchasing a peace calendar for members and attenders as a resource for considering peace and social concerns, and a fun evening of food and film.

Small groups continue to meet and enrich the life of our meeting, such as the book group, the Friends in Unity with Nature or FUN walks (which included a spectacular summer evening viewing of meteors), and the religious ideas group that has explored books and films on Buddhism, Taoism, and Sufism. A few hardy souls braved rain during our local service project at Cope Environmental Center last fall.

We strive to be a place of hospitality. We bade farewell to graduating students and welcomed new student attenders. Others have come or gone. The arrival of new people has brought new energy and some of them have taken on significant roles in the meeting. The birth of a baby—and his vocal ministry during worship—has given us great joy. We were saddened to see a treasured member relocate to another city. Two beloved Friends are spending six months in Latin America, and we miss them.

Our children's group, though small, is important to us. They presented a puppet show on the Peaceable Kingdom (as never seen before) and a much-abbreviated Charles Dickens' *Carol* at Christmas.

Worship continues to be the center of our meeting's life. The mid-week meeting continues, with up-and-down attendance. Our meetings for worship tend to be quieter than some. For some, this is an occasional concern; others find a powerful if quiet feeling of depth in the worship, from which vocal ministry arises. We strive to be open to the movement of the Spirit among us. The presence of an infant in our midst creates, we feel, a welcoming place for all ages.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS

Community Friends Meeting has experienced a year of renewed focus, active engagement, and increased support for leadings in ministry. We are blessed with new energy of active attenders as well as the faithful support of long-time members. We comforted and encouraged one another in hard times and celebrated milestones and accomplishments together. Our hearts and prayers were constantly with the Branson family during Byron's long illness, and we grieved together at his passing in February. Byron Branson, one of the founding members of Community Friends Meeting, leaves us a legacy of love that was made visible through his energetic work and ministry to the Meeting, to the local community, and to the wider Quaker world. Byron truly lived a life that was a pattern and an example for all of us.

Our beloved Meetinghouse Caretakers, John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe and son John David left for a year to pursue a job opportunity, but we were very fortunate to find another wonderful couple to serve as interim caretakers. Alan and Grace recently were blessed with the birth of baby Juniper, who brings new joy to the Meeting!

We held a Meeting Renewal in October, facilitated by Cathy Barney, with a focus on discerning and naming our gifts. The renewal was well-attended with about 30 participants. We enjoyed creative activities, personal sharing, and celebration of the many gifts we each bring to the Meeting community. A follow up activity was to name and celebrate the gifts of the Meeting. Examples of the gifts we

named were “We meet God in one another here,” “We minister to each other in different ways,” and “We are held together by love. People come and go, and the love continues.”

Ministry and Counsel has provided support and anchoring committees for a number of members who are feeling called to ministry, or who are seeking clearness in discerning their leadings. We are supporting those who are called to prison ministry, music ministry, writing ministry, and other leadings. We offered a variety of Spiritual Inreach groups, growing out of our exploration of the FGC Quaker Quest process in 2012, which led to a realization that we needed to strengthen our own spiritual community through deeper sharing with one another. Our intention has been to create the kind of spiritual community that would attract other seekers as well as nourishing current members and attenders. The current Inreach groups, planned and coordinated by Adult Religious Education Committee, meet monthly to share around topics such as indigenous healing, using discernment in our personal lives, and the Bible.

Adult Religious Education Committee has taken a more intentional approach to planning and coordinating second hour discussions by seeking recommendations from the Meeting for topics to address. Second hour topics have included vocal ministry during worship, environmental issues, and sharing of spiritual journeys. Outreach efforts have included being a presence at the Victory of Light Expo, where 25 people picked up materials about Quakerism at our booth.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has become active again after a time of being laid down. The committee is focusing on raising awareness about the criminal justice system, restorative justice, and supporting the re-entry into society of persons who have been incarcerated. We have an active Transforming Jail Ministries Worship Team, which is now under the care of Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The TJM Worship Team has participated in twelve worship services at the Justice Center and other prison facilities, worshipping with more than 280 men and women over the year. The team members bring a deep sense of compassion to this ministry, and have felt blessed to share in rich worship experiences. The meeting has also continued its commitment to the Tender Mercies ministry by providing and serving an evening meal once a month for about 35 residents of a local shelter for homeless people with mental illness.

House and Grounds has worked with Stewardship Committee to prepare ourselves for anticipated upcoming maintenance expenses by increasing the building reserve fund. Regular workdays were held to complete projects in the meetinghouse and upkeep of the woods. We lost the willow tree in front of the meetinghouse, but left a piece of it for birds. New indigenous trees are also being planted. Friends in Unity with Nature Committee has been working on a concern for divestment from fossil fuel corporations. We continue to support locally grown foods and other steps toward sustainable living.

Religious Development Committee continues to provide a vital First Day School program for about six intermediate age children who attend regularly, plus a few occasional attenders. The core group consists of three sets of siblings who enjoy being together, and it is a joy to watch them maturing. The theme this year is exploring the Bible. Children are being introduced to a variety of ways to center into worship during monthly Children’s Meetings, led by different meeting members who are sharing their experiences in worship with the class. The teens in our meeting participated in the OVYM teen service trip to Olney Friends School. Four teens graduated from high school in 20, resulting in a big change in our youth programming. We note with great appreciation Wilhemina Branson’s devoted ministry with the teens over so many years. She was greatly missed while she stayed home to care for Byron.

Meeting for worship continues to be the center of our shared spiritual life. Worship is often blessed with rich and spirit-led ministry. We are grateful for the diversity of spiritual experiences that enrich and challenge us as a meeting community, as we travel together on our spiritual journey.

“We are held together by love. People come and go, and the love continues.”

DAYTON FRIENDS

The past year has been a time of introspection and transition for Dayton Friends. We began the year with a recommitment to outreach and renewed search for a meetinghouse of our own, motivated by both concern for our small numbers and faith in the possibility of growth. We came to realize that in order to welcome others we must first be able to say who we are, which lead us to develop a statement of our corporate identity:

The Dayton Friends Meeting is a loving, inclusive community of Quakers who gather together in spirit-led worship. We believe that there is “that of God,” the Light or Seed of the Divine, in each person. That Light grows as we attend to God’s presence and nurture one another, leading us to live with greater integrity and witness to the possibility of peace and justice in the world. Although we believe that revelation is ongoing and vary in the names we call the Divine, we look to the life of Jesus for inspiration and guidance. We welcome all who are looking for a caring community of seekers.

In September we moved into a new rental space in a neighborhood with a young, progressive population, where we hope there may be many potential Friends. Hard work transformed the room into a welcoming, cheery space for worship and we continue to work on signage and smaller changes to the room. The decision to rent again, rather than continue to look for our own space, was not easy. Although we have a large down payment set aside, we recognize we may not have the ongoing financial contributions necessary to carry a mortgage. We have lost many seasoned Friends to retirement over the last few years, including one couple this summer, and another active family left to attend another meeting. Yet we also have a new active attender who has returned to Friends and this spring we welcomed younger visitors who seem likely to make a commitment to the meeting. Much of our energy remains on pastoral care of Friends with health and personal concerns, and we are thankful for the sense of warmth and care we have within our meeting.

We held a mini retreat with Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut of Community Friends Meeting on outreach and our spiritual gifts in February. This focus on our strengths was energizing, and reminded us that there are many seekers hungry for the spiritual truth and sense of family we have at Dayton Friends. Rachel encouraged us to attend to the inward life of the community; a vibrant, welcoming meeting will attract new Friends. We remain a small meeting where the work is divided among too few, and sometimes feel exhausted, but that feeling is coupled with a recommitment to our future. We hope we can begin to develop new leadership and reach out in the local community.

