

198th Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting June 13 - 17, 2018.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 3 pm**

1. Clerk Betsy Neale shared the following quote as we settled into worship.

Is it possible that the cause of the decline of Quakerism today...is that we do not really believe the Holy Spirit will answer our seeking and give us guidance in solving our problems?

Rachel Davis Dubois (1892 – 1993)

2. The clerk reminded us of Meeting for Business etiquette. Above all, we are led by the openness of the Spirit.
3. Roll call and introductions of those others in attendance was done.
4. Epistle Committee will be Paul Buckley and John Edminster who were approved for this service.
5. Epistle Summary by Deb Kociszewski. The report is attached.
6. Gratitude was expressed to those working with our youth during these sessions: Hannah Branson, Susan Hyde, Lupe Witte, Maria Hernandez, Paz Santana, Gabby Hernandez, Chie Togami, Dylan Cahalan, Adam Funck and Kaitlyn Funck.
7. Friends approved to visit the youth during sessions were named. Paul Buckley will visit the Youth and Bill Cahalan will visit the children's program.
8. State of Society Reports, Nikki Coffey Tousley. The report will be attached to these minutes.
9. Minutes were approved to this point.
10. Whitewater Report, Terre Holada. The report will be attached to these minutes. Terre invited all to the Joint Quarterly Meeting October 20th and 21st at Happy Hollow. The report was accepted.
11. The Executive Committee, Betsy Neale. The report will be attached to these minutes. We are taking advantage of technology, particularly Zoom, to allow more people to attend committee meetings. Two Monthly Meetings, Green Plain and Hopewell, were laid down since last sessions. Nominating Committee has reorganized itself. The report was accepted.
12. FWCC Report, Anne Hutchinson. There are four sections who are working to help live sustainably, and holding world-wide meetings. Please visit the display at the table, visit their website and plan to be active on World Quaker Day October 7th. A friend asked for more information about World Quaker Day. There is a World Quaker Day website to see what others have done, but a Meeting may do what they would like. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.
13. Friends Peace Team, Anne Hutchinson. Please visit the website. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.
14. Minutes were approved to this point.
15. Olney Friends School sent a letter thanking us for our financial support, but they are still in need if Friends feel moved to help them.
16. This session ended with silent worship and announcements.

**Thursday, June 14, 10 am**

17. The clerk shared this quote as we opened with worship: The ability to care for others is the only gift we have to give the world at large.

Joan Chittister

18. The clerk reminded Friends of our procedures.

19. Roll Call and introduction of Friends from wider Quaker concerns and other attenders not previously introduced.

20. Miami Quarterly Meeting, Veronica Frost.

Peter Hardy will be the new Quarter Clerk. Veronica shared that we could possibly boil down Quakerism to two words - Love and Service. There is a concern of attendance at Quarterly Meeting. Also, there is little business that passes through the quarter. Possible meeting three times a year isn't required. There will be a worship meeting on August 26th at 11:15 at Green Plain, which was recently laid down. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

21. Religious Nurture and Education Report, Nikki Coffey Tousley

It is hoped that each Monthly Meeting would send at least one person to any trainings, workshops or seminars the committee hosts.

Their focus is still on intervisitation, travel in the ministry and Spiritual accompaniment.

The committee is asking the Yearly Meeting to create a task group to deal with the following concerns:

- Develop a policy and structure for responding to accusations of sexual assault and harassment within the Yearly Meeting and constituent meetings.
- Foster conversation about these issues within the Yearly Meeting and develop a program to educate Friends.

Friends approved the forming of this task group. Friends expressed gratitude for the faithfulness of this committee in bringing forth a very difficult concern. Two Friends, Betsy Neale and Gail Koehler, have already volunteered to serve.

The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

22. The minutes were approved to this point.

23. Deborah Jordan mentioned that revision of the policy for prevention of child abuse, which must be revisited every four years, is due this year. It will be the responsibility of Deborah to convene this group of people, specifically someone from Religious Education and Nurture, Members of the Youth and Children's program and Kaia Jackson, Youth Secretary. Friends approved.

