

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

ANNUAL FOUR-DAY SESSIONS OPEN IN COMPATIBILITY, WHERE POSSIBLE, WITH
THE SCHEDULING OF WESTERN AND IOWA CONSERVATIVE YEARLY MEETINGS
AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE

1999 Sessions will be held from 7/28/99 to 8/1/99
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

1998

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 1998-99

Presiding Clerk
Elizabeth Mertic

Recording Clerk
Julia Pantoga

Reading Clerk
Roxy Jacobs

Treasurer
Dave Moorman

Assistant Clerk
Nancy Duncan

Clerk Coordinator
Mary Nurenberg

Registrar
Mary Nurenberg

Field Secretary
Barry Zalph

Teen Friends Co-Clerks
Robyn Holmes
Michael Kerr,
Lydia Robbins,

Trustees
Andrew W. Wolf,
Richard H. Ashdown,
Jerry Nurenberg,
Helen Jean Nelson,

Meetinghouse

815-882-2214

1998 IYM PROGRAM

Theme: *Towards the Refreshing of the Children of the Light*

WEDNESDAY:

2:00 - 3:30 Opening session: Worship & Bus. Mtg.
3:30 - 6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
5:30 - 6:00 Singing on front porch
Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner
7:15 - 9:00 Service Project for Kids
7:30 - 8:30 **Address by Johan Maurer**
8:45 •New Attenders Meeting (Reg. table)
9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30 - 7 am Early Meeting for Worship
6:45 - 7:45 Breakfast
7:30 •New Attenders Mtg. on Sat. (Reg. table)
8:00 - 8:45 Meeting for Worship
(Memorials are read at Saturday Mtg.)
9:00 - noon Meeting for Business / FUN program
12:00- 1:00 Lunch
YO Comm. meets Thurs. & Sat. at lunch
1:15 - 3:30 Craft tent/Recreation - all ages
1:15 - 2:00 Worship Sharing / Meeting for Worship
2:15 - 3:30 Workshops
3:00 - 3:30 Snacks for children
4:00 - ? Games on the front lawn (led by High School YFs)
3:30 - 6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
5:30 - 6:00 Singing on front porch
Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15 - 3:30 Swimming at Henry pool
3:30 •Finance Committee meeting
7:30- 9:00 Campfire
7:30 - 8:30 **Reps from Friends Organizations**
9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15 - 3:30 Hike at Matthaisson State Park
3:30 •Women's Theology Group Meeting
for worship, business, discussion
•Environmental Concerns Committee Mtg.
7:30 - 10 **Dancing on front lawn**
9:00 - 9:45 Watermelon served outside during dancing

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:15 - 3:30 Swimming at Henry pool
4:00 •Area Planning Groups meet
4:30 - 5:30 Talent Show
7:30 - 9:00 Young Friends' movies
7:30 - 8:30 **Address by Patrick Nugent**
9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

SUNDAY

6:30 - 7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 Packing time
9:30 -10:30 **Plummer Lecture: Maurine Pyle**
11:00-12:00 Meeting for Worship
12:00- 1:00 Lunch
1:00 Cleanup and Farewells

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

124th Annual Session
July 29 - August 2, 1998
McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION: Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Minute 1

We gathered in silence to begin our 124th session of Illinois YM. The Clerk welcomed all visitors. Mary Lord is from FCNL. She comes with a traveling minute from Baltimore YM, and also comes as Clerk of the Steering Committee of Quaker Volunteer Service and Witness Network. Her traveling minute was read. Eloise Cranke is Director of AFSC Des Moines Office of the Central Region (an 11 state region).

Minute 2

The Assistant Clerk read selections from Rufus Jones, 1937 (in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, #19 & 20). The Society of Friends was founded not as another sect, but to revive the way of early Christians. Rufus Jones also reminds us that God is the "Great I am", not the "Great He was"; if ever God spoke to humans, God speaks still. Excerpts from Epistles from North Carolina YM, Baltimore YM and the Northwest YM of Friends Church Gathering were read (appended).

Minute 3

Janet Means, Clerk of Ministry & Advancement, let us know that first time attenders will have butterflies on their nametags. Friends willing to serve as resource people for new attenders, please go to the registration desk and get a "smiling face" sticker for your nametag. An introductory session for new attenders will be convened by Margaret Katranides on Wednesday after evening program and Saturday morning at 7:30 am; please meet at the registration table.

Minute 4

Friends are reminded to read carefully the Advance Documents, which represent many hours of work of YM Friends over the past year. Pictures from the 1998 Memorial Day work weekend are in the stairway down to the dining room.

Minute 5

Youth Oversight Committee presented a request for YM decision during this session. Two minutes are presented in the Advance Documents which we will consider at tomorrow's session.

The Clerk read a letter from YouthQuake 2000, describing what a YouthQuake sponsorship entails. Katherine Trezevant asked Friends to read in the Advance Documents the letters from some of the eight participants from IYM who attended YouthQuake this year (appended). Youth Oversight recommends that IYM approve Kai Immler to serve as a representative of Illinois YM.

Minute 6

Johan Maurer introduced himself, and will have more time this evening to share with Friends.

Minute 7

Minutes 1-6 were approved.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION: Thursday, July 30, 1998

Minute 8

We welcome the following visitors to IYM: Nils & Peg Pearson (North Central Worship Group, Northern Yearly Meeting) are our Friends General Conference visitors. Barbara Hirshkowitz is the new FGC Publications Coordinator; Anna Rich is here as a representative of Quaker United Nations Office and Friends World Committee for Consultation--she hails originally from Topeka, Kansas and recently left Swarthmore; Mary Lord reintroduced herself. First time attenders at IYM also introduced themselves.

Minute 9

News of Friends was shared. Bill and Sandra Brown both send their love, and know that you send yours to them. Bill is under medical care and unable to be here. Sylvia Way is at Hagedorn Geriatric Center, 200 Sanitarium Road, Langard, New Jersey and hopes to be released soon. We are deeply grateful to those in Duneland Meeting who have provided so much care for Sylvia, and we hold Sylvia in our prayers.

Minute 10

The Reading Clerk read excerpts from Epistles from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (appended).

Minute 11

The Epistle Committee is composed of Pat Wixom, David & Kip Westling, Robyn Holmes and Carol Zimmerman. Lydia Robbins agreed to join the Epistle Committee. Carol Zimmerman will clerk it. The Exercises Committee will be Kai Immler, Scott Searles and Don MacCrimmon and Alissa Rowan. Tom Paxson, Melissa Meyer and Janice Domanik will serve as the Clerks' Committee.

Minute 12

Last year we received several comments about our business process. It was troubling to one that we carried over business until Sunday. Agenda structure at IYM is affected by the number of Friends present, and the physical presence of those presenting the report. We need to take care in our speaking, and even more care in our listening.

Minute 13

Youth Oversight: Michael Kerr and Zeb Schobernd read the reports written by the Young Friends who attended YouthQuake 97 (appended), which are available for Friends to read in the Advance Documents. Kai Immler also read her report, and invited Friends to come from 3:30-4:30 to the Young Friends' cafe on the west side of Meetinghouse.

Friends were moved by the responses of Young Friends to their experiences at YouthQuake, and we felt clear that having opportunities to meet with non-FGC Quakers is important, for personal spiritual clarity and for greater understanding of the different branches of Friends.

IYM will be a sponsor of Youth Quake 2000, and approves the use of \$2000 from the Youth Oversight Fund for covering the sponsorship costs of \$3000. Kai Immler, as IYM's chosen representative, will supply the remaining \$1000. The \$3000 cost equalizes the travel and planning costs for the adult representatives over the three year planning period.

Minute 14

Ministry and Advancement forms the core of the Committee of Care, addressing needs which arise during the annual session. If any Friend discovers a need for care, please contact Clerk Janet Means or any member of M&A . If other Friends at this session are willing to help in such care, please let the M&A Clerk know of your availability.

Minute 15

Nominating Committee: Grayce Haworth read the preliminary report. Friends are asked to try to find Grayce and let her know of your willingness to serve.

Minute 16

Scattergood School Report: Joe Davison shared highlights from his written report (appended). Scattergood is doing well; they are trying to build their endowment; the school received accreditation from the Independent School Association of the Central States. Scattergood believes their crew system is an important witness that learning takes place in all settings. Joe encourages Monthly Meetings to consider supporting the attendance of their Young Friends at Quaker schools.

Minute 17

Couple Enrichment Leaders provided highlights from their written reports (appended). IYM has two couples trained in this ministry: Sandra Huntley and Pat Lucas, and Sebrina Tingley and Dennis McQueen. The minutes of support from Northside and South Bend Monthly Meetings were read. Dennis and Sebrina are sponsoring the 2nd (hopefully annual) couples enrichment weekend at McNabb, September 11-13, 1998. Please pick up a flyer and take them also to your meetings. There will be a workshop on Saturday about Couple Enrichment, led by Peg and Nils Pearson. Monthly Meetings are urged to consider sponsoring a weekend retreat for their couples.

Minute 18

Publications Report (appended): Friends are urged to make sure that *Among Friends* issues are made available to Friends who aren't at Meeting the first day after the bulk package arrives. In other words, don't retire them to a back shelf, but make sure that Friends who are occasional attenders understand they have access to resources beyond the monthly meeting level.

Minute 19

Ministry and Advancement Report (appended) was read by Clerk, Janet Means. Presiding Clerk Nancy Duncan expressed her gratitude for the deep and often almost invisible work done by this committee.

Minute 20

Field Secretary Oversight Report (appended) was read by Clerk Ken Ives. The Oversight Committee recommends to IYM that Barry Zalph's term of service be extended for an additional three years.

Minute 21

Barry Zalph, Field Secretary, has a written report (appended). He shared his sense of overflowing heart, when he turns around here at the annual session and sees yet another person with whom he has shared deep conversation and wishes to share more time. Carol Zimmerman spoke gratefully of her experience in Barry's workshop at FGC Gathering. We want to remind monthly meetings, again, that Barry Zalph is available to them, to help them address many needs.