We have decided to have public events every few months, beginning with a panel discussion on spiritual approaches to the environment this May. We had a table at a local Earth Day celebration to let people know we are here. We have also renewed our women’s group, which meets monthly, and have occasional potlucks to celebrate holidays or simply bring Friends together. We are proud to see our

young adults still engaged with Friends, and two of them spoke to the meeting at a potluck in September about their volunteer work over the last year. We continue to be prepared to provide First Day School for the three children who attend irregularly, bringing joy and energy to all of us. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has been less active this year, but we would like to combine their work with our public outreach efforts in the future. We completed a second hour discussion series on *A Living Faith* by Wilmer Cooper and will be talking about aging this spring. We are thankful for the many valuable contributions of Friends who have helped with our move and recommitment to outreach over the last year. We end the year hopeful for the witness and growth of the Quaker community in Dayton

EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS

Last year, Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting considered the ways in which we see ourselves as a faith community. As a group with diverse beliefs, defining ourselves as a faith community presents challenges. For example, while it is fair to say that all in our meeting try to honor Jesus' teachings, we hold a variety of views regarding the centrality of Christ in our worship and spiritual lives. Nevertheless, we are united in our willingness to hear spoken ministry with open hearts. We listen to where the words come from and translate as necessary. Such openness grows, we believe, from our love for each other and our trust in the Spirit. We are united in seeking a loving God and in our responsibility to witness to and manifest that love in our own lives. We also share John Woolman's conviction "that sincere, upright-hearted people in every Society who truly loved God were accepted of him." In addition, the expression of humor in our Meeting life gives us perspective, balance, and joy in each other's company. Even in Meeting for Business, humor keeps our process from becoming leaden and keeps us from taking ourselves too seriously.

Before weekly Meeting for Worship breaks, our Presiding Clerk asks if there are messages that did not rise to the level of spoken ministry and if there are joys or concerns to report, prayer requests, or gifts to acknowledge. This practice encourages those who don't feel easy about speaking through a more formal ministry to speak in other ways that can nurture us. Also, sharing joys, concerns, and prayer requests strengthens our sense of knowing each other more intimately or in things eternal. Some seem particularly to appreciate that we acknowledge gifts. We explicitly name the gift or gifts that a specific individual brings to our monthly meeting. Thus we are reminded that each person plays an important role in the life of our meeting. This practice also gives us a broader understanding of different types of gifts: the spiritual wisdom and depth in individuals' vocal ministry and in their service on committees, the practical gifts that keep our meeting functioning and our meetinghouse serviceable and comfortable, and the gifts that we carry from Meeting for Worship into our service in the wider world.

Eastern Hills' Ministry and Counsel Committee has started a weekly practice in which a Ministry and Counsel member takes responsibility for praying for or holding the meeting in the light during Meeting for Worship. We are encouraging others in the meeting to take up this spiritual practice as well.

We affirm ourselves as a community in other ways. For example, we have contacted long absent members which has clarified for us who is in our active community. New attenders of the last few years have made clear their willingness to serve and share the work of maintaining our meeting which in turn speaks of their commitment to our faith community. Finally, we continue our corporate leadings by serving at Jimmy Heath House and by transforming our grounds by creating a butterfly garden.

A matter of concern we have is our relationship with one of our two yearly meetings. It is clear to us that there are difficult issues in Wilmington Yearly Meeting that are not being discussed. We understand a reluctance to risk divisiveness. Eastern Hills has experienced conflict in the past and some of the wounds have not completely healed. However, our experience has taught us that conflict is not the greatest danger. A greater danger is not accepting conflict as an opportunity for the creative fulfillment of love. Hesitation to speak in loving honesty and reluctance to listen in loving trust diminishes our claims to our Christian grounding. We pray that God will guide Wilmington Yearly Meeting forward with this concern.

ENGLEWOOD FRIENDS

Last year Englewood Friends indicated we had moved and were unpacking. We are continuing to unpack and settle in. Not only have we moved our yearly meeting affiliation, we have also moved the way we view our way of interacting with a larger group of Friends. We have moved from a place where we seemed to always be defending the spiritual direction of Englewood Friends to one in which we can concentrate our meeting's call toward spiritual, emotional and physical outreach to our members, the community and globally. We are unpacking our attitudes of what it means to be part of a larger body of Friends by take a larger part than we had for several years in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and the New Association of Friends.

Being dually affiliated with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and the New Association is both tasking and refreshing. While it is always good to have diverse opinions and discussions, it is nice to do that with people who like and respect us.

The past year has seen Englewood Friends Meeting incorporating more of the unprogrammed tradition within our time of corporate worship. Our pastor, Rick Miller, has returned from sabbatical but the Meeting has released him from preparing a message on a regular basis. Through Rick's many years of ministering to EFM, he has encouraged and enabled many to minister in various ways, serving both the Meeting and the community.

We have seen long time members move away and new folks begin attending and actively participating. Although we remain a small Meeting in numbers, the Spirit is alive and active through all of us. One of our members, who happens to be in her nineties, is very active in the Dayton International Peace Museum, where she is the volunteer coordinator. She also regularly shares her music ministry during worship. Our youngest member continues, with the support of the Meeting, her education in Classical Studies at Earlham College. Between these two are members with a variety of gifts shared with others. The Meeting's prayer life is very active, reaching beyond our Meetinghouse walls, addressing such needs as illness, addiction, relationship issues and peace around the world.

Last year saw the Meeting receive full ownership of our Meetinghouse. Through the generosity of many Friends, we were able to put on a new roof and install a new chimney.

Our ministry of providing a meal monthly to St. Vincent's Homeless Shelter continues. Our Meetinghouse is used each week by a local AA group. The Meeting has approved having AFSC, Dayton Chapter, headquartered in our Meetinghouse if approved by the AFSC Board.

Englewood Friends Meeting continues to be a welcoming and affirming community to any who wish to attend, with no discrimination as to race, sexual orientation or faith practice. We view our Meeting as a healing place and recognize that we are all God's children.

FALL CREEK FRIENDS

Fall Creek Meeting assembles easily with a sense of quiet reverence, even in the midst of Friendly greetings. The value our members and attenders apparently find in meeting and fellowship is evidenced by the distances many are willing to travel to participate on a regular basis. Each member and attender comes to meeting with a sincere and open heart, ready to enter into the stream of communal worship with whatever measure of Light they have available. There is regularly a sense at rise of meeting that all have participated and shared in worship, either in giving or receiving a portion of the Spirit.

Vocal ministry prospers at Fall Creek Meeting, with various Friends responding to the call of Spirit in meeting for worship. We often have spoken ministry, sometimes a song is offered and occasionally vocal prayer. We discuss, mostly informally, the basic principles of Friends worship in the unprogrammed tradition. We have also read, as a meeting and as individuals, many Quaker books written as helpful guides to Friends worship and practice. We find a comfortable and acceptable balance between vocal ministry and ministering silence. We welcome, even expect that there will be vocal ministry as Spirit gives forth to nourish, strengthen and unify our beloved community. Each individual takes responsibility for daily worship practices that make meeting together in worship a deep and meaningful experience. Our communal experience is enriched by a diversity of spiritual thought and practice among our members.

We have occasionally experienced seemingly irrelevant deliveries during meeting for worship, but not often. When this happens, the person is held with tenderness and prayer that God will make the best of what is offered. If needed, the speaker is reminded of the weight and meaning of speaking in worship and the guidelines or tests of whether speaking is Spirit led or something else. We are blessed and greatly strengthened by the spiritual gifts of loving and wise Elders who serve to protect the spiritual value of vocal ministry.

Our most pressing sense of need remains numbers of members and attenders. Everyone at Fall Creek Meeting carries a welcome and much needed gift. It would be nice to have more people to share in the work and blessings of our community. We have done poorly at outreach but hope to make a better effort this year.