24. Statistician Report, Frank Huss

Four meetings did not submit a report, so their numbers were kept the same as last year. The total membership of the Yearly Meeting had a net loss of 53 members since sessions last year. The title of "Associate Membership" should be changed to "Youth Membership" in keeping with the revisions of *Faith and Practice*. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

25. Braddock Fund, Wilson Palmer

There are brochures available for more information on prison ministry and scholarships. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

26. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

There was concern raised about the Traveling Ministers Fund; in particular that the Yearly Meeting was used as a “pass through” to financially help individual traveling Friends. A lengthy discussion followed. The concern is that taking a tax deduction for these contributions is contrary to the IRS code, and that accepting these contributions was not in right order for the Yearly Meeting since the Traveling Ministers Fund was not formally established by the Yearly Meeting. It was suggested that a traveling ministry fund be created and cared for either by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee or the Executive Committee. There currently is a Spiritual Nurture fund under RNE that may be expanded to include travel in the ministry outside of the Yearly Meeting. Friends that have donated may need to be notified that their donation may not be tax deductible. It may be that the tax-deductibility of these donations could be applied retroactively to a current (Spiritual Nurture) or new fund; this would need to be verified by an attorney. One solution could be that we have a permanent fund moving forward for travel in the ministry by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting members. Friends approved that the treasurer contact those Friends who have donated to this fund and let them know that their donation is not tax deductible. Friends also approved the Executive Committee looking at the question of funding future travel in the ministry. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

27. The minutes were approved to this point with the stipulation that Paul Buckley help Terre reword the above minute.

28. Budget, Wilson Palmer

The individual proportional amount will remain at \$120.00. The budget will be attached to these minutes. The budget was approved.

29. Ad Hoc Development Committee, Fred Feitler

The report has a list of areas of concern that the Yearly Meeting is not addressing because of lack of funding. Friends are asked to consider following the example of Eileen Bagus, who bequeathed a donation to OVYM. Donations can be more than money - like books, materials, musical instruments, etc. Fred shared a quote about bequests, “It is easier to give money away after you’re gone.” It was recommended that this committee become a permanent, rather than an ad hoc, committee - the Fundraising Committee. Friends were concerned that it will be difficult to fill a new committee. Fred said that the current members were enthusiastic in continuing this work and visiting Monthly Meetings. This will be taken to the Executive Committee for further consideration. The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

30. Introduction of Kaia Jackson, new Youth Secretary.

31. Minutes were accepted to this point.

**Thursday, June 14, 3:30 pm**

32. The Clerk began silent worship with the following quote:

“The essence of prayer is relationship.”

Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers)

33. The clerk reminded Friends of our procedures.

34. Roll call

35. Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

The initial slate was presented and final approval is scheduled for Saturday.

36. Planning Committee, Carol Simmons

The committee needs more people. Volunteers are also welcome but are not required to be on the committee. Earlham has been very helpful, but we need to be aware of their needs, specifically, early registration. The dates for next year will be June 19-23, 2019. Thanks was expressed to the entire committee.

The report will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

37. *Faith and Practice* revision, Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, Wilson Palmer, Betsy Neale.

It was hoped that the committee work would be finished this year. Three members are ready to step down from the committee, but other members are willing to continue if needed. Paul Buckley said that the book hasn't been given a final look and the index needs attention, but it is very close to being ready to be published in book form.

The attached text was read aloud and after brief discussion was approved and will be attached to these minutes.

The Yearly Meeting approved this work going forward. It was noted that only men are left on the committee, and they are weighty Friends. A younger or newer Quaker would be helpful in seeing the work through those eyes. It is hoped that the publishing may coincide with our 200th anniversary in 2020. The clerk asked the committee to write a clear description of what a member would be required to do. This was approved.