Finance Committee would like to receive information from the Oversight Committee to be certain that the annual IYM fund request letter reflects the present program costs. The Field Secretary Fund balance of \$4704 plus incoming monies this year should cover this year's needs.

IYM approves continuation of Barry Zalph as IYM Field Secretary for the next 3 years.

Minute 22

Listening Project Report (appended): Pat Wixom shared her gratitude for the support of IYM in encouraging deeper attention to listening. Many Friends in IYM have been trained by Herb Walters, and by those he trained. Friends are encouraged to use the Listening Project methods for those matters which cause friction or division in their monthly meetings. There are packets of materials which have been compiled by the Ad Hoc Committee which they want to see put to good use. Several Friends spoke of the value of these methods in monthly meetings, and in outreach or community projects. Friends spoke of their appreciation for the dedication of Pat Wixom to this concern.

The request made by the Ad Hoc Committee is for the materials of the Listening Project to remain available to the Yearly Meeting. There were concerns raised that oversight is needed to conduct a Listening Project in a responsible and accountable way. Bobbi Trist, Kip Westling, Mariellen Gilpin, Pat Wixom, Clance Wilson, Roxy Jacobs, and Ann and Brent Eckert offered to meet to make a recommendation to the yearly meeting as to how to proceed with this. Carol Zimmerman objected to proceeding without further discussion on the YM floor. The Clerk does not believe that further discussion is useful at this time, so the matter is tabled until Friday's session.

Minute 23

Handbook Committee Report (appended): Highlights were presented by Clerk, Roy Treadway. However, there was not enough time to consider these matters today, so they will be delayed until tomorrow.

Minute 24

Announcements were made; we closed with silence.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION: Friday, July 31, 1998

Minute 25

The Clerk asked first time attenders to introduce themselves.

Minute 26

The Reading Clerk read excerpts from the Epistles of German Yearly Meeting of Friends, Monteverde Monthly Meeting and the Assembly of Friends in France (appended).

Minute 27

Handbook Report continued: Five issues were raised by the Handbook Committee to come to Yearly Meeting.

- a. Trustees of Yearly Meeting, p. 8.8: The question of trustees and residency will be taken up after the Trustees report.
- b. Quorum at Continuing Committee, p. 8.6: IYM approves removing the reference to quorum at Continuing Committee from the Handbook. We emphasize that we have confidence in the body of gathered Friends at Continuing Committee to know what is beyond their authority. If Friends at Continuing Committee feel they are too few to conduct business, they will refrain from taking action. We strongly desire that all Meetings and Worship Groups have someone present at Continuing Committee to participate. CC will be able to serve the Yearly Meeting better if more are present.
- c. Role of Quarterly and Yearly Meeting in approving new Monthly Meetings, p. 3.1: The Handbook Committee will look at the recent practices of IYM's recognition of new monthly meetings, including the role of Quarterly Meetings, and will summarize this for the IYM '99 annual session.
- d. Clerk's Committee: We adopted handbook language based on the role of Clerks' Committees in other yearly meetings. All current IYM clerks and those former clerks who experienced a Clerks' Committee are requested to gather during the 1998 annual session to define the fundamental role which the Clerks need from the Clerks' Committee. Some functions may be suggested but not required.
- e. Relationship of the Handbook to the practice portion of *Faith and Practice*: Regarding the areas of overlap between the Handbook and the Faith and Practice Committees, we know that we need to be mindful of it, but we do not recommend a structure other than good communication at this point.

Minute 28

IYM gratefully acknowledges the written report (appended) from the Coordinating Clerk / "Released Friend", Mary Nurenberg. Janice Domanik, Elizabeth Mertic and Nancy Duncan will meet today to prepare a recommendation for moving forward. The immediate need is for a committee for oversight and evaluation to provide support, stimulation and feedback, and a suggested structure for proceeding in the coming year.

Minute 29

All unapproved minutes to this point were read and approved.

Minute 30

Maintenance and Planning: Pat Lucas (Co-Clerk with Sebrina Tingley) read the report (appended). Friends are directed to the "trees" display, for our plan for memorial trees. Memorial markers need to be level with the ground for safety and ease of mowing. Maintenance and Planning wants IYM to carefully examine our liability and fire insurance to be sure it covers our highly volunteer work situation. The Meetinghouse needs a new roof. Maintenance and Planning also wishes to hire a professional engineer to examine the Meetinghouse foundation and to make recommendations. Two Friends have determined that the present water shortage problem with the cistern may be that the permeable wall which divides the cistern into a "settling" area and a "clear water" area is blocked by debris from 15 years. The debris needs to be removed by people with the proper safety equipment.

Maintenance and Planning believes that \$30,000 will cover the immediate tasks, and requests approval of YM for a fundraising effort.

The concern was raised that we need an air-conditioned resting space for our elderly Friends who can no longer attend due to the heat. If Friends want to undertake this project, it will take considerably more resources from our Meetings and from individuals.

IYM approves accepting a bid to strip off the old layers of shingles, examine the underlying sheathing and to reshingle the roof, for about \$15,000. If the sheathing is damaged, there may be additional cost. IYM authorizes Maintenance and Planning and the Trustees to make that judgment. Dick Ashdown or another Trustee is authorized to sign the contract.

IYM also approves a fundraising effort for \$30,000 to cover the immediate tasks.

Minute 31

Treasurer's Report was given by Pat Wixom (appended). Two corrections were made to the Advance Documents. Monthly meeting contributions were received recently from Clear Creek, Evanston and McHenry which will be put into 1999-2000 General Fund. We appreciated the clear records of our many funds, and the rapidity of

reimbursement which Pat Wixom has provided Yearly Meeting Friends over these years as Treasurer. Pat's work has definitely been a ministry, and we are grateful for it.

Minute 32

Finance Committee's Report (appended) was given by Roger Laughlin, Clerk. It would be helpful to receive all Meeting funds by June 15 so the General Fund for the coming year is complete. Meetings are urged to be sure to designate how they want their contributions apportioned between the various funds (General, Youth, Site, Field Secretary). Finance Committee notes that giving to the Field Secretary fund needs to increase in the third year by \$1700. Several line item adjustments were made, based upon the last two years of spending. The budget presented by Finance Committee is approved.

The giving to General Fund 1997-98 was actually in the realm of \$64 per adult resident member. Our recommended giving is \$90 per adult resident member. Individuals and Meetings need to think about this discrepancy and consider whether they can correct it. Finance Committee requests that the Yearly Meeting take action to clarify the relationship between the Trustees, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting with regard to financial, legal and other matters related to the Yearly Meeting property.

Minute 33

Faith and Practice Committee Report (appended): Paul Buckley, Clerk, shared highlights from the written report. Paul also reviewed the history of IYM's faith and practice journey (appended). Since 1991 IYM's Faith and Practice Committee has drafted one section. Writing from scratch is much harder than amending, and amending takes a long time. The section on Membership included in the Advance Documents and printed in the Winter 1998 AMONG FRIENDS, has had three full committee days this year devoted to revision, so, although it looks similar to previous drafts, it is changed. Columbia Monthly Meeting prefers the language in the current 1997 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*. South Bend Monthly Meeting is also not clear that they are in unity with the language. Duneland Monthly Meeting spent considerable time reviewing this section. One Friend stated that although he would not stand in the way, his own preference would be for less formality.

It is true that it is this YM body which approves this document. It is also true that the monthly meetings are the ones who will mostly use it.

Process suggestions included:

- * Maintain a set of notebooks of the correspondence and response notes.
- * Follow Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's practice of called sessions during the year, clerked by yearly meeting clerks, to consider comments from the monthly meetings.
- * Set aside at least one evening program slot at each annual session for the foreseeable future.
- * Plan a workshop-worship sharing for next year's annual session and bring to the Friday or Saturday business session.
- * Choose "Membership" as our theme for IYM '99 and devote the entire program to this core concern.

At 5pm today a group will gather with Paul Buckley in the worship room to seek a process for the coming year. We express our gratitude to Paul Buckley for his deep concern for this part of our corporate life.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION: Saturday, August 1, 1998

Minute 34

First time attenders introduced themselves. We were delighted to greet so many newly arrived Friends. Announcements were also made. At 4pm today Friends are asked to gather to set a meeting date to plan next year's annual session. Blue River has Friends Under Nineteen, Chicago South has Site Preparation, Hospitality and Cleanup, Chicago North has Food and Adult Program. We are grateful to Dave Moorman (Downers Grove) for his careful attention to our sound system.

Minute 35

The Reading Clerk read excerpts from Epistles from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and North Pacific Yearly Meeting (appended).

Minute 36

The remaining minutes were read and approved. The Clerk reviewed the agenda.

Minute 37

High School Young Friends came forward and read their Epistle (appended), which we gladly heard.

Minute 38

Youth Oversight report (appended) was read by Co-Clerk, Katherine Trezevant. Lydia Robbins has joined Robyn Holmes and Michael Kerr as a third co-clerk of Young Friends.

Minute 39

Friends World Committee Report (appended) was given by Elizabeth Mertic, Judy Jager, Becky Westling and David Finke. The next Triennial will be in Year 2000. We are asked to forward concerns from the Yearly Meeting to the Triennial. It is not too soon for Illinois YM to consider whether we can formulate a concern which arises out of the life of our YM. Becky Westling is working on the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee. The pilgrimage locations will be Ireland in 2000, and North America in 2002. The committee is hoping to involve more Latin American youth in the pilgrimage. Judy Jager reminded us that the Illinois YM representatives are active in the work of FWCC: Judy and Elizabeth both serve on the Executive Committee, David on the Visitation and Nominating Committees, Becky on Youth Pilgrimage. Judy and Elizabeth will host a workshop this afternoon. Section of the Americas has pared back to its core mission of communication among the various bodies of Friends and is finding another home for Right Sharing of World Resources and International Quaker Aid. During the Triennial year, it is possible for monthly meetings or regional gatherings to host international visitors; contact David if you are interested.

Friends are being asked to consider: forwarding a concern to the triennial; serving as a visitor to another yearly meeting; identifying names of Young Friends to be a part of the Youth Pilgrimage; and whether we might undertake the two-year process to bring a Latin American Friend who is traveling in the ministry to IYM.