We continue to read and answer the Queries carefully at the beginning of each business meeting. This practice has been helpful, testing and measuring our lives against our Quaker values. "Faith without works is dead" and though our geographical scattering makes it difficult to take on projects as a meeting, there is no shortage of good works carried out into the world from individuals in our community, grounded in our love for God and each other and what we seek and find in worship, in fellowship with one another and in the conviction of our Quaker values.

FORT WAYNE FRIENDS

Our small but active meeting has had a busy year in terms of activities. We continue to worship each First Day at Plymouth Congregational Church near downtown Fort Wayne. We have a usual attendance of 10-12 persons at Meeting each week. We look forward to welcoming a new but long term Quaker as a full member of our Meeting. We are thrilled to announce the birth of a new baby to two of our faithful attenders. The meeting put on a shower for Calum and Leah Johnson, the now parents of Adric, in March.

Some of us were able once again to participate in bowling to support Wellspring Interfaith Social Services. We continue to serve meals on a quarterly basis at a local homeless shelter. We support and participate in various activities in conjunction with Plymouth Congregational Church, including serving refreshments at an Interfaith Prayer Service in January.

As has been our joy and sense of renewal, we met in late October for a retreat at Lake Wawasee. Finally, just this past First Day we enjoyed a concert sponsored by the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace with the Quaker folk singer Carrie Newcomer and poetry by Abdelfattah Abusrour, Arrowwad of the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. In the lobby, we had a display and materials about Fort Wayne Friends Meeting.

We continue to strive in our Meeting and our lives to become closer to and serve the Spirit.

GREEN PLAIN FRIENDS

Green Plain Monthly Meeting has a very small membership and many of the members reside in other states. The local members maintain and care for the Meetinghouse and the burial grounds. The non-resident members serve the Meeting in other capacities. Contact is maintained with all of the members throughout the year. They are asked to share their thoughts and concerns.

Caroline Taylor, Clerk

HOPEWELL FRIENDS

Hopewell Friends remain a committed circle of families and fellows. This year we have welcomed three new members from among our regular attenders and have made strides to encourage activities outside of weekly meeting. Our Tuesday night quilters group has led the way in this, organizing and encouraging members to join them in a trip to visit Mrs. Wick's Pie Factory and Thursday Night Trivia.

This fall we hosted our annual bonfire night, which was again attended and supported by the Lightseekers, a youth group for Middle School Young Friends in the Wayne County area. We also collected paper goods and personal care items for the Christian Women's shelter at Christmastime. Throughout the year, Hopewell has taken an active interest in Peace and Social concerns both local and global, from development plans for a local confined feeding operation to the plight of refugees in Syria.

Friends have devoted second-hour discussion this year to a better understanding of the core of our religious beliefs. We began the year with a study of Phil Gulley's book *If the Church Were Christian* and have recently been working our way through *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins.

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

Lafayette is such a small meeting that it is impossible to be an anonymous attender. So, because we know one another, we do not pressure one another to come each First Day. Rather, we balance our responsibility to the meeting and our joy in it with the joys and responsibilities of our lives outside the meeting. We recognize that few of us have Quaker families, and our families' needs must often come first. Because we know one another, however, we notice when someone is absent and we check on them to see if support is needed.

In a large meeting there might be problems with diffusion of responsibility. Because Lafayette is a small meeting, members contribute to the meeting as they are led and everything gets done. We have an excellent clerk in Ann Pellegrino and she lets us all know what is needed and people simply volunteer. If people have concerns, we tend to those, too. If a project is a larger one, we have agreed that Ann should ask specific people to do things. In that way, the Meeting House is maintained, our religious education, participation in local community activities (e.g., Lafayette Urban Ministry, Community Meal, social action events) and participation in the larger Quaker Community are covered. The load does not fall too heavily on any one person.

Our religious studies have been about Quakerism rather than Christianity. We describe ourselves as a Hicksite meeting but our members range from devout Christians to Quaker Universalists. Once a month we have a study meeting called Quakerism 102. Lately we have been considering the Testimonies, as we have been asked to consider them for the revision of Faith and Practice. We regret the loss of Eric Clevon, who is a fine scholar and 102 leader (he is now a professor at St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire); we miss his depth of knowledge and we were enriched by his visits to international Quaker conferences. We have been coping by reading articles (including relevant passages from the Bible) related to the testimonies. We contrast the perspective of Friends of the various phases of Quaker history with our own beliefs, and sometimes with the beliefs from other religions. We then examine the sections from the revisions and comment.

We have discovered that, although we are all at different points in our religious journeys, most of us have been pondering our emerging individual spiritualities. We encourage one another to reach out to other traditions to fill unmet needs and then to bring our discoveries back to the group. We are making an extra effort to be sensitive to and responsive to individual physical and religious needs. It was recently realized that many of us have discovered a pressing need to find a time each day for contemplation, prayer and meditation.

We are comfortable with our procedure for Meeting for Business. As it follows Meeting for Worship and a reading of the Queries, we hope that we are in the right frame of mind and in the Light as we attend to

mundane tasks, which we do briskly and often with laughter. Perhaps it is due to coming out of worship that although we have a fair number of opinions, our discussions seldom become arguments. We have been blessed in that regard.

We are comfortable with our Meeting for Worship as well. It is most often a truly silent meeting. Last year we benefited from visiting speakers and study sessions on vocal ministry. We learned quite a lot and it was interesting, but we have come to the conclusion that a meeting can sit in true silence and arise refreshed and motivated for whatever is pointed out to us. We are comfortable with silence: it is golden.

With that in mind, we would like to point out that vocal ministry was mentioned in the guidelines from the present Book of Discipline, five times (11 sentences out of 19 total!). Although some of these sentences are questions about the quality of vocal ministry, we get the feeling from this and other discussions that there are some in OVYM who believe that we should all want to have more vocal ministry. We wonder at this attitude toward meetings that do not have vocal ministry. Surely it is better to trust that should God have something to say, that He will have it said? We do not have awkward silences, but have found good-willed but artificial attempts at vocal ministry to be very awkward indeed.

Ann Pellegrino, Clerk
Michele Tomarelli, Quarterly Reporter

LEXINGTON FRIENDS

The most singular event in our Meeting this past year has been the May 2013 ground breaking that initiated the renovation of our meetinghouse. The ongoing renovation is managed and overseen by a dedicated group of Friends who coordinate both the finances and the construction of the building. We are blessed to have a design-build team that understands our values and aspirations and is building a simple, inspiring meetinghouse.

For this year that we call our exile, we are renting rooms in a private Christian school. In comparison with our old, dilapidated meetinghouse, this modern facility has many welcome attributes, such as functioning bathrooms and large windows. Nevertheless, we feel the disquiet of not having our own space. Meeting in this new space has compelled some changes in our worshipping practice. Without a piano we have not sung hymns as frequently or enjoyed the benefit of cello music provided by one accomplished friend as a lead-in to worship. Many friends find the overt Christian symbolism and “busy” character of a middle school Bible classroom distracting to their worship experience. These problems have caused some Friends to stay away from first day worship. Nevertheless, our meetings for worship are alive and nurturing. Vocal ministry is widely shared and reflects deep searching and profound inspiration. Friends frequently comment at rise of meeting that the messages “spoke to their condition.” Each month we welcome several visitors, some of whom return to worship with us. Our Care & Nurture committee attempts to follow up with them to extend an invitation to return.

Religious education remains a vital part of our meeting. Adults meet weekly for a first hour discussion to wrestle with Quaker thought and values. Our teen group has been quite active with several teens participating regularly in OVYM activities, including attending Quakes Rock the Midwest, held at Earlham College and in Evanston, Illinois. A few of our teens have taken on positions of leadership in teen groups in both OVYM and at FGC gathering. We hope to attract more young friends of lower ages and spread the teaching load among more adults when we’re back in our renovated building.