Rex Sprouse has been a long-time member of this committee but due to knee surgery, was unable to attend. He is missed.

Appreciation was given to the committee for their fine work, especially those leaving the committee: Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, and Betsy Neale.

The text will be attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

38. Quaker Heritage Center Report

Christine Snyder informed the Yearly Meeting that there is no report from the center because Ruth Brindle, Director of the Quaker Heritage Center, was let go from Wilmington College and her position was eliminated at the end on July 2017. The Peace Resource Center Director has been given the responsibility for the Quaker Heritage Center. Tanya Maus is doing the best she can, but her expertise is in Japanese Studies, not Quaker history. The Quaker Heritage Center was endowed with a 3.5 million dollar bequest, and its mission is "to preserve and present to future generations the Quaker heritage." The Peace Resource Center houses the Hiroshima Collections of Barbara Reynolds and promotes a nuclear-free, peaceful world. There is a concern that donated items to the Quaker Heritage Center may not be taken care of properly. The Yearly Meeting and individual Friends are encouraged to write to Wilmington College about the elimination of the directorship. Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and Susan Hyde offered to help write a minute to be sent to Wilmington College with help from Christine Snyder. This minute will be presented during these sessions for final approval. Friends approved.

39. Minutes were approved to this point.

40. There was closing worship for this session.

Friday, June 15, 10 am

41. Opening worship and today's quote.

"God does not require us to achieve any of the good tasks that humanity must pursue. What God requires of us is that we not stop trying." Bayard Rustin

42. The clerk welcomed Friends and reminded all of Meeting for Worship for Business.

43. Roll call.

44. Quaker Heights Care Community, Sydney McBride Interim Director and Christine Snyder, board member

Sydney's report was given and accepted.

Christine Snyder presented the following minute:

*The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting acknowledges that the Board of Trustees of the Friends Home of the OVYM of the Religious Society of Friends chartered in 1904, DBA Quaker Heights Care Community in Waynesville, Ohio, has entered into a sole member substitution agreement with Ohio Living Communities, "a nonprofit, charitable organization that owns and operates long-term care facilities throughout the state of Ohio that provide skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living services for residents of the local communities, is duly licensed in the State of Ohio, and Medicare and Medicaid." The projected date of closing of the agreement and transition is June 30, 2018, pending HUD approval.*

*This agreement means that the properties, assets and operating liabilities of Quaker Heights Care Community, Quaker Heights Foundation, and all associated entities, shall become an entity of the Ohio Living Communities previously known as Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services, with the intention of improving the quality of long term care services, at developing innovative new programs, achieving cost reductions and efficiencies, and developing a common vision and strategy in light of healthcare reform.*

*In anticipation of the sole member substitution, the Quaker Heights Board transferred ownership of the historic 1905 Friends Home building and its surrounding property and contents at 115 South Fourth Street, Waynesville, Ohio, to the Board of the Museum at Friends Home (The Waynesville Museum and Cultural Committee) which has, for many years, operated a historical museum in that location, under a \$1.00 per year lease agreement. The original 1904 charter document has been moved to the museum for safe-keeping.*

*The Yearly Meeting acknowledges the selfless service of the founding Friends, and the many Friends and others who have served over the past 114 years on the board and communities of the Quaker Heights Care Community and the Quaker Heights Foundation. The board will become the local Advisory Committee, and one member, the current presiding clerk, has been named to serve on the Board of Ohio Living Communities.*

*Quaker Heights has been the largest ministry of OVYM, but the time is right to pass it to others to continue and grow to even greater service to the Waynesville, Ohio community as Ohio Living Quaker Heights. It is with pride in accomplishment and hope for a better future that this decision was taken.*

*By approving this minute, we are laying down the ministry of Quaker Heights.*

This minute was approved.