Minute 40

Twelve Junior High Friends joined us, read their Epistle (appended) and went back to their work.

Minute 41

Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Report (appended) was given by Judy Jager. Mary Lord of Baltimore YM has joined us this year partly because she is serving as clerk for the national network which resulted from the conference on Quaker Volunteer Service which IYM took the lead in organizing two years ago. Mary Lord extended the gratitude of Friends from other yearly meetings for the faithfulness of IYM to focusing attention again on the importance of service and witness opportunities for both youth and adult Friends. The network has a newsletter, and a Website is in place, in cooperation with the Quaker Information Center in Philadelphia. A Steering Committee was formed with four Friends, including David Finke.

Nothing this important should be out there by itself. The Steering Committee is asking that IYM's Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee serve as an Oversight Committee for them, and also asks whether Illinois YM will continue to administer the Fund for Quaker Volunteer Witness until there is another home. Mary Lord explained the kinds of contacts that are being sustained with AFSC.

IYM approves the two requests by the Steering Committee - for the IYM Treasurer to oversee their funds and for IYM's Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee to provide oversight of the Steering Committee.

Judy Jager also requested that IYM approve of inviting Western YM to participate in the oversight. The concern was raised whether this means that gay and lesbian Friends would be not fully welcomed. The response was that the network is precisely that -- a network, not an overriding structural authority. Each service project can have their own participation guidelines. The Steering Committee is committed to providing many volunteer opportunities which will fully welcome gay and lesbian Friends, but cannot ensure that all projects will do so. This collaboration of Friends in service opportunities is an area of troubled waters which the Steering Committee is pledged to navigate as lovingly as they can. The troubled waters include relations with AFSC and the acceptance of gay and lesbian Friends. The YM could not unite around the request of shared oversight with Western, and the request was withdrawn by IYM's committee.

Minute 42

Junior Yearly Meeting joined us, and each age group read its Epistle (appended) and showed their creations. It was a wonderful break.

Minute 43

Paul reported back from yesterday's 5pm gathering about Faith and Practice. Forty five minutes were spent reading through the membership section paragraph by paragraph, which helped us to hear one another. Minute 11, IYM 1997 contains the process approved thus far. No specific recommendations emerged, although suggestions were made: that the time of workshops be used on perhaps two days next year for Called Meetings, that small groups draft sections which the Faith and Practice Committee would then take and try to include.

The Program Committee will consider how much of the evening programs be focused around the Faith and Practice. IYM will have a Called Meeting during workshop time on Saturday next year to consider the material which the Faith & Practice Committee wants to lay before us.

The Clerk reminded us that in 1991 we adopted as our working document the "current edition" of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*. That edition was the 1972 version. Since we will take many years to complete our own book of discipline, Friends are urged to read the 1997 edition of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* over the coming year, to see whether they feel at ease with that version as an interim working document.

Minute 44

Nominating Committee's final report was read and approved (appended).

Minute 45

Released Friend Position: Janice Domanik reported for the group which met yesterday with Mary Nurenberg (report appended). They recommend extension of Mary's term as a released Friend for one year. An Oversight Committee for Mary for the coming year will be composed of the YM Clerks, the Treasurer, the Clerks of Standing Committees, and a Trustee, all serving ex officio. The committee will meet twice per year, on the same weekend as Continuing Committee and will be clerked by the Assistant Clerk. This structure and this meeting time is approved for this year and may be amended next year.

Minute 46

IYM approves the following procedure for handling the materials remaining from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Listening Project as detailed below:

The historical and descriptive materials of the Listening Project will be placed with the Records Librarian since the committee is laid down. In addition, a smaller packet of descriptive materials useful for actually carrying out a Listening Project will be sent to each Monthly Meeting and to IYM's Religious Education Committee, with the

suggestion that it be placed in their binder with the Handbook or in some other central location. This packet will also be kept by our Coordinating Clerk in order to readily answer any questions from Monthly Meetings. The packet will include names of trained resource people in the Yearly Meeting. This suggestion has met with the approval of the Handbook Committee Clerk. In addition a very brief description of the nature of the Listening Project and a list of trained resource people in the Yearly Meeting will be inserted in the Handbook, section 10, Sources of Additional Resources.

Minute 47

The Clerk reminded us that our business around the laying down of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Listening Project had much underlying tension around the question of same gender marriage. This concern will not disappear in this Yearly Meeting.

Minute 48

The reports from Friends Committee in Unity with Nature, Environmental Concerns, Friends General Conference, Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and the IYM Peace Tax Fund are appended.

Minute 49

Religious Education Committee (report appended) has a copy of *Quakers on the Move* for each monthly meeting. The committee also brings to our attention the September 11-13, 1998 Intensive Religious Education workshop at Pendle Hill.

Minute 50

The Ad Hoc Committee to Explore IYM Legal Incorporation: Pat Lucas will gather a group of 4-5 Friends who have expressed interest in this, and will report back to Continuing Committee.

Minute 51

We renewed our endorsements for the pastoral counseling work of Carolyn W. Treadway and Beth Burbank, whose written communications are appended.

Minute 52

Bob Wixom commends to Friends the report of the 1998 meeting of the Friends Association on Higher Education (appended), which addressed many matters raised at this annual session. IYM approves sending Bob Wixom with a traveling minute to the next FAHE gathering in California.

Minute 53

The Trustees' Report is appended.

Minute 54

Carol Zimmerman read the draft Epistle (appended), which was approved with some editorial changes.

Minute 55

Continuing Committee will meet October 31 at Northside or 57th St. in Chicago. IYM 1999 will take place July 28 - August 1.

Minute 56

Northside Friends Meeting asks the Yearly Meeting to consider ways to support the Couple Enrichment program within Illinois Yearly Meeting. This will be considered over the coming year by Continuing Committee, with the goal of making a recommendation at next year's annual session.

Minute 57

The remaining minutes were read and approved.

Minute 58

Illinois Yearly Meeting is deeply grateful to Bud Wolf for 50 continuous years of service as a Trustee of the Yearly Meeting. May we each learn from his example of steadfast support and find strength to stay for the long haul.

Minute 59

Illinois Yearly Meeting minutes its appreciation for the service of the outgoing Clerks Nancy Duncan, Judith Gottlieb and Kip Westling.

EXERCISES

The theme of the 1998 IYM session, "Refreshing the Children of the Light," proved challenging and uplifting throughout the week. As usual we felt inspired by our environment. Our companions were pines, maples, and a hackberry, all under the open sky. Thanks to the Maintenance Committee's removal of dead trees, life and light were bursting all around us. We were surrounded by children who ran, played, and talked among us, and also by the flat fields of corn and soybeans, all ripening under the sun. We were blessed with beautiful weather.

On Wednesday evening, Johan Maurer, the General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, set the tone. He spoke with humor and sensitivity about the different traditions of Friends in the United States. He asked us to avoid the false 'heroisms' which have impelled us toward separation. He urged us to refrain from comparing 'our' best with 'their' worst. Johan Maurer proposed that we each take a spiritual inventory: where we are relative to where God wants us to be. He passionately spoke of preparing the groundwork for fruitful vision through prayer and asked us to move from passivity to the liberation of our gifts, to liberation from sin and from mistaken hopes. He redefined repentance, explaining that its meaning might better lie in contrasting things-as-they-might-be with things-as-they-are. Ultimately Johan Maurer asked us to heal the wounds between the two "camps" and to attempt more dialog and cooperation.

On Saturday evening, Patrick Nugent spoke to us about the Inward Light, about how the Light refreshes us, how it convinces us how to overcome our missteps and how it reveals truth, how we cannot hide from it. Patrick explained to us that Fox's phrase, 'that of God in everyone', is often misunderstood; and that it can be better understood as not being our own piece of God, but rather as a relationship which enables God to set us free from our own self-imposed captivity. He compared a relationship with God to a marriage, maturing and ripening in spirituality and with deepening joy. He also suggested we should worship with one another more often than on First Days only, so we might attain greater spiritual refreshment. He also suggested that we encourage those among us who are gifted in the ministry of the word.

During the Plummer Lecture on First Day morning, Maurine Pyle, of Lake Forest Meeting, gave us an inspiring talk about her life experiences, illustrating these with her singing, like a musical graphic design. She told us about growing up Christian-Catholic and of her spiritual transformation after having had a vision of a woman at the foot of the Cross. She told us the biblical account of Jesus with the woman at the well induced within her a life-transforming walk with Him. She has since gained in wisdom and has been enabled to help many others. She spoke of the importance of being a companion to others during our spiritual journeys.

Following custom, adult Friends met during the mornings in Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business. On Wednesday through Saturday, we heard and discussed some of the highlights of 23 committee reports. During a particularly difficult time of discernment, our work was interrupted on Saturday morning, when the children delivered their Epistle to us, giving us joyful refreshment. By constraining oral presentation reports, we did not need to extend our business into First Day, and our decision to speak to the important aspects of committee reports enabled us to resolve the following issues. Among other things:

- We approved the effort to raise the \$30,000 needed for a new roof over the Yearly Meeting House and for future maintenance.
- We decided to lay down the Committee of the Listening Project, with the condition that its records might be sent to Monthly Meetings upon request, and its leaders also agreed to help out as needed.
- We approved the establishment for the term of a year of a Committee of Oversight to augment the work of our Clerk Coordinator, Mary Nurenberg. This Committee will be comprised of members, ex-officio, of existing standing committees and the clerks of IYM. And we extended the term of our Field Secretary, Barry Zalph, for three more years.
- We resolved to continue the work of the Faith and Practice Committee and its section on Membership, and we hope to finish this section in called meetings during our next annual session in the summer of 1999. We have discovered it is not easy to write our own book of Faith and Practice.

Mary Lord of Baltimore Yearly Meeting told us about the Quaker Volunteer Service and Witness Network which grew out of concerns and initiatives of Illinois Yearly Meeting in recent years. This activity now has a newsletter and a website. We decided to accept the interim oversight and funding administration of this project. She also told us about the Friends Peace Team Project, affiliated with Christian Peacemaker Teams; these are a combined effort of the Brethren, Mennonites and Friends and have been operating for the past several years in Bosnia, Haiti, Hebron in Palestine, Chiapas in Mexico and Richmond in Virginia.