Our meeting attempts to maintain an active outreach program. We are involved in a local interfaith group, BUILD, which is working on several social justice issues facing our community such as payday lending, guns & violence, and affordable housing. In December and January, we participated in a project to provide needed personal supplies to veterans. Many members of the meeting work or participate in allied groups such as the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, the Christian-Muslim Dialogue, the Interfaith Alliance and others. We have worked hard to have a greater online presence with a web site on the Quaker Cloud, a Facebook page, and two e-mail listserves, one where announcements of events are distributed and a separate one where discussions occur. Believing that more people want to know about us, we printed business cards with the name, address and telephone number of our meeting so that Friends could distribute them to interested visitors. We continue to discuss ways to expand our outreach to the many people we believe would find the Quaker way meaningful. In March of this year, we held an inspiring and motivating Quaker Quest workshop that we hope to build on over the coming year.

LOUISVILLE FRIENDS

Louisville Friends Meeting has much to address and many bridges to build.

Our mostly silent Meeting for Worship feels productive, though perhaps too quiet. Message sharing is infrequent, particularly by the women in attendance. Meeting's long-time attenders and members tend to share most often. Our First-Hour discussions have often been needed for moving us toward understanding and unity in Meeting for Business, rather than spiritual explorations or study of Quaker faith and practice and history.

Meeting – influenced by discussions of a 2012 *Friends Journal* article – has embarked on a prolonged effort to examine our finances and related practices. We have grown inattentive to them in general over the years, at least in part because of the near-complete support of the Meeting's budget by one family. For the last year, though, we have been focused primarily on our mission, policy and procedures around our scholarship and emergency aid practices. A half dozen Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business (Meeting for Business), discussions and threshing sessions have not brought us to unity, but neither have we been comfortable laying it down for a period of individual reflection and seasoning.

An *ad hoc* committee was authorized to seek legal advice on the prudent boundaries processes and requirements of these programs. Through this process, we learned that our scholarship and emergency assistance process needed a formal policy and that we needed clarity about who we offer support, our intention when providing help, and how the process fits into our mission as a Meeting and tax-exempt entity. The whole process has raised important questions about how to balance confidentiality with financial transparency and accountability as well as the preservation of our tax-exempt status and exposure to corporate and individual liability. As important, we are also looking at how to encourage more ownership and involvement—in terms of both finances and loving, person-to-person support in these programs--by a broader swath of our community:

- How does confidentiality help or hinder community building?
- When there is so much confidentiality how can Business Meeting oversee and guide its finances?
- Under what conditions does committee autonomy help or hinder the life of the Meeting?

The Meeting's self-examination has not been smooth, resulting in hurt feelings, scholarships being discontinued or interrupted, changes in relationships, and loss by resignation. All of this leads to our most fundamental question: **How can we critically examine our practices, alignment with our mission and Quaker testimonies while making every effort to lift up the sincerity and worth of each individual?**

In parallel with this continuing area of discernment, we are about to embark on a year-long experiment of separating our Ministry and Nurture committee into two committees: Ministry & Worship and Care & Nurture. The purpose is: 1) to spread the core work of the Meeting in hopes that more of the work actually will be completed; 2) to build community through increased participation; and 3) to deepen the spirituality of our Meeting. There are well defined tasks for each committee. We must now encourage people—members and attenders alike-- to step up and serve where they are needed most. We have come to realize, though, that to be effective and responsive to the spirit of Meeting, those serving must be active in the life in the Meeting, whether or not they are members of the Meeting or otherwise ministering or living as Quakers.

The Burundi Quaker families who have been our guests for several years formally announced to Meeting for Business in November 2012 that it is time for them to find a path back to their Evangelical Friends tradition. As a first step they have begun separate worship on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at our meetinghouse, so that they can worship and study in their language and in their tradition of Evangelical Friends. They hope to attract a pastor and other Burundi Friends living in the US to Louisville and to plant a church here with the help of Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region (EFC-ER). We are trying to help them move forward by pursuing contacts for them with EFC-ER. We have benefitted by them being in our Meeting, but we also want them to meet their needs and nurture the spiritual lives of their children in their tradition.

The First Day School teachers have been creative in balancing and raising up the different needs of the children—including the cultural differences between US and Burundi children. For example, in twelfth month, the children performed a play from a book they had been reading, about enemies in a war who discovered that they had the same fears and the same love for their families. The children have been having bake sales to help charity groups in the US and in Burundi that the children selected. Efforts to help the children build friendships with each other outside of Meeting time have not been successful, but remind us how shared time together builds long-lasting friendships. The Burundi families' departure will have a profound effect on our youth religious education program, as their children have been the majority of that program each week. Our First Day School teachers are skilled and dedicated, though, and can adapt as many Meetings have to smaller groups of children of different ages.

Even with our ongoing challenges, old and young adults and young families are finding their way to our Meeting. In our urban setting, we find that retaining and integrating new people is more of a challenge than getting them to our door. Our hospitality committee has made an effort to gather folks for a creative breakfast one First Day a month. Bible study and women's worship sharing bring people together. Still, some older and newer participants in our Meeting long for closer community and deeper spiritual seeking and sharing.

MIAMI FRIENDS

Miami Monthly Meeting remains a small but committed gathering of Friends. Weekly, up to a dozen or so faithful members and attenders come together in the spirit of love and sharing, and are sometimes joined by the occasional visitor. We have continued our commitment to deepening our faith and encouraging spiritual growth through our study during First Day School of areas of the Faith and Practice as currently published on the OVYM Website's Resources page. We also began an in depth reading and discussion of "Shared Security," a joint publication by AFSC and FCNL.

We continue to maintain a positive and meaningful role in the community through our regular ministry to the residents of Quaker Heights Care Community (QHCC) where several of our members serve on the Board of Trustees. Every eight weeks our membership walks up the hill to Quaker Heights where we provide a period of inspirational readings, Bible verses and song to those gathered. In December we share a special joy when we present our annual Christmas program to the residents. Additionally, our Assistant Clerk continues to participate in the QHCC annual Memorial Service.

We also supported the Waynesville Area Culture Center through our volunteer service to the various programs conducted at the Waynesville Museum. Our Red Brick Building was selected to be among those open for viewing during the Waynesville Christmas Home Tour.

We continued our practice of providing financial support to various Quaker organizations during the year. The Meeting made contributions to the Olney Friends School, the Friends Music Institute, and the AFSC among others. We also gave to the local Waynesville Food Bank.

In July, members of our Meeting were invited by St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Waynesville to celebrate the 143rd anniversary of the founding of their church. Several of our members attended and enjoyed a delicious lunch and special presentation in the church sanctuary.

Also in July, our Meeting received Brenda Furnas, wife of member Fred Furnas, as a new member. Brenda is a welcome addition to our Meeting.

Again this year, our Meeting gathered at Fort Ancient for our annual outdoor worship and picnic. Friends from Oxford and Community Monthly Meetings joined us in a very spiritually uplifting Meeting for Worship under the trees of this ancient Native American site.

Friends continue to be concerned about the condition of our buildings. Our limited number of regular attendees continue to support work parties to repair and maintain our aging buildings. This year saw a reoccurring problem with water in the basement of the historic White Brick building and a much needed repair to the chimney of the Red Brick.

Because of our diminishing numbers, Friends at Miami Monthly Meeting continue to serve in multiple roles. Milton Cook continues as Clerk of our Meeting and Lonny Burger as Assistant Clerk and both served as our representatives to the OVYM Executive Committee meetings as well as Quarterly and Yearly Meetings this year.

NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This past year has enriched our Meeting and our individual lives with varied gifts of the Spirit and recommitment to past leadings. We have found the Presence sometimes from unexpected sources and been enriched by the leadings of individuals.

As more of our broader society struggles with issues of marriage equality, we realized that we have had 25 years of positive experiences to share with the broader community. We wrote an article for the religious section of our local paper documenting our marriage equality experiences. Since our meeting approved the minute on marriage equality, we have married 4 same sex couples and 10 opposite sex couples. "Both types of marriages have enriched our community life and our spiritual life." As others seem to fear that same sex marriages would weaken the institution of marriage, we have experienced quite the opposite.