Christine Snyder also presented this minute of appreciation:

*The Yearly Meeting expresses its appreciation for the faithful services of all the staff and administrators who have, with love and care, served the residents of Friends Home and Quaker Heights Care Community.*

*Special thanks go to Wendy Waters Connell, who served as Executive Director of Quaker Heights for 18 years, until December 2017, leading our organization through many different but positive changes.*

*We are grateful for the service of current Executive Director and Administrator Sydney McBride, who is providing skilled leadership through the present transition.*

We approved.

Thanks was given to current and former members of the board: Wilson Palmer, Alice Palmer, Eric Wolff, Frank Huss, Byron Branson, Horatio Wood, Eugenia Mills, many Friends from Miami Meeting, Roland Kreager, Christine Snyder and many others who have given of their hearts and souls in helping Quaker Heights.

45. American Friends Service Committee, Erin Polley

AFSC is currently working on Middle East Issues. Community members in Indianapolis were invited to listen to testimony and ask questions on the situation in Gaza. Politicians were invited, and one came. There is a recording on their website. "No Way to Treat a Child" is a program to stop and raise awareness of children being detained by Israeli soldiers. See [Nowaytotreatachild.org](http://Nowaytotreatachild.org). A major focus is addressing Islamophobia. There have been trainings on how to shift the narrative from fear to embrace. Through hiring several young Muslims, it was identified that there should also be training in Muslim communities. There is a Muslim Youth Collective that was an outcome of these trainings.

Her report was accepted.

46. Friends Music Camp, Carol Simmons

Peg Champney asked Carol to report that enrollment was down, and it is hoped that Friends will go home and encourage young people to attend this four week residential music camp. Carol affirms all that this camp does from her view as a mother of three former campers. The report was accepted.

47. Earthcare Committee, Dave Duvall

The committee is down to three active members and wishes to welcome more. Last night there was a video called *The Economics of Happiness* which focuses on the environmental and economic impacts of corporate globalization. It also shows localization movements from around the world. It will be shown again tonight if there's interest.

There is a report attached to these minutes. The report was accepted.

48. Children's Program Committee, Susan Hyde

The report is attached. The report is accepted.

49. Records Committee, Susan Hyde

There is information and guidelines available on the table. It is hoped that this information could be accessed through the website. All meetings are encouraged to turn in their records to the Wilmington College archive. Monetary donations are always welcome. When turning in records, contact the Watson Library of Wilmington College for an appointment with Patti Kinsinger. Call ahead also if you want to do some research.

The report was accepted with gratitude.

50. Christine Snyder told us that on May 12th the Friends Committee on National Legislation celebrated its 75th anniversary of its founding in 1943 at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. In April there was a Lobby Day for young adults with the focus on immigration. FCNL is encouraging the founding of Advocacy Teams. Lexington Meeting and Community Friends have both formed Advocacy Teams. The purpose of these groups is not to confront political leaders, but to get to know them, which is in keeping with Quaker history.

The report is attached. The report was accepted.

51. The minutes were approved to this point.

52. The meeting closed with silent worship.

### **Saturday, June 16, 10 am**

53. The clerk opened the meeting with silent worship . This is the quote of the session: “Who but God knows how effective any of us is going to be in anything we do? What we do know is that love is a necessity as well as a command; that love is like the loaves and fishes – there is never enough until we start sharing.” William Sloane Coffin. She also reminded us of procedures.

54. Roll call

55. Religious Nurture and Education Committee: Nikki Coffey Tousley and Shannon Isaacs. And Youth Services Committee: Chie Togami, Kaia Jackson.

A man has been asked to leave Yearly Meeting because of a concern for the safety of our young female attenders, due to his behavior in the past . This issue led to a long and painful discussion with a major concern whether to include in our minutes the names of the two individuals involved in this incident.. We will continue the discussion later.

56. Nominating committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

The new slate of officers, committee members and representatives was approved and is attached.