We heard a report presented by Anna Rich about the Quaker UN Office and also one by Mary Lord, the field Secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Mary Lord's report was about the 'new game' in Washington, and it was sobering to understand that the FCNL needed the presence of individual Friends in order to gain entrance to the offices of our Representatives and Senators. From this we deduce that money plays an ever more important role in our nation's capitol.

We heard a report from Eloise Cranke and James Burke of the American Friends Service Committee, and we also heard from the Friends World Committee on Consultation. The FWCC report included a video presentation about raising children in a non-violent way.

We heard about the YouthQuake which took place near Asheville, North Carolina, last December. While there, IYM Friends of high-school age became better acquainted with other Young Friends from different Friends' traditions despite differences in beliefs. They found this to be a worthwhile experience. During three afternoons of this annual session, our own Young Friends operated an out-of-doors coffee bar from 3:30 to 4:30 pm., and in this way raised money to go to the next YouthQuake. Also during this session the Young Friends enjoyed workshops on topics ranging from Earlham College to the Quaker U.N. Office, and they went on what has become an annual field trip to the LaSalle water park. Slightly older Young Adult Friends enjoyed hanging-out together under the trees.

Our afternoon workshops included; Sustainability, Agriculture and Urban Sprawl; The Listening Project; a History of Quaker Women in America; Adult Religious Education, 'Companions along the Way'; the FWCC; 'Christ Has Come to Teach His People Himself'; How do We Raise Our children in a Violent World?; Readings in Revelation; and YouthQuake '97.

We remember how David Finke brought us to silence during meals and led us in songs of grace. And we remember others, too, for example, Alicia Holmes, the leader of the children's morning assemblies and of her meditation with children about inward imagery; and in this connection, when Andrew Re, eight years old, was later asked about what was nice about his time at IYM, he replied, "the spiritual thing"; Andrew was referring to the assembly of children led by Alicia, the beginning event of the children's day. We also remember Paul Kelly and Lisa Zee playing their guitars during campfires and before dinners; we remember Judith Gottlieb's leadership in song. We are grateful for the children's Noah's Arks, their rainbow rainsticks and other projects; for the musical family who have led us in dance during Friday evenings for the past five years, and for the performers of the talent show on Saturday afternoon – from Julia Pantoga and Trevor Munroe's rendition of "George and Gracie" to gymnastics.

Our afternoons included worship sharing groups where small groups of us were able to experience spiritual refreshment under the shade of the five new maple trees. The queries spoken during worship sharing focused on how we might be spiritually repressed and how we might discern spiritual refreshment.

The writers of this Exercise are reminded of the self-supporting nature of our annual session. Last week, for example, when our dish washing machine needed repair, Jerry Nurenberg diagnosed the trouble, obtained a new solenoid, and made the repair. We indeed take care of all the details of our coming together, from site preparation, programs, meals, daily cleanup, billeting, child care and children's programs, site clean-up, as well as, the ongoing maintenance of our beautiful Meeting House near McNabb, Illinois, in Putnam County.

Kai Immler, Don MacCrimmon, Alissa Rowan, Scott Searles.

EPISTLES

1998 Epistle Of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends met for our 124th session at the Meetinghouse in McNabb, Illinois, July 29 to August 2, 1998. Our theme was "Towards the Refreshing of the Children of the Light," wording used in a 17th century epistle reflecting our continuing need for seeking together for the Spirit. We experienced a broadening of what we have understood of Quakerism and ourselves and truly a refreshing and a nurturing gathering.

We have long appreciated the differences in our own community and we have lately been blessed by increasing experience of the diversity of the wider world of Friends. IYM Young Friends, eight of whom attended Youthquake '97 in December, were challenged by finding that all things "Quaker" were not as expected. Because of this experience, silent waiting in Quaker worship became even more precious to our young people, and they realized that other young Quakers have a valuable knowledge of the Bible which they lack. This outreach is an expression of our yearning to be in unity with each other and with Friends in the world at large. Speakers at our annual sessions have been from other than our own unprogrammed tradition though sharing our common Quaker roots and we have learned from them. Increasing numbers of Friends acknowledge that we need plain and open speech about the effects in the lives of Friends of all traditions of the experience of the Christ as continuing revelation, as differing from the already perfect message in the Bible.

Long developing beliefs of some of our adult Friends have, this year, mingled with the yearnings of still others to produce a true refreshment of the spirit that we have taken to calling "bridge building". This language comes from our first evening's speaker, Johan Maurer, whose topic addressed our theme. His address touched off an extended period of conversation, relevant and true to our concerns. His experience as he travels the world for Friends United Meeting as General Secretary, gives him an abundance of first hand experiences among Friends that relate to virtually any struggle we ourselves might have. What Johan offered was to see how we are in pain and how we cause pain to others with our attitudes about what we know is surely diversity, not enmity nor disrespect.

Illinois Yearly Meeting struggles and grows by using the Listening Project to address issues of same gender marriage of much beloved Friends. The efforts of our Faith and Practice drafting committee to define the uniqueness of this yearly meeting is another challenge. We are concerned with the meaning of Quaker meeting membership and with our beliefs carried out in our communities and in the world. Our financial resources this year are challenged by the new roof and foundation repair needed on this 115 year old registered historical building, and the consequent need for a capitol funds drive.

A young Friend suggests Illinois Yearly Meeting is a potluck of personalities. We each possess a unique heritage of stories and life experiences, which we then are able to share with others here. We taste each others' legacies, and we decide for ourselves which we find most delightful. We do not all have to like every dish but we all learn about bitter, sweet, sour and salty. We come together to find our center and there is a place for everyone at our table.

Refreshment is necessary: it renews energy, enhances creativity, and peacefulness. Without it there might be boredom and a lack of open movement towards new growth; with it we are renewed in the love of Friends and our Society.

High School Young Friends

Illinois Yearly Meeting presented an exciting new challenge for the Young Friends this year. Most of our group had graduated to Young Adult Friends so that we were faced with creating a fresh community from the younger friends who were just moving up and some sporadic attenders who were in our age group.

We discovered the importance of communication. David spoke to the sheriff about our problems with the locals and he was very understanding; the situation was resolved quickly.

It was truly refreshing to see that we managed to form a strong community where people say what's on their minds. The umbrella of Quakerism once again proved to be an inspiration. Reflecting inward led to a greater sense of openness.

Robyn Holmes, Lydia Robbins, and David Westling

Junior High Friends Epistle

To Friends everywhere,

Last year we, the Junior High School group of Illinois Yearly Meeting, learned that nothing is impossible when we were working on our shed-clubhouse. This year we continued working on the shed and we learned another principle of life: giving. It isn't like giving a cookie to a little child. We are putting two plus years in this building. This year we worked on the inside of our shed. We put in a ceiling, a light fixture and more outlets and we cleared the windows. We realized that many of us are going to the high school group in the next two years, so we are working on something for the little ones. On a side note, we haven't decided on a name yet; some people want to call it the black hole but it isn't a Quaker name.

Also this year we are discussing peace and violence. We talked about the meaning of violence and why and the cause of violence. We learn it comes from conflict. We read the Quaker peace testimony.

After we finish reading this to business meeting, we are going for a walk on the railroad tracks.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 9, 10, 11 Year Olds

We made scrolls to show how the Hebrews wrote a long time ago. On them we wrote about the story of Noah and the flood and made pictures of arks out of natural material. We wrote our names in Hebrew letters. We made rain sticks for the play we will do

about the Noah's Ark story. We also made rainbow sticks to symbolize the rainbow promise God made not to destroy the earth by flood. We talked about where we live and drew pictures of our houses. We had lots of adults visit our group. Each of us took an animal for our name and played the animal game. Lots of storytelling came about, too. Our names are: Maggie-Monkey, Katie-Cat, Andrew-Ant, Nathan-Gnat, Sharon-Seal, Maria-Mole, Ashley-Ape, Sebrina-Snake, Maurine-Mink, Julie-Jaguar.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 6, 7, 8 YEAR OLDS

Dear Friends all around the world,

We have been having a lot of fun here at our meeting. Our stories have been about the shepherd and the sheep. While we were weaving it seemed we were weaving friendships. We think about how to save people who are getting killed for no good reason. While we were modeling clay, we talked about how we were going to shape the clay. We got to know each other better that way. We jumped rope and enjoyed how many times we could jump. We took turns turning the rope. Abigail brought a chrysalis. Maybe we will see the butterfly come out. A cicada crawled out of its old skin on our tent pole. Emma and Robbie touched its leg. The lost sheep felt scared and when the shepherd came they were safe. The shepherd called friends to a party because the lost sheep were found.

Sincerely, The 6 - 8 Year Olds

Illinois Yearly Meeting 2, 3 and 5 YEAR OLDS

We two Young Friends, whose families were together at 57th St. Meeting when we were born, renewed our Friendship at Yearly Meeting this week.

We followed each other's leadings to make a bus, a train and an airplane. We took puppets and other stuffed animals on imaginary journeys. We collected rocks and pinecones and looked at them (and each other!) with magnifying glasses.

We sojourned with Wee Friends, Claire and Leila, and (usually) shared their toys. Visitors came to our tent: Jesse, who was our age when he first came to IYM twenty years ago and Marcia, who brought us snacks.

Our teachers read some prayers and we surprised them by leading worship! We asked God to bless all the people in the world, all the animals and we blessed God, too. We took turns standing to offer prayers. Dave and Sue were invited to pray and so was Marcia, when she brought the snacks.

On Saturday, there were five of us! We were joined by Peter and Rachel, who are three, and Kathryn and Hanan, who are five. We introduced ourselves. We had a visitor, Betty, who had us do a game that helped us to notice things outside and inside ourselves. Rachel's father, Bob joined our group. Sue read a story, Obadiah the Bold, who learned that he had his grandfather's name. We then talked about our own names and where they came from.