Our meeting has experienced spiritual depths from the leadings of one member. She has the vision to see what we need, physically and spiritually, and the ability to put the visions into action. We have been enriched by her leadings in the form of our user-friendly library to her monthly discussions at the rise of meeting especially on such topics as death and dying.

We have recently been reminded that the Spirit touches our lives in unpredictable ways. For many years, we have had a man peripherally involved in the meeting. However, in the past couple of years he has become very at home in our meeting and calls it his "church". He is mentally ill and recently stopped taking his medication resulting in an altercation with a couple of police officers and his being jailed. Our meeting members and attenders became invested in his case and worked to gain his release on probation. We regret his having to go through this incident but it opened our eyes and touched our lives.

We have increased our membership by one. He was an attender of our meeting from very early in the life of the meeting and lived at the meetinghouse for years. He left us for several years but returned recently and requested membership. We all know that we belong together. It is such a deep satisfaction for us to have him return to us!

North Meadow has experienced recently the joy of new attenders. On occasion recently, our meeting rooms have been filled with people. With the influx of new people, we have also experienced some meetings for worship of great depths. Our meeting and each of us within the meeting are touched by each person's presence with us.

The joy of the meeting is felt every first day with our children's program. For so long, we have missed children as a constant in our meeting. We now have a regular program for children and our youthful attendance ranges 0 to 5 and sometimes more, but having younger folks with us is utterly joyful!

In recent months some of us from North Meadow Circle of Friends have become interested in the KI Eco Center which is working toward a more sustainable life in our city and also working toward better communications among races in our community. We appreciate blending with others toward a more loving and sustainable community.

Additionally, we have met with members of Mennonite, Brethren and other Quaker congregations to see what we can do together toward a more peaceful community.

North Meadow Circle of Friends is grateful for the leadings we have experienced and the gifts of the Spirit within our meeting. We hope your lives are rich and blessed by gifts of the Spirit, as well.

In the Spirit of Love,
Your Friends at North Meadow Circle of Friends

OXFORD FRIENDS

The theme for Oxford Friends this year has been Table Fellowship. Our Meeting for Worship has felt like an extended family, gathering together to share meals, joys, concerns, and friendship. We have welcomed a new member with cake (made by a child member), enjoyed her offerings of ethnic cuisine after Meeting for Worship, rejoiced in the presence of two new attenders, and welcomed back a member after a lengthy absence. We have met together as a meeting for three organized potlucks: Spring Fling, Fall Together, and our Advent Event. At our “Meetings for Eating” we celebrated the themes of gardening as we assisted our children in planting the garden next to our Meeting space; Bounty; as we welcomed our new member and decided how to distribute our giving to various organizations, locally, nationally, and internationally; and enjoyed the wonderful children’s play at Christmas, as they brought us “eye-witness reporting” of the unusual occurrences in Bethlehem that night so long ago. As a Meeting we also gathered for food and fellowship to celebrate a birthday, a spaghetti-dinner fundraiser for the Campus Ministry Center, breakfast after the Easter sunrise Meeting held in a local park, and the visits of out-of-town guest speakers to share with us on the topic of understanding of diverse sexuality, and the contributions of Elias Hicks to Quakerism.

We also have had occasions to fellowship with West Elkton Friends, and some of our members participated in the Mount Gilead Friends Retreat in Bloomington and the Religious Nurture and Education Spring Retreat in Richmond. In addition, Oxford Friends helped to host The Journey Of Hope, a group of speakers promoting the abolition of the death penalty, who brought music, fellowship and a sense of optimism that love will triumph over violence.

Oxford Meeting has been active in providing first day school opportunities with our children, with themes like: Bad Role models; virtues; Quakers and the Bible; a Quaker version of Dear Abby; art, sports and prejudice; and several sessions on Islam: its themes, language, Arabic writing, and stories from its “Wise Fool” traditions. Adult education themes have featured one member’s sharing a recent trip to Cuba in support of the new Cuban Quaker Institute for Peace, learning how a small southern town copes with its growing Muslim population, and the work of FCNL and its priorities.

Our Meeting has been active in raising money for the local food pantry through the Oxford “Empty Bowls” project, filling school bags and health kits for Church World Service, and supporting Individual members who have volunteered for the CROP Walk and the MS Walk. Our members have been active outside the Meeting as well: participating in Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice, attending two youth “Peace Jam” events, collecting canned goods for the food pantry, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and at a local animal shelter, attending local ecological events and supporting the MOON co-op, working for Opening Minds through Art (a wonderful program for elders with dementia) and doing community service through 4-H.

Oxford Friends continue to find Meeting for Worship to be the heart of our gathering, and find the

presence of God in worship, whether spoken or in the Silence. While in our Meetings for Worship we feel some constraint in speaking, the opportunity for After-Meeting sharing has regularly been fruitful and led to spiritual openings and a deeper sense of shared fellowship. Our meeting has provided an open table where friends feel affirmed in their leadings. We support one another in our spiritual journeys both within and beyond our Meeting for Worship. We welcome others to partake with us!

WHITE ROSE FRIENDS

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We continue to 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

YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS

Rockford Chapel-- We continue to operate on a trust relationship with Antioch College, the owner of Rockford Chapel, while working towards revising a lease. In addition to our use of Rockford, the building is used by Havurah on Saturdays, AA groups, the College and others.

First Day Program 10:00 a.m.-- Our children's group continues to learn through the "Godly Play" and "Faith and Play" curriculums. This year two – four children participate and we are concerned with the small numbers. Children join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes and then enjoy time outdoors under the care of our adults.

The Yellow Springs Meeting for the second year in a row hosted the Teen Group of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting on the first night of the group's summer service trip. The teens gathered at Rockford Chapel in the late afternoon of Friday, June 14, for introductory and team-building activities and then stayed the night before heading east the next morning for a week of service in Appalachia.

First Day-- We have a steady stream of visitors, both adults and Antioch students, to Meeting for Worship. We are gratified that some of our adult newcomers are becoming part of our community. We look for more connection with the Antioch students that have attended.

Ministry and Advancement-- Adult religious education programs at 10:00 – 10:35 have been carefully planned and have had higher attendance this year. We continue to struggle with a short time frame and participation is largely limited to established attenders. We look for ways to encourage more participation for newcomers.

We recently began the practice of having one Ministry and Advancement member announce at the rise of Meeting her availability to answer questions about Quakerism in general, or our meeting in particular.

An evening book study of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, met four times with ten to twelve participating including several from outside the meeting. It raised our consciousness that a racial undercaste has been created through the “war on drugs” being waged in inner city communities of color.

In January a mini-retreat of Ministry and Advancement, Membership and Pastoral Care, and Clerk for Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting was held to examine the condition of our two major committees and explore a focus on spiritual vitality for the Meeting. An important outcome is a decision to return to a Nominating Committee as one way to bring new ideas and energy to these committees. We also discussed ways of making these committees and their roles and service more visible to newcomers.

Membership and Pastoral Care-- The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee continues to be an important resource for members and attenders with needs for pastoral care. Traditionally, pastoral care has been offered mainly through individual members of the committee rather than through the committee as a whole with individual members approached for support or guidance. We have strengthened this resource through adding new members with pastoral concerns and gifts. To be sure that those in need are informed about what we have to offer, we intend to start making brief announcements from time to time both to identify what the committee does and to introduce committee members.

This year we experienced the sudden death of a regular member, Radar Browne-Middleton, and we continue to feel a sad loss for his vocal ministry and fellowship with us.

A “Penny Jar” fund was created this year to support members and attenders who may be in need of short term or minor financial assistance (bill paying, gas cards, etc.). The concept is to simplify the process, requiring only a verbal request to the individual managing the fund.