57. Minutes were approved to this point.

### **Sunday, June 17, 2018**

58. The clerk opened the meeting with worship and this quote. “The meeting for worship revealed to the group what God’s will was, and the meeting for business helped the group to plan how to do God’s will.” Elise Boulding

59. A letter was read from traveling Friends Paulette Meier and Diann Herzog.

60. FGC, Janice Domanik

There is a new publication called “Seeds That Changed the World” by Debbie Humphries and is available through [www.QuakerBooks.org](http://www.QuakerBooks.org). Meetings are encouraged to consider using the Quaker Cloud. The report from OVYM’s representative, Chris Harmer, was very complete and will be attached to these minute. The report was approved.

Friends are invited to The Gathering in Toledo, Ohio this year.

61. Registrar, Eric Wolff

The report is attached. The report was accepted.

62. Planning Committee, Carol Simmons

Next year’s sessions will be June 19-23, 2019 at Earlham.

63. Visitor to the Youth, Paul Buckley

Paul reported that worship was deep, and he has great confidence for the future of our society.

64. Visitor to Children, Bill Cahalan

The children attending sessions changed everyday. The kids were kept busy swimming, crafting and preparing for the variety show. Bill enjoyed it and wishes he had done it other years.

65. Children’s Program, Hannah Branson and Ollie, Bently and CeeCee.

Their Epistle is attached. The epistle was accepted.

66. Youth Program, Nora, Theo, Max (formerly known as Charlotte), Cece, Elana, Grace, Toby, Bing, and Reid

The epistle is attached. The epistle was accepted.

67. The Epistle, Paul Buckley and John Edminster

The Epistle is attached. The Epistle was approved with gratitude.

68. Minutes were approved to this point.

69. Young Adult Friends Epistle, Kaia Jackson, Kaitlyn Funck and Adam Funck.

There is gratitude for the reformation of the Young Adult Friends Committee. The Epistle is attached. They also prepared a statement from a smaller group of Young Adults expressing disappointment with the Yearly Meeting's failure to come to unity in the naming of the sexual perpetrator. Both documents are attached. The Epistle is accepted with great thanks and loving support.

70. Gratitude was expressed to everyone working with the youth at this Yearly Meeting.

71. Letter of Concern to Wilmington College on the status of the Quaker Heritage Center, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson.

A preliminary letter was presented but Friends did not see way to approving the letter. The letter will be reworked and brought to the Executive Committee for final approval and dissemination. Friends approved.

72. A difficult situation has risen from a Monthly Meeting regarding two Friends and sexual assault. Religious Nurture and Education has done a lot of work on this incident for many months. The people involved directly and peripherally have been spoken to with love and listened to with care and concern. The young woman has lost a lot, including her faith community. As a safety issue at these sessions, the man was asked to leave and is not welcomed back at this point. What will happen in the future needs more discernment. The committee members will be available to speak to anyone who has been hurt by this or feels the need to discuss it further. Friends expressed love and concern for all involved and great thankfulness to the committees for facing this situation as faithfully and compassionately as they have.

We returned to our discussion from Saturday focusing on to whether to include the names of the two individuals involved in the sexual misconduct incident. There is still an anguished division regarding transparency to enhance safety versus confidentiality. Friends may feel confident that this discussion will continue with the task force until a policy is written. The newly approved task force and the Executive Committee will continue this discernment and seek to have a proactive sexual abuse prevention policy in place. In moving forward with integrity, we must be open and unafraid to search for and speak the Truth.

Individuals seeking the names of the survivor and perpetrator should contact the clerk of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee.

73. Minutes were approved to this point.

74. Thanks to the staff of Earlham College who have worked faithfully this week to meet our needs.

75. Thanks was expressed to Betsy Neale for her work serving the Yearly Meeting. Betsy expressed her gratitude for having the opportunity to serve. Betsy also thanked Martha Viehmann and Terre Holada for their support and work.

76. The 198th sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting closed to attend worship at Stout Meeting House.