Diana Kelly-Dart and Eliza Nugent-Rehard

Report on Epistles Received from Other Yearly Meetings

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING

The 300th annual session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (FUM) and the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) met 8th month, 5-10, 1997, on the campus of Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme for the gathering was 21st Century Friends: Ministering to a Hurting World. Friends from many other Yearly Meetings (Britain, Baltimore, New England, Indiana, New York, Philadelphia, Western Kenya, Wilmington, Ireland, Canadian, Iowa, South Central, and Intermountain) witnessed the event.

Representatives of sixty-nine monthly meetings quietly filed into Dana Auditorium, Guilford College, holding banners depicting the name and date of origin while background music was provided. Somerton Monthly Meeting of Friends (FUM), founded in 1672, led the procession and Greenville Monthly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) came last with the date of 1984. Representatives were attired in clothing befitting the time period of origin.

Joan Poole, who has been the chair of the Tercentenary Committee for five years, likened the occasion to "trailing clouds of glory." We challenged attenders to search for seeds from the past that will be used with the hybrid seeds of the future. Max Carter, of Friends Center at Guilford College, drew attention to more than forty contributions that North Carolina Quakers have made locally, nationally, and internationally.

Focus was shifted from the past as Robert Gosney, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), reminded Friends that time implies change, and many of the things that have divided Friends in recent years are a part of change. Friends must decide what things are enduring and must be kept and what things must be changed; in other words, a faith with reverence coupled with a freedom of revision. John Porter, the new superintendent of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM), reported on the FWCC meeting in Birmingham, England, and gave suggestions from that experience on how we in North Carolina can be prepared for the twenty-first century. We must remain connected to our heritage, the roots that have nourished us in the past, as well as to the Spirit whose calling we obey, as we reach out to minister to others.

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

George Fox, in 1672, spoke to the first General Meeting of Maryland Friends (which later became West River, then Baltimore Yearly Meeting) on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. As we examine this year's theme, *New Life from Old Roots*, we are drawn to compare today's complex world with those early years. Was Fox unsure of his leadings? Was Fox afraid to speak truth for fear of offending another believer? Did Friends feel pressured into believing certain teachings that did not speak to their condition?

August 4-10, 1997, Friends gathered once again at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, for our 326th session. Our theme was addressed in a new form of plenary session, worship sharing on the query "What is the meaning of membership in the Religious Society of Friends?" Do we draw the circle so wide there seem to be no boundaries? Does our inclusiveness itself become exclusive? Does personal experience become dogma?

While we do love and care for each other, sometimes there is mistrust of institutions, including our own business meetings and committees. We do not know very well how, corporately, to identify and nurture our many individual gifts. We have trouble filling positions in our Meetings. Within our Quaker communities we may find it easier to branch out than to look inward, to make new connections, new life, rather than nurturing that which already lives but may not be thriving. As individuals and Meetings, we struggle with the balance between the inner and the outer life, given our limited human resources. Are we a covenant community with commitment and accountability to God, each other, the Religious Society of Friends, and the wider world? We find it difficult to see each other's concerns. Do we confront our differences face to face so we can change and grow and heal?

NORTHWEST YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS CHURCH

Greetings in the name of our Lord from the one hundred and fifth session of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends gathered on the campus of George Fox University held July 19-25, 1997 in Newberg, Oregon.

The theme during these sessions has been on peacemaking and how to biblically respond to conflicts within ourselves, with others, within the church, in our own homes, or wherever a conflict occurs.

Joe Gerick, general superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting, brought a thought-provoking keynote message on the basic and beginning mission of the Church. The work of Church is to develop disciples. Evangelization and winning people to Christ is not enough. The Church should follow up with teaching and training to be disciples as Jesus taught and trained those to whom He ministered.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING

"Ready or not, here I come." A child's voice came across the lawn into the tent where we sat gathered for opening worship. Or was that God speaking to us? We had come together for five days of worship and discernment, of living and working, playing and sharing together...

By God's grace we have received gifts--plentiful, varied, and wonderful. We have been challenged to be good stewards of our natural environment, our time and energy, our material abundance, and our shared faith. We have also been reminded that "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We have been called upon to name our gifts, to recognize them as parts of one body, and to use them to do God's work.

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

Plenary and workshop leaders shared with us the hard choices that past Friends in the Ohio Valley region have made. Stories were heard of their ministry among the Miami and Shawnee Indians, their efforts to assist runaway slaves to reach freedom by way

of the underground railroad and the struggles of Hicksite Friends after the separation that still divides us. Participants in one workshop observed, however, that we need to move beyond tolerances, in genuine trust to celebrate the diversity among Friends in regard to many things, including theology, race and sexual orientation. One Friend reminded us that we can sometimes find in our opponents' truths seeds that inform our own. We are called to consider how that of God in me can reach out to that of God in thee.

GERMAN YEARLY MEETING

We experienced our bewilderment at the increasing economic and social tensions in the world and our own involvement in them. In the Richard-Cary-Lecture, Inge Specht reminded us of the witness of early Friends. At the same time we were challenged to respond to our rapidly changing times with a new social testimony, to which we addressed ourselves in discussion groups under different viewpoints. These included fair economic policies, the search for God's leading, honesty and truthfulness.

MONTEVERDE MONTHLY MEETING

Who would have dreamed when we carved out our niche on this mountain top away from the world that the world would come to us!

Mistakes are a big part of our spiritual journey, and have been since the beginning. We have sometimes not made enough allowance for our human limitations, and so not set up structures to deal effectively and lovingly with human conflicts and power struggles. In our community life, many of us attempt to accomplish more than we have the spiritual resources to sustain. Can we be humble and honest enough to see and communicate our limits, and allow God and our fellow humans to take care of what we cannot? Mistakes help us to grow when we recognize them as mistakes. If we admit weakness, we make room for strength to flow in. If we recognize that we are in the dark, we can strike a light. This is growth. Not the mechanical growth of a crystal, nor the undirected growth of a tumor, but as a plant always grows toward the sun, Friends strive to be spirits ever growing toward the Spirit. There is an active growing point, a new leaf unfurling even as the older ones are bug-eaten and all away.

L'ASSEMBLÉE DE FRANCE

Translation: "The truth in a time of great oppression makes one prudent or move carefully and having love, like Woolman in his struggle against slavery."

Comment: Now I believe that this message is important as well as being relevant in describing the endurance of love in all and any of our many struggles that have torn our beautiful planet apart again and again. Now you must think of the people that have prospered and continued on after all the changes that our world goes through. People have always been strong with love and peace among ourselves in times of great oppression of all kinds. When we have been beaten down, we rise up again. So I leave you with a final

question: Is it true that "all you need is love," as quoted from the always kind-hearted John Lennon.

Translation and Comment by David Westling

IOWA YEARLY MEETING

This Yearly Meeting has addressed the reality of same gender relationships in several settings. An evening program of worship sharing invited participants to share their experiences, fears and hopes concerning relationships among persons of the same gender. Those who spoke expressed love, frustration, anger, and caution regarding our meeting's position with respect to gay and lesbian reality. At a meeting for business, a committee which has been meeting for the past year proposed a minute of support for same gender marriage, which was then amended. Notwithstanding deep leadings in support of this minute, the Meeting has been unable to reach unity.

NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

Our yearly meeting sessions this year have been characterized by a tender spirit of worship, gathering us into an ever-widening circle of inclusion with love at the core. We felt the joy of meeting new people and re-connecting with those we have come to know and love well. The growing independence and sense of identity among the children has brought deep satisfaction. The cohesive presence of our teen-age Junior Friends, their responsible example, and their compassion for each other have ministered to us all. Especially heart-warming were our Young Friends (ages 18-30+) who coalesced into a diverse gathering with future plans for spiritual enrichment, community fellowship, and fun.

We continued to bear witness to the Quaker testimony of the equality of all people. Our corporate leading to affirm gay and lesbian civil rights led to our heart-felt approval of a well-seasoned minute supporting legal recognition of same-sex marriage. We also approved action plans to carry out our support.

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 1998

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 204 (151 adults, 53 YFs under nineteen) representing 114 households

NEW ATTENDERS: 43 new attenders representing 26 households.

PERCENT OF PREREGISTRATION: 76% two weeks before IYM
 88% one week before IYM

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	41 Adults	
	15 Young Friends	Total: 56
Chicago North	51 Adults	
	21 Young Friends	Total: 72
Chicago South	42 Adults	
	15 Young Friends	Total: 57
Other	17 Adults	
	2 Young Friends	<u>Total: 19</u>
Total		204

HOUSING: 53 used the dormitory, 92 camped, 59 used motels or local housing.

(See page 37 for past years' IYM registration totals.)

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

TRUSTEES REPORT

1997 - 1998

Receipts

June 24, 1997	Balance on Hand	950.17
June 25, 1997	Illinois Power payment (payment for trees on campground)	100.00
July 8, 1997	Clear Creek Monthly Mtg. - part of mowing	500.00
Aug. 2, 1997 Ill. Yearly Mtg.		1500.00
Aug. 18, 1997	Northside Friends Site fee	45.00
May 12, 1998	Women's Weekend	130.00
June 10, 1998	Env. Concerns Retreat Site Fee	195.00
June 30, 1998	Interest	44.38
June 30, 1998	Robert Wixom - removal of dead trees and planting two trees	500.00
July 8, 1998	Clear Creek Monthly Mtg. - part of mowing	<u>500.00</u>
		3464.55

Expenses

June 30, 1997	Illinois Power Co. (12 months)	334.98
Aug. 18, 1997	Liability insurance	371.00
Sept. 27, 1997	Mowing campground	680.00
Oct. 15, 1997	Mowing (Mtg. house yard)	360.00
March 2, 1998	Magnolia Mutual Insurance	421.00
June 16, 1998	Mowing (Mtg. house yard)	<u>400.00</u>
		2966.48

Receipts

3464.55

Expenses

2966.48

Balance on Hand June 30, 1998

498.07

Andrew D. Wolf, Trustee

Continuing Committee asked the trustees to consider the question of incorporation of IYM as a not for profit corporation in Illinois. The trustees met as a group (Andrew Wolf, Richard Ashdown, Helen Jean Nelson, and Jerry Nurenberg) on Saturday, July 25, 1998. We were in unity with the idea of the Yearly Meeting pursuing incorporation to provide a modern form of recognition by the state for the purpose of owning property and carrying out the responsibilities that ownership implies.