Fellowship --Fellowship is shared during the monthly Quaker lunch at a local cafe, the monthly Inner Journey writing group, and potlucks on Sundays after meeting. There is a felt need for a simple supper series for those with a regular work schedule.

An annual fall retreat focused on *Gifts of the Spirit* and was led by guest facilitator, Gary Farlow from the neighboring Xenia Friends Church. We were reminded that gifts of spirit are in large part, the skills and talents we can contribute to our Meeting.

Worship Sharing continues on Thursday afternoons with six to eight attendees.

The wonderful Christmas Eve program, Amahl and the Night Visitors, was attended by many visitors and actively participated in by an intergenerational group of members and attendees.

Wider Quaker World--Several individuals and families carry on connections with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. We encourage participation in joint quarterly meeting, the FGC Gathering, and the Yearly Meeting. Two of our members are co-clerks of the Miami Valley Quarterly Meeting.

Peace Witness--Many vigil steadfastly against war each Saturday as part of an ecumenical witness;

additionally a number of Quakers witness against the death penalty during Ohio executions along with members of other faiths.

Death and Dying--The End of Life Forum continues, now meeting at the Senior Center, with attendance varying depending on the topic. The wider village community is actively involved.

Outreach--We continue to have weekly announcements in the Yellow Springs News about our programs. We now have a Facebook page and will soon have our Quaker Cloud website up and running.

Losses--Radar Browne-Middleton and Walt Tulecke

Friends Care Community--The Governing Board of Friends Care Community consists of eleven members. Our Meeting appoints six of the eleven, and currently three of our appointees are Meeting members. Although a Meeting for Worship is no longer held at the facility, Friends continue to visit seniors and attempt to include Quaker values and process in Board policies and decisions.

Other Concerns --We are concerned that our meeting now has high percentage of people over seventy and we are not gaining members. We desire more younger participants and more children. There remains a heightened awareness of environmental crisis (peak oil, global warming, etc.) and a lack of clarity about how we as a Meeting can respond. We look for ways of expanding awareness and we are fortunate to have members who are well informed on the issues.

Respectfully submitted by Ministry & Advancement Committee
Pat Dewees, Tim Morand, John Eastman, Lori Gravley, Alice Robrish, clerk

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY

Our experience as a committee in reading and pondering the reports from our Monthly Meetings was for us a time of receiving new energy for our work and a sense of excitement as we move forward. We were touched by the honesty and clarity of the reports. The struggles and joys that were shared in the reports tell about how truth prospers among us. When concerns were raised, we heard them described as opportunities and challenges rather than as problems. We celebrate our diversity as a Yearly Meeting.

Many of the reports used the word “small” to describe their respective Meetings. What followed that adjective was often a list of the many activities of a group striving to be faithful to the pastoral care of its members, service to the wider community, and giving attention to the call to put love into practice.

Meetings are giving attention to the religious education of all members of the community. Small groups, retreats, and exploring Quaker Quest were some of the things noted in caring for their spiritual growth.

Our Monthly Meetings are also taking care to discern the best ways for stewardship of financial matters and care of property. Our impression was that folks in OVYM do not see divisions into categories but rather seek ways to find the connections among the great variety of concerns that come to them. There seemed to be a common theme of working as communities to forge a mission that speaks to where they are located. This work is undertaken in manners that strive to be faithful to God’s call to be of service in the care of all aspects of creation.

We read about a year in which our constituent assemblies are taking seriously the tasks of taking care of the now and prayerfully discerning how to prepare for the future.

Religious Nurture and Education

Memorial Minutes

BYRON BRANSON

(June 24, 1929 – February 2, 2014)



Byron M. Branson died peacefully of natural causes on Sunday, February 2, 2014 at his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the age of 84, with his wife and daughter at his side.

Byron was the loving husband of Wilhelmina Braddock Branson. He was a life-long Quaker, a committed social activist, a pacifist physicist, and a devoted father. Byron was a caring man who strove, in the manner of Friends, to let his life speak.

Byron was born on June 24, 1929 in Guilford, North Carolina, the first child of B. Russell Branson, a Quaker minister, and Bessie Phipps Branson. Byron's father became pastor of the New Garden Friends Meeting and Byron later attended Guilford College in Guilford, N.C., graduating in 1951 with degrees in physics and religion.

In 1956, Byron saw Wilhelmina Braddock at Friends General Conference in Cape May, New Jersey, and (as he later wrote) thought to himself "[t]here is a girl I need to get to know better." Although he was living in Baltimore at the time, and she in Cincinnati, by December of that year, they had announced their engagement. The next month, he moved to Cincinnati and they were married on September 7, 1957. Three children soon followed -- Sara, Hannah and Christopher -- in each of the next three years.

Byron's and Wilhelmina's lives reflected a commitment to social justice and young people. In 1965, when their children were between 4 and 6 years old, Byron and Wilhelmina moved their family to North Avondale -- a racially and culturally diverse neighborhood in Cincinnati. Byron and Wilhelmina became active in the Neighborhood Association (NANA) which worked to make North Avondale welcoming to all.

Through the Friends Meeting, Byron became a counselor to conscientious objectors and he led the family on peace marches in both Cincinnati and Washington, DC. For many years in the 1960s and 1970s, Byron and Wilhelmina also were advisors to the youth group at Community Friends Meeting. He also was a longtime delegate (for the Society of Friends) to the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC). Commenting on Barack Obama's presidential election in 2008, he wrote: "[Election day] was truly one of the great days in my life. . . . I can hardly believe I have lived to see this day. Hallelujah."

Byron came from a long-line of Friends, as did Wilhelmina. In many ways, Quakerism provided both the rhythm and fabric of their lives. In 1952, Byron was selected to attend the Young Friends Conference in Reading, England, and spent 6 weeks traveling and sharing experiences with Young Friends from around the world. It was an experience he later described as a "turning point" and it marked the deepening of his life-long commitment to the Society of Friends. Byron and Wilhelmina were among the founding members of Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati in 1968, where Byron repeatedly served as Presiding Clerk. He remained an active member of that meeting for the rest of his

life. Throughout his life, Byron made annual trips to Friends General Conference as well as to the annual gatherings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and earlier, Indiana Yearly Meeting. He was introduced to the Friends Home in Waynesville, Ohio by his father-in-law, Raymond Braddock, in the early 1960s and was involved with the planning and construction of a new facility, Quaker Heights, in the 1970s. He was involved with The Friends Home and Quaker Heights for over 25 years. He served on the Board of Quaker Heights (The Friends Home) for most of those years and also served as clerk of the Board for multiple terms.

In his professional life, Byron was a physicist for the U.S. Public Health Service for over 28 years. He began in 1957, joining the Radiological Health Research Activities (RHRA) program at the Taft Engineering Center in Cincinnati. In the early years, that program focused on measuring and documenting the fallout (and potential health effects) from nuclear arms testing throughout the world. These studies showed that Americans were receiving higher doses of radiation exposure than was being acknowledged by the military or the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at the time. As both a pacifist and a physicist in the early part of the nuclear age, Byron was grateful (as he later wrote) to apply his knowledge and skills for the betterment of public health rather than for military purposes. Later, his career turned toward radiological medicine. In the early 1970s, he helped oversee the construction and start-up of a Nuclear Medicine Laboratory, which helped to develop better medical techniques for use of radioisotopes, and to reduce the radiation dosage to both patients and medical providers.

Byron was a car lover and fix-it man. He did most of the repairs and maintenance on his own cars, including a Karmann Ghia convertible, an Austin Healy 3000, and a Fiat 124 Sport Coupe. There was not much around the house he could not fix – he was constantly helping neighbors and friends in times of need. Byron was also a devoted and playful family man. He built a playhouse, jungle gym and swings for his kids when they were young. In his retirement, Byron was lucky to be surrounded by adoring grandchildren: Annika and Mari Homstad, Cecilia and Elana Branson, and Michaela and Krista Branson.

In addition to his six granddaughters, Byron is survived by his wife of 56 years, Wilhelmina Branson, his three children, Sara Homstad, Hannah Branson and Christopher Branson, his son-in-law, Leigh Homstad, his daughter-in-law, Carolyn Bliss Branson, as well as his brother, J. Clyde Branson and sister-in-law, Lu Henley Branson.

EUGENE GALLAGHER

(March 25, 1929 – March 12, 2014)

Eugene Bennett Gallagher, 84, died on March 12, 2014. He was a beloved teacher, author and researcher in the University of Kentucky College of Medicine for 40 years. He was born March 25, 1929, in Lancaster, PA, and trained at Lehigh and Harvard. He joined the University of Kentucky Department of Behavioral Science in 1962. He was a devoted father, an avid gardener, classical pianist, and admirer of nature. He outlived his daughter Susan and son Christopher, and is survived by sons David and Robert and their mother, his wife of 24 years Carol, along with his second wife of 36 years Marilyn, her children Mary, Martha and Arthur, and 6 grandchildren Timothy, Anna, Halley, Natalie, Creed and Will.



Gene was an active member of Lexington Friends meeting for several decades. About eight years ago, Gene retired, and he and his wife, Marilyn, moved to the Kendal retirement community in Oberlin OH.

Judy Burris, who is a longtime attender of Lexington Friends Meeting, shared this lovely memory of Gene.

In 1970 we began attending Lexington Friends Meeting. One Sunday in August of 1973 during Meeting for Worship, I noticed my husband, Ralph, breathing irregularly. Fairly quickly, he said, "Judy," and we all realized something was wrong. We helped him out of the meeting room, and Gene Gallagher, Lad Simpson, Joe Engelberg, and I took him to the UK Hospital Emergency Room. Our children ages 3, 5, and 7 went to the Gallagher's house. After considerable deliberation, it was determined that, indeed, Ralph was having a heart attack. Somehow, I got my car (perhaps Gene took me), and I went to his house to get the children. He asked if he could drive us home. I reassured him that, no, we were just fine. Under all the bravado of my independence, I think he sensed the anxiety in this young mother whose children's Daddy was in the hospital having a heart attack. The children and I made the long drive through Nicholasville, out into the country, and down Bethel Pike. When I turned into the driveway and got out to open the gate, I realized there was a car waiting behind us. From the open window, Gene's cheery voice said, "Good night!" He had followed us all the way home. It endeared him to me forever and has remained a symbol of how he, with such quiet grace and humility, went about doing good in the world. He will always be a hero to me.

DOROTHY MAE GLANZER

(September 4, 1953 – May 23, 2014)



Dorothy Glanzer was born in South Dakota on September 4, 1953 to a hard-working, frugal Mennonite family in an historic Mennonite farming community. Dorothy grew up in an old-fashioned farm family and went to a mixed-grade, one-room school. Dorothy went on to Freeman Junior College and Goshen College, earning a B.S. in nursing. She was well-traveled, but wound up in a life of service to the poor in Cincinnati, where she met her husband, Greg Haas.

Greg and Dorothy moved to Bloomington in 1989. Dorothy worked in various nursing assignments, including Bloomington Hospital Hospice. Dorothy appreciated each of her clients and loved to hear their stories. Our

Friend Davida Ericson relates how Dorothy's kindness as her husband's hospice nurse was a factor in Davie's coming to Friends.

Dorothy became a member of Bloomington Meeting in 1996. Dorothy contributed service to Bloomington Friends in many capacities. She was known for her intelligence, compassion, sense of humor and clarity of vision. She was one of the early visionaries and founding members of Mt. Gilead Friends Retreat, a 60-acre sanctuary for spiritual renewal drawing upon the inspiration of nature.

Dorothy served as the Board Treasurer for twelve years and set a model for others with her deep acceptance of everyone in the retreat community.

Dorothy remained active and productive even as her body failed her. In the final weeks of her life she completed a collection of stories entitled, *Over-the-Rhine Stories*, based on her experiences in Cincinnati. She continued to take delight in hearing others' stories, and their joyful experiences always brought a large smile to her face. She has left us with many parting gifts, including the grace and integrity with which she met challenges and the delight she took in life's smallest pleasures.

Dorothy died the morning of May 23, 2014.

T. CANBY JONES

(Sept. 25, 1921 – Feb. 13, 2014)

T. Canby Jones was born to Esther Alsop Balderston Jones and Thomas Elsa Jones in Karuizawa, Japan on September 25, 1921, and grew up on the campus of Fisk University in Nashville, TN. He attended Westtown School, then Haverford College where he became acquainted with Thomas Kelly and Douglas Steere. Kelly's teaching and death during the fall semester of Canby's junior year, profoundly affected the rest of his life. From then on Canby was a convinced as well as birthright in his Friendliness.



Canby was a founding member of Campus Friends Meeting in Wilmington, Ohio. Meeting for Worship, as well as all Meeting activities, were fixed constellations in his universe, so that even in his last years, Canby would call a cab, travel to campus, and using his walker in the snow, make his way to the meetinghouse living out his conviction that Quakers go to Meeting for Worship, period! His faithfulness served as an example to all.

After graduating from college, he served in Civilian Public Service camps for the balance of World War II as a pacifist and conscientious objector. Periodically he was furloughed to raise money for the Camps. A contribution of five dollars led to a meeting with a woman by the name of Eunice Meeks. The two of them corresponded, and were married in Danville, Indiana on August 19, 1945. Their only child, Timothy, was born during Canby's time at Yale Divinity School.

Canby and Eunice accepted an offer by Wilmington College to come as an assistant professor of Religion and Philosophy. Wilmington was especially attractive because Thomas Kelly is a Wilmington College Alum. Immediately after moving to town, they became involved in encouraging the Wilmington City Schools to implement **Brown v Board of Education**. They both attended the preparative unprogrammed Meeting for Worship which began meeting in the Fine Arts Center. The preparative meeting became Campus Friends Meeting, moved into McCoy Room and is now located in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse in the Quaker Heritage Center. Canby and Eunice spent the remainder of their spiritual lives as active members of Campus Friends Meeting, a bridge-meeting with membership in Wilmington Yearly Meeting (FUM) and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (FGC).

In the late sixties/early seventies, Canby attempted to paint a watercolor which would capture a persistent “vision” of his. The vision was of six men (Confucius, Zarathustra, Abraham, Lao-tzu, Mohammed and Jesus) furiously running up different sides of the same mountain. With his usual enthusiasm, he established and co-led the Travelling Ecumenical Class in the mid-80s. One result of his having survived ulcerative colitis in the late 1950’s was his strong faith in the power of prayer. Following a powerful mystical experience, he regained his health and began visitation among Friends both in the United States and on three other continents.

Canby was a well-known life-long, scholar on George Fox. He helped lead Quakers to a deeper understanding of the Lamb’s War, and compiled Fox’s letters into comprehensive collection, *The Power of the Lord is Over All*. In addition, Canby penned a small pamphlet delineating his take on Quaker Education. He was a past Editor of *Quaker Religious Thought* and a longtime member of Quaker Theological Discussion Group, as well as a co-founder of the Friends Association for Higher Education.

Canby was deeply appreciative of the Circle of Care formed by Campus Friends Meeting, which enabled him to remain in Wilmington after Eunice’s death far longer than he could have without the Circle’s attention and loving provision.

ROSEMARIE A. LECHNER
(November 23, 1917 – March 6, 2014)

Rosemarie A. Lechner died on 3/6/2014 in Richmond, Indiana. Rosemarie was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 11/23/1917 to Edward and Minne Mueller Allen. Rosemarie and her brothers, Julius and Hermann, grew up in Ames, Iowa. Her high school education took place at Roger Ascham School in NY and Schloss Michelbach in Germany. She earned her Bachelor’s from Iowa State College in child development and Master’s from University of Minnesota in child welfare.