Jerry Nurenberg

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 7/1/97 to 6/30/98

General Fund '97-'98

Income:

Contributions to 7/1/97	19,069.37
Interest on hand 7/1/97	1,314.90
1996 Session Surplus	947.24
1996 Session Contributions	880.00
1996-97 balance	<u>3141.66</u>

TOTAL INCOME **25,353.17**

Expenses:

Contributions	5,850.00
Operating	<u>16,372.38</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **22,222.38**

Balance on hand 6/30/98 **3,130.79**

General Fund '98-'99

Income:

Meetings	18,290.00
Individuals	99.50
Interest: Farmer's Bank, FMHF	1,485.21
'97 Session surplus	396.28
'97 Session contributions	680.00
Released Friend (Mtg. Contr.)	<u>30.00</u>

TOTAL **20,980.99**

Amount to Budget for '98-'99 **24,111.78**

Special Funds: Income and Expenses 1997-1998

Site Fund

Balance 7/1/97	11,299.17
Tree Memorial	264.60
Contributions:	
Meetings	2,565.00
Individuals, IYM '97	626.00
Interest: South Shore CD	455.63
Expenses:	<u>5160.79</u>
Balance 6/30/98	10,049.61
South Shore CD	8,966.72
Farmer's	1,082.89

FWCC Travel Reserve

Balance 7/1/97	0.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00
Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Balance 6/30/98	1,000.00

Sufferings

Balance 7/1/97	25.00
Contributions:	<u>00.00</u>
Balance 6/30/98	25.00

Field Secretary

Balance 7/1/97	6,212.97
Contributions:	
Meetings	3,665.00
Individuals	556.30
IYM '97	270.00
Disbursements	<u>6,000.00</u>
Balance 6/30/98	4,704.27

Youth Oversight

Balance 7/1/97	5,849.13
Contributions:	
Meetings	1155.00
Individuals	585.00
IYM '97	115.00
Expenses	<u>5193.19</u>
Balance 6/30/98	2,510.94

Shaw-North Reserve

Balance 7/1/97	2,186.42
Income-Regis.&Cont.	341.00
Expenses-Clerks'Retreat	<u>542.00</u>
Balance 6/30/98	1,985.42

QVSTWC

Balance 7/1/97	10,872.86
Contributions	305.00
Meetings	50.00
Expenses	<u>1,754.29</u>
Balance 6/30/98	9,473.57

Weekends:

	Women's	Environment	Couple's
Carried over '97	1,111.90	274.88	
Registration '98	280.00	2.50	350.00
Food sale & transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenses	<u>446.57</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>164.81</u>
Balance 6/30/98	945.33	277.38	185.19

Reconciliation of all funds 6/30/98

General Fund '97-'98	3,130.79
General Fund '98-'99	20,980.99
Prepaid expense ('98 annual meeting)	- 1,463.78
Site Fund	10,049.61
Youth Fund	2,510.94
Sufferings Fund	25.00
FWCC Triennial Reserve	1,000.00
Field Secretary Reserve	4,704.27
Shaw North Reserve	1,985.42
Women's Weekend	945.33
Environmental Weekend	277.38
Couple's Enrichment Weekend	185.19
Volunteer Service Fund	9,473.57
TOTAL all funds	53,804.71
Farmer's Bank (McNabb)	24,837.99
Farmer's C.D.	10,000.00
Friends Meeting House Fund	10,000.00
South Shore C.D. (Site Fund)	8,966.72
TOTAL	53,804.71

Final 1997-98 Budget Summary

Operating Expenses:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Unspent</u>
Initial Balance	19503.17		
Expenses:			
Publications	4000.00	4135.28	-135.28
Committees	1000.00	90.93	909.07
Religious Education	1000.00	384.50	615.50
IYM Rep Travel	4000.00	1838.55	2161.45
FWCC Travel	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
Office	1200.00	1623.12	-423.12
Trustees	1500.00	1500.00	0.00
Released Friend	5800.00	5800.00	0.00
Misc.	3.17	0.00	3.17
TOTALS	19,503.17	16,372.38	3,130.79

Contributions

Regular Contributions:

Friends General Conference	3200.00
American Friends Service Committee	400.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	400.00
FWCC - Right Sharing	300.00
Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs	250.00
Quaker United Nations Office	50.00
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	50.00
Young Friends of North America	20.00
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns	50.00
Chicago Fellowship of Friends - Scholarship Fund	100.00
SEYM Pro-NICA	30.00
Olney Friends School	50.00
Scattergood Friends School	200.00
Earlham College	200.00
Earlham School of Religion	100.00
New Call to Peacemaking	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	5,850.00

Monthly Meeting Contributions:

<u>Monthly Mtg.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gen'l</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Fld. Sec.</u>	<u>Rlsd. Fr.</u>	<u>QVSTW</u>
Bloomington-Normal	880.	790.	20.	10.	30.	30.	
Clear Creek	300.				300.		
Columbia	1620.	990.	180.	90.	360.		
Decatur	560.	450.	40.	20.	50.		
DeKalb							
Downer's Grove	2700.	2700.					
Duneland	860.	450.	90.	45.	180.		50.
Evanston	2300.	1660.	320.	160.	160.		
57th St.	1015.	715.			300.		
Lake Forest	5040.	3080.	560.	280.	1120.		
McHenry County							
Milwaukee	2925.	2925.					
Northside	2340.	1430.	260.	130.	520.		
Oak Park	325.	125.	100.	100.			
Oshkosh	100.	100.					
Peoria-Galesburg							
Rock Valley							
St. Louis	2200.	1000.	700.	170.	330.		
South Bend	1000.	790.	140.	70.			
Southern Illinois							
Thorn Creek	540.	400.	40.	20.	80.		
Urbana-Champaign	1050.	640.	115.	60.	235.		
TOTALS	25755.	18290.	2565.	1155.	3665.	30.	50.

1997 ANNUAL SESSION

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>
Food (Meals)		6,139.04
Registration	8,540.00	415.58
Program		225.00
F.U.N.		281.11
Site expense		1,369.79
Misc. (Consignment)	386.80	100.00
TOTALS	8,926.28	8,530.52

'97 Session Net 396.28

Contributions:	General Fund	680.00
	Site Fund	125.00
	Youth Fund	115.00
	Field Secretary	270.00

1998 - 1999 BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Friends General Conference	3,200
American Friends Service Committee	400
Friends Committee on National Legislation	400
Friends World Committee for Consultation	400
FWCC - Right Sharing	300
Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs	250
Quaker United Nations Office	50
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	50
Young Friends of North America	20
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns	50
Chicago Fellowship of Friends - Scholarship Fund	100
SEYM Pro-NICA	30
Olney Friends School	50
Scattergood Friends School	200
Earlham College	200
Earlham School of Religion	100
New Call to Peacemaking	50
Total Contributions	5,850

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Publishing	4,300
Committees	600
Religious Education	1,000
IYM Travel	2,450
FWCC Travel (triennial)	1,000
Office	1,200
Trustees	1,500
Released Friend	6,200
Misc. Expense	11.78
Total Operating Expenses	18,261.78

TOTAL BUDGET	24,111.78
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ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

PUBLICATIONS

(See Minute 18)

Published this year were the usual IYM Minutes (1997) and the Plummer Lecture (Marti Matthews). Due to incomplete material for the 1996 Plummer Lecture, it is not yet printed. There have been two AMONG FRIENDS issues printed - both larger than in recent years because Friends are participating more fully in submitting material, including good photos. We feel AMONG FRIENDS is a vital living document that feeds into the life of our Yearly Meeting. We hope all of you enjoy reading it as much as those of us who put it together.

We thank our out-going AMONG FRIENDS editor, Elizabeth Mertic, who has served as editor since 1994. Virginia Laughlin and son Ken put out their first edition with the Summer 1998 issue.

IYM publications are distributed in person when possible - at regular gatherings that come close to publication time. This continues to save significantly on shipping costs. In June '98 when we had to ship most of the AMONG FRIENDS the bill was close to \$100. We usually mail printed items to addresses as they appear in the Centerfold Directory of the Minute Book. If that is not the best way - a recent change, a P.O. Box that UPS cannot ship to, a clerk on vacation, etc. please let David Finke know.

The volunteering of both editorial and assembly skills also helps reduce our costs. As printer, David Finke, no matter where he and Nancy live, presents the wonderful opportunity for those meeting people to gather in joyful work and to see the finished product first. We are certainly grateful for this volunteerism.

Vital to the compilation of the Minute Book is all the work that our Clerk Coordinator does in gathering material. Mary Nurenberg appreciates the more timely contributions from Meetings for inclusion in the Minute Book.

Also this year, we distributed copies of the evening talks given by Tom Paxson, Robert Garriss and Paul Buckley. One copy was sent to each monthly meeting and the meetings were to provide copies for interested Friends. Our budget did not allow us to print and distribute them.

We always like to note that post-consumer content recycled paper and soy-based ink are used.

Grayce Haworth, Clerk

MINISTRY & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 19)

Ministry and Advancement Committee has continued its work of visitation to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups throughout IYM. Often, this has been in conjunction with our Field Secretary as we have learned that a combined presence provides an opportunity for spiritual support and in-depth relating to the meeting or worship group.

The committee has gathered in retreats in January and May to review the states of Meetings and Worship Groups. We seek the best way to provide "guidance to the spiritual development and unity of Illinois Yearly Meeting." [IYM Handbook]

During our May retreat, we entered into Silence to gain vision for the committee and our work. A sense of the gathered meeting held us and spoke through us. We are aware that the written word is inadequate to convey our vision. However, we felt it important to attempt to record our message for our own reference as well as to share it with Yearly Meeting.

"A variety of tasks has been entrusted to us over the years, and we seek to be sensitive to the various needs that Friends, individually and in Monthly Meeting and Worship Groups, bring to our attention.

"However, as we examined our work, we have come to a strong conviction that our agenda and priorities need to be from God, as we listen worshipfully in depth to what is calling us in 'building the Kingdom of God.' All of our work as a committee - as we hope is true of all Friends' work - needs to be rooted in divine guidance. In the volume of Friends' experiences, this work may involve ministries, methods, and resources of which we have only a dim sense. As we gather, seeking to be faithful, we await being instructed by our Teacher.

"We are convinced that when we start from a deep and centered place, we as committee members are better enabled to make Spirit-led responses to local worshipping communities. It may be that long periods of prayerful listening are the best preparation for our being of true service; and in the act of listening, we may receive guidance.

"The ministry of listening and giving careful attention is often more important than the ministry of coming in with ideas, plans, and programs. Through listening, we may become aware of opportunities to connect particular needs with specific resources as they exist within the larger Yearly Meeting community.

"Often, bonds of personal friendship and trust are created as we visit outside our own Meetings. When these are ongoing, an atmosphere and context is created for being useful when specific situations arise in the life of a Meeting.

"We hope to be channels of the Spirit and seek to be involved in the Yearly Meeting and our worshipping communities in ways that deepen the life of the Spirit. As we are called to work among Friends, our efforts are a testimony to the love that is given to all of us from God. In experiencing God's love, we seek to share it in our relationships with Friends throughout IYM. In giving and receiving love, both giver and receiver are enriched.

"IYM exists not just as a once-a-year occasion, but as something deeper in our family of Friends. We try to embody something deeper in our committee work by reassuring Friends that they are not alone, abandoned, or neglected.

"As individual committee members, we may often feel inadequate to the special needs of our Meetings. And yet, we carry a shared sense of responsibility for the well-being of the whole Yearly Meeting, a sense which we seek to promote among all of us in IYM.

"There is an abundance of love that God seeks to share among Friends in IYM. If we do anything useful at all, it is to the extent that we experience and testify to this reality, and serve as witnesses to God's presence in the here and now. If we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all else will be added" unto us, in our Religious Society of Friends.

"We are sensing a call to this committee from the Divine. We recognize our frailties, and the need for ongoing Grace to help us fulfill this vision, which has been renewed among us as we gathered today." (5/15/98)

We have a concern that IYM Meeting for Business be rooted in the Spirit. We recall a time when responses to queries on the spiritual states of constituent bodies made up the core of IYM sessions. We wonder if we have strayed into attending excessively to secular concepts and priorities rather than tending to the life of the Spirit. We lift this for prayerful and patient consideration by all IYM Friends.

FIELD SECRETARY OVERSIGHT REPORT

(See Minute 20)

This session of Yearly Meeting marks the third anniversary of Barry Zalph's work as Field Secretary with IYM.

The oversight Committee and the committee of Ministry and Advancement are pleased with Barry's contributions to Illinois Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. We see that his conflict resolution work has grown richer and more skillful. He has provided opportunities for community building intervention which will eventually lead to less need for conflict resolution intervention.

Barry has provided insights and Spirit led contributions to our retreats. He relates well with each member of the committee. Members observe the fruits of internal spiritual growth expressed in his work.

We recommend to Yearly Meeting that his term of service be renewed for a further three years.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE LISTENING PROJECT

(See Minute 22)

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Listening Project is ready to be laid down. The work of the Listening Project on sexuality, commitment and marriage is not finished, but we leave the Yearly Meeting with many Friends trained in deep and active listening, and many more Friends with a greater awareness of the need for respectful listening to each other and a concern to do so. Friends have strongly indicated that they want to learn to listen more effectively, and to be listened to, and that they want to be able to discuss issues of sexuality in their Meetings, openly and reverently. We have found that deep listening to all Friends does make us more clear within ourselves and able to join with each other in seeking God's will. The resources of the Listening Project, including training documents, lists of Friends who are able to do training or consult with Monthly Meetings, and the questionnaires that have been developed will remain available. We have asked Ministry and Advancement Committee to hold these resources and keep them available. We would like the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting as to whether these resources should also be placed in the Handbook as an appendix or as a mailing to each of our Monthly Meetings.

The Listening Project is a process to help a community in disharmony on an issue: an issue which is tender enough and perceived as destructive enough that it is either not being addressed at all or has been addressed and has caused emotional outbursts and distress in the Meeting. Openness to resolution of difficult issues can be encouraged by giving all persons involved the opportunity to be fully heard and understood. It is our belief that being listened to and understood in this way allays natural fears of opposition and rejection, and enables all Friends to more fully participate in the decisions of the Meeting without rancor or bitterness. To hear each other speak from the heart, in a setting designed to accept and honor the speaker, regardless of views expressed, is the goal of the Listening Project. Among Friends the Listening Project is not a process to be used lightly, since it demands time and energy from a Meeting committed to it. However, the listening skills gained and practiced in this project can help a Meeting remain or become a true community. Only by steadfastly facing our disagreements and listening to each other over as much time as it takes, can we become a loving community. Major decisions about property, religious education or financial affairs often cause disharmony in a Meeting, and the process of a Listening Project can be used for any of these issues.

A complete Listening Project is a three step process:

- I. Initial preparation involves developing a set of questions on the issue which will be addressed. The present set of questions for the Listening Project on sexuality and marriage were studied and rewritten by many Friends in the fall of '96 to try to ensure that they are open and friendly, not biased or one-sided. Next, Friends were trained in deep listening, in maintaining an attitude of wanting to understand fully the views of the person listened to; not to change or challenge those views but only to hear, understand and acknowledge. These initial trainings were conducted by Herb Walters in February-March, 1997 and attended by 43 Friends from 11 different Monthly Meetings. Training has since been conducted by IYM Friends, who are available for further training when needed.
- II. The second step is conducting individual interviews with a trained listener and recorder writing down the responses and discussion so that the person interviewed can be sure Friends have heard him/her aright. These records are primarily for the purpose of allowing the speaker to review answers to earlier questions, to be sure that he/she has been fully and correctly heard. The records remain anonymous, and if used at all are only useful for that particular Meeting when they begin discussing together as a community. The IYM Listening Project is not a survey or a vote!
- III. If this preliminary work has been thoroughly and carefully done then Friends will be ready to share their views and where there are differing opinions to seek the will of God for the Meeting. An experienced listener may remind Friends of listening skills and facilitate small group worship-sharing meetings; or timer meetings where everybody has a turn to express their leadings; or the Meeting may be ready for a discussion as a whole.

In Illinois Yearly Meeting the Listening Project has been used to address, at a Monthly Meeting level, the general subjects of sexuality, commitment and marriage, specifically including homosexuality and same gender marriage. Homosexuality is a difficult subject for many Friends. The acknowledgment of different sexual orientations is troubling to many Friends. The Yearly Meeting needs to do much more work at Monthly Meeting as well as Yearly Meeting levels before it will be in unity on our response to requests for same gender marriages or celebrations of commitment. Decisions about both membership and marriage clearness are made at the Monthly Meeting level in the Religious Society of Friends. Meetings can wait for an actual situation to arise, when a decision must be made, but for difficult questions it takes time for us to seek the will of God together, and time is necessary to allow us to come to a place of understanding, community and clearness. The Yearly Meeting, in its *Faith and Practice*, can only offer the guidance of tradition and changes which have met with the general acceptance of its Monthly Meetings and members. The wording of the new 1997 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* is carefully neutral, allowing its Monthly Meetings to make their individual decisions about whether or not to witness to same gender unions and what to call them.

During this last year the two monthly Meetings who served as initial projects of the Listening Project, Columbia and Northside, have continued the process of interviews and small group discussions. An additional training has been carried out for Lake Forest Meeting, and they are in the process of individual interviews. Individuals from other Meetings have expressed interest in the Listening Project. It is a lengthy process, to come to unity on any changes in marriage requirements when how to support our present marriages is so little understood and calls forth deep emotional responses for many Friends. We need to examine our basic values as Friends, our concept of marriage, its value and requirements, in both our personal and corporate life. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Listening Project feels that many IYM Friends have been trained to do deep listening and enough Meetings have accepted and tried out the Listening Project to serve as models. Friends have reaffirmed the importance of listening to each other, fully and compassionately. Listening is perhaps the basis for the deepening of our spiritual experience as a community; no group will stay in community without it. We stand ready as individuals to provide resources or to help with Monthly Meeting Listening Projects as requested by Monthly Meetings even as we lay down our ad hoc committee.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

(See Minute 23)

The Handbook, revised as of 1998 March, was distributed in April to Meeting and Committee Clerks and Officers of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It was reproduced in looseleaf format, thus enabling easy revision. Additional copies are available from the Coordinating Clerk for those who would have use of the Handbook. It was approved by Yearly Meeting in 1997 and reviewed by the Handbook Committee and Continuing Committee in 1998 Spring.

In the review process, the committee became aware of several issues that the Yearly Meeting needs to consider. In the interest of disseminating a current version of the Handbook, we decided to send out the Handbook without resolving these issues. Resolution of these issues and new decisions at Yearly Meeting this summer should be incorporated in revisions to the Handbook to be issued in 1998 Fall.

The five issues are as follows, with the page numbers where they are found in the Handbook given for each issue.

1. Trustees of Yearly Meeting, p. 8.8.

The Handbook had said that the trustees should all be from Illinois, but we have one trustee currently residing in another state. Trustees also had fixed length of terms according to the Handbook, but currently trustees have been serving indefinitely. The Handbook has been revised to reflect the current situation, but the legal aspect of trustee residence and length of terms should be reviewed by Yearly Meeting.

2. Quorum at Continuing Committee, p.8.6.

Currently the Handbook specifies there should be a quorum of one half the members, plus one, to conduct business at Continuing Committee; the members are clearly identified as representatives of monthly meetings and worship groups, High School Friends, officers, and clerks of committees. Yet any Friend in Illinois Yearly Meeting is welcome to participate. Concern has arisen whether a quorum is appropriate for Friends business, and if so, under what circumstances. If we are concerned about a quorum, should all attending Friends participate in the decision making and should clerks of worship groups be official representatives? This statement was in the 1986 version of the Handbook; the original reason for the statement was not known by those attending the 1998 Spring Continuing Committee.