Rosemarie taught nursery school in Grand Portage, MN and Indianapolis, IN, was field secretary for American Friends Service Committee, and spent 15 months at work camps in Mexico and Finland. While working at Powell House, a refugee center in New York, she met Hans Lechner from Vienna, Austria.

Rosie moved to Skillman, New Jersey, and she and Hans married in 1948. She shared her love of nature and intellectual curiosity with their children, Thomas, Margaret, Edward, and Robert, and raised them attending Princeton Friends Meeting, where she became an active member. In 1971 the family moved into Princeton. After the children left home Rosie and Hans had more time for hiking and international travel.

Following Hans’ death in 1997, Rosie moved to live with her daughter in Richmond, Indiana. She joined Clear Creek Friends Meeting and volunteered in the community. In 2001 she moved to Friends Fellowship, where she finished her memoir, “Family Matters”.

On 4/5/2014 a Memorial Service for Rosemarie Lechner was held under the care of Clear Creek Friends Meeting. Family and friends in attendance heard many ‘Rosie stories’ that told of her love of nature, her loyalty as a friend, and her wholehearted and practical presence in the life of her community. She was loved for her positive attitude, her forthrightness, her gentle humor, and, most of all for her love of family.

LAURANCE SHROPSHIRE SIMPSON, JR. (LAD)

(May 11, 1926 – March 29, 2014)



Laurance Simpson, (Lad), longtime member of Lexington Friends Meeting, died March 29, 2014 at the age of 87. He was born in Lexington, KY May 11, 1926. His parents were Laurance and Elizabeth Murphy Simpson. He graduated from University High School in Lexington and attended the University of KY. In 1943 he joined the US Marine Corps. He fought on Leyte in the Philippine Islands in 1944. He bred and raced some successful thoroughbreds at Avon Farm, and later farmed in Fayette and Bourbon counties. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Betty. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Catesby Spears (Pat)

Simpson; a sister Mary March; a brother and sister-in-law Jock and Nancy Simpson; a sister-in-law Sally Hinkle; four children Laurance III (Chris Westover) Catesby, Matt, and Lockhart (Ella); two grandsons Laurance Simpson IV and Catesby W Simpson; a step-granddaughter Elina Drevina; and a lifelong devoted friend Tom Underwood.

Lad was a strong advocate of farmland preservation. He enjoyed horseback riding and fox hunting and was a former member of the Iroquois Hunt Club. During his life, he planted thousands of trees and tens of thousands of flowers. He was actively interested in politics, served for a time on the Bourbon County Democratic Executive Committee, and strongly supported various causes of peace and justice.

Lad knew a great deal of Kentucky history. When listening to him you could be transported back to the civil war era. As a farmer the weather was very important to Lad, and he often shared his reflections on the weather and the effects it was having on the natural world around him. In a meeting full of transplants to Kentucky, Lad and his wife Pat were natives of the bluegrass region. They were part of Lexington meeting from its early years of the 1960s and 1970s.

GEORGE HENRY SWAIN

(December 4, 1918 – March 3, 2014)

George Henry (Hank) Swain was born December 4, 1918 in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of George Henry and Elizabeth Hardy Swain. He grew up in Spring Valley, Madison County, Indiana, where his parents were members of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting. He was therefore a birthright Friend. He graduated from Pendleton High School in 1936 and attended Indiana University. A Quaker pacifist, he spent three years and ten months during World War II in camps for conscientious objectors, performing labor for the government without pay.



Hank and his wife, Mardi, came to Brown County Indiana in 1947, lived in a tent and began building a house. The experience of building his own house led him into the building business. His company, Brown County Builders, operated for thirty-five years, and fifty-three homes were built, most of his own design.

Years of service to Brown County government related to his building experience. Work as a Guardian

Ad Litem volunteer and in founding the Brown County Foundation overlapped a writing career and mentoring of many young people in Brown County.

By the mid-90s, Hank and Mardi had followed his Quaker roots back to Bloomington Friends Meeting. We welcomed Hank into membership with a feeling that he had always been a member. Hank is remembered as a warm and Friendly presence who was his own Welcoming Committee, being sure to speak with every newcomer and make everyone at home. Hank's building experience helped the maintenance committee and frequently resulted in Hank personally addressing problems he saw. Hank liked to tell stories, although he avoided his Tall Tales in Meeting.

Hank passed quietly at home on March 3, 2014, surrounded by his family.

WALT TULECKE

(February 10, 1924 – January 28, 2014)



Walt Tulecke, long time attendee of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, died peacefully on Jan. 28, 2014. He was 89 years old; two weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

Walt was born in Detroit, Mich. on Feb. 10, 1924. He was the first in his family to get a college degree, which he earned at the University of Michigan. In a plant science class there, he met Hazel Batchelor, and they married in 1946. After their children were grown, his marriage with Hazel ended in 1973.

Walt was drawn to teaching as an opportunity to use his creativity and his love of people and learning. He accepted a position at Antioch College in Yellow Springs in 1967, teaching both botany and nutrition courses.

Walt retired in 1990 and continued to cultivate his interests in plants, especially ginkgo, walnut and pawpaw trees. He enjoyed adventures, teaching and learning in China, India, Kenya, Japan and Ecuador. He loved music and dance and working with wood. Gardening, teaching, and learning continued to give him great enjoyment. Most of all, he loved spending time with family and friends.

Walt's own words tell of his approach to life. Here is an excerpt from his poem, "Entering and Leaving":

*Self-consciousness, a blessed awareness
Is embraced by beauty wonder and hope.
And leaving? A new journey
Neither willed nor easily done. No choice.
As in the great wonderful beginning:
Alone, with courage,
Parting with the sweetest of sorrow
And a smile of thankfulness for all that has been.
Not to worry, loved ones
Leaving as entering: the gift is to be.*

AGNES MOON

(March 17, 1919 – June 11, 2014)



Agnes Lawall Moon, age 95, passed quietly at the Friends Care Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio on June 11, 2014 after a two week period of Hospice care, with her son Tom at her side.

Agnes was born March 17, 1919 to a Quaker family in Richmond, Indiana, the youngest of five children. She graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, where she met and married her husband Edwin Moon in 1941.

Agnes loved children and worked for a time as a nanny and then in an orphanage. She was a kindergarten teacher in the Cincinnati Public Schools for thirty years, from 1954 to 1984, most of those years at Rockdale Elementary School. A former principal who worked with her called her “the Rock of Rockdale.” Some of her former students stayed in touch with her all her life.

Agnes was a gentle person and a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends. She was generous with sharing her knowledge and experience, and served as a mentor to many. She lived out her Quaker values in her daily life, and her children and grandchildren were steeped in this powerful example of a life of love, service, and simplicity, a life lived in the Light.

After moving to Cincinnati in 1953 Agnes was active in the formation of the East Cincinnati Friends Meeting and later was a founding member of Community Friends Meeting. She taught First Day School for many years, and was active on the Community Committee. She showed up regularly to help clean the Meetinghouse on work days, and always reached out to help others in the meeting, especially the children. Agnes served as the meeting’s Statistician for many years, maintaining membership records and reporting to both Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting. She attended Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting faithfully through the years, and served as registrar for a time.

Agnes was the loving wife of Edwin O. Moon for 55 years, and cared for him with great devotion through his struggle with Parkinson’s disease until his death in 1996. She is survived by sons Tom (Cathy) and Sam (Katherine) of Cincinnati and daughter Susan (David Hyde) of Yellow Springs, Ohio. She leaves eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sons Lewis (Sharon) of La Plata, Maryland and Roy (Lyn) of Brookville, Indiana.

There will be a private burial at Spring Grove Cemetery. A memorial meeting was held at Community Friends Meeting on July 12, 2014.