3. Role of Quarterly and Yearly Meeting in approving new Monthly Meetings, p. 3.1.

The current Handbook is unclear of the role that Quarterly and Yearly Meetings play in approving new Monthly Meetings, yet clearly they have been part of the approval and welcoming process in practice in the past. This should be clarified by Yearly Meeting.

4. Revisions in Clerks' responsibilities and the Clerk's Committee based on practice, which differs from the original minute, pp. 8.8-8.9.

When the Clerk's Committee was set up, it was expected not only to assist the Clerks during annual sessions, but help prepare the Yearly Meeting and Continuing Committee agendas and advise the Nominating Committee in nominations of the Presiding and Assistant Clerks. The Clerk's Committee has not been actively involved in these last two activities, and it may not be feasible for it to do so. Should the Committee take on these activities as intended or should the Handbook be revised to reflect current practice?

5. Relationship of the Handbook to the practice portion of Faith and Practice.

As the practice portion of Faith and Practice is developed by the Faith and Practice Committee, Illinois Yearly Meeting needs to consider the role of the Handbook and the Handbook Committee. The Handbook is more like our operating procedures than the more formal statements of *Faith and Practice*. Yearly Meeting needs to be sure *Faith and Practice* and the Handbook do not unnecessarily overlap but perform clearly distinct, valuable roles.

Roy C. Treadway

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING

(See Minute 30)

After a period of inactivity when Maintenance and Planning was without a clerk, 1997-1998 was a very busy time. October saw us set priorities for tasks most needed to put our house in order. Your committee spent the winter corresponding by snail and E-mail: seeking bids, devising or revising plans and trying to establish a schedule of maintenance to start as soon as weather permitted.

A group met in February on a cold and blustery day for tree-pruning and a meeting at Dick Ashdown's to plan for removal and replacement of severely damaged trees. We had a consultation with Robert Foulkes about supporting beams under the Meeting House and the state of the roof. Memorial Day work weekend tasks were also assigned and those of us who had not seen the famous oak on the Ashdown property were properly impressed by its spread. The committee has suggested to those desiring a memorial tree that the money be used to safely remove dangerous trees. Long-lived prairie trees with historic antecedents which Dick Ashdown has graciously offered us will be planted. This has taken place and we hope to continue so that Friends may be memorialized and the property be made safer. We are also recommending that IYM make a practice of allowing only flat plaques for such memorials so that no one will be injured by falling on raised plaques and to help the mowers.

During the Memorial Day weekend forty-three hard-working souls labored, sweated, ate well, and accomplished many tasks large and small. We repaired the front screens, replaced boards on the east porch, painted pews and railing, fitted a new door on the west side of the Meeting House. We removed encroaching bushes and trimmed all shrubs, painted the Junior Yearly Meeting House, removed the old water tank and roofed the shower house (with much labor from some high-school Friends), established a new campfire circle and filled in the many holes on the grounds, cleaned out the Fox Hole, installed a fan in the dining room to add air circulation and fill a hole used by raccoons, replaced the split-rail fence on the west side which protects our tile field and water system, admired the new oak trees and watered them.

Dennis McQueen and trustees have worked hard to be sure that we have a working dishwasher and shower house for this year's session.

We have been fortunate in having knowledgeable Friends to help us evaluate the property. Our most pressing problems are the roof which must be stripped and resurfaced; the foundations which are now failing to properly support the east wall and the beams which were damaged by termites and need repair. The committee has received bids for the roofing work and recommends that IYM accept Newton Roofing Co., Inc. bid of \$14,890.00. We have not yet solicited bids for the foundation work, but hope that Friends will provide the means to proceed with this work as quickly as possible. There is \$10,049.61 in the site budget and \$6,000.00 must be reserved for 1998-1999 expenses. We are asking Friends to consider increasing their financial support so that your committee may exercise good stewardship of this historic building. We are also requesting permission to seek loans or grants so that the work may proceed before another winter takes an additional toll.

Pat Lucas, Clerk

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE

(See Minute 33)

The committee has spent most of the last two years working on a section on membership for an IYM *Faith & Practice*. Last year we presented a draft to the annual session. We are pleased--and more than a little relieved--to be able to bring a final draft this year. We believe that the result of our two years of study, questioning, and worship together has produced a document that deserves prayerful consideration by the yearly meeting.

It has been a humbling process for all of us. We started out thinking that we knew a fair amount about Quaker thought, faith, history, and practice. The simple act of trying to put what we knew into words revealed how little we really understood. We also found ourselves challenged by the diversity among Friends within IYM--we often agreed that some things were well defined only to find that the definitions were not the same. The temptation to compromise has been before us frequently.

A valuable consequence of our work has been the discussions that have occurred within many of our monthly meetings. Some Friends used the draft section as a focus for thinking about the basis of our faith and practice. We have been blessed with notes and letters from individuals, committees, and meetings. Among the questions we have been asked is, why is IYM producing a *Faith & Practice*? We have a handbook and there are already many books of Faith & Practice produced by other yearly meetings. Why not simply adopt one of these?

First we need to be clear on the different roles of the two documents. A book of *Faith & Practice* is a practical and spiritual guide to Friends as individuals and to all of our meetings. It is a book of our discipline--or our discipleship--making our testimonies clear and ensuring the orderly conduct of our business--both spiritual and temporal.

The IYM Handbook is a description of our current procedures and structures.

Carefully and prayerfully considering another yearly meeting's book of discipline should be as demanding an effort for the yearly meeting as is adopting our own. The committee has devoted many hours to consideration of other books and has freely borrowed from many of them. In each case, however, we have found that books written by other yearly meetings fail to convey the richness of our collective experience. We are unique in ways that are not captured in a book written by another yearly meeting.

We could adopt one of these books, but annotate it with the many ways in which it does not reflect IYM. This was done in 1955 when we adopted the PYM *Faith & Practice*. Over the years, the list of exceptions has been lost and an unhealthy practice has become common. We look to PYM's *Faith & Practice* as a guide, but we feel distant enough from it that we do not consider it to be our standard. It is only one of many possible ways to do things. In this freedom lies the danger that we will cease to have any identity. We need to be able to tell the world who, what, and how we are. Whether it is by writing it ourselves or by finding it elsewhere, it is important to the continued existence of IYM that we do this work and do it together.

We have also adopted an outline for the whole of an IYM *Faith & Practice*. This is not a final document, nor are we asking the yearly meeting to approve it. We fully expect that it will change in ways we cannot now anticipate as this work continues. We welcome comments and anticipate improvements.

Paul Buckley, Clerk

IYM FAITH & PRACTICE OUTLINE

I. Historical Introduction

II. Quaker Faith and Experience

- A. The Inward Light
- B. Source of Authority among Friends
- C. Spiritual Experiences
 - 1. Prayer and Inner Life
 - 2. Personal Spiritual Journeys
 - 3. Value and Use of the Bible
- D. Worship and Ministry
- E. Faith into Practice
 - 1. Concerns
 - 2. Discernment
 - 3. Queries
 - 4. Advices
- F. Gospel Order and Discipleship

III. The Meeting Community

- A. Meeting for Worship
- B. Spiritual Guidance
 - 1. Pastoral Care
 - 2. Ministry and Advancement
 - 3. Religious Education
 - 4. Conflict
- C. Care of Oneself and Others
 - 1. Sexuality
 - 2. Marriage
 - 3. Divorce
 - 4. Home and Family
 - 5. Children
 - 6. Elderly
 - 7. Education
 - 8. Recreation
 - 9. Death and Bereavement

IV. Testimonies

- A. Peace
- B. Simplicity
- C. Equality
- D. Integrity
- E. Stewardship of the Natural World
- F. Social and Individual Responsibility
- G. Relations with the State

V. Practice and Procedures

- A. Organization
 - 1. Monthly Meetings
 - a. Formation
 - b. Laying down
 - c. Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups
 - 2. Quarterly Meetings
 - 3. Yearly Meeting
 - 4. Wider Gatherings of Friends
- B. Meetings for Business
 - 1. Business Procedures
 - 2. Role of Members and Clerks
- C. Committees
 - 1. Ministry and Oversight
 - 2. Religious Education
 - 3. Funds, Property, Records
 - 4. Clearness Committees
- D. Membership
- E. Marriage
- F. Funerals and Memorials
- G. Intervisitation and Traveling Minutes
- H. Cooperation with other Religious Bodies
- I. Revising *Faith & Practice*

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

(See Minute 38)

The focus of this year's activity has been YouthQuake 97, the triennial gathering held in North Carolina last December. Considerable planning and thought went into this venture. In 1996 Mark Robinson suggested that IYM Young Friends consider going as a group. He had attended with a group when he was younger and had benefited greatly from the experience. Eventually IYM had eight participants along with Don Smith, who was active in our Young Friends program years ago. Five Young Friends attended; three others were Family Group Leaders. Meeting Young Friends from Friends United Meeting, from Evangelical and Conservative backgrounds as well as those from FGC yearly meetings was an enlightening, challenging, and fun experience for them. It led to the request of the YO Committee which was approved on Thursday of this session: that IYM be a sponsor of YouthQuake 2000 and use \$2000 from the YO Fund to do it. Kai Immler will be the adult representative from IYM and will be responsible for the additional \$1000 needed of sponsorship costs. Six of the IYM attenders wrote statements in support of the minute; Susan Bisset wrote an article on YouthQuake 97 which will appear in *Among Friends*.

Fundraising has already begun to raise travel money for YouthQuake 2000. We trust many of you have visited our coffee house on the west side of the meetinghouse in the afternoons: Refreshment for the Children of the Light.

The YO Committee has met not only during IYM but also at two other times: at Lake Forest Meeting in October and at Mark Robinson's in January. These meetings have helped to inform all of us about the activities and expectations of the junior high group and the college-age Quakers as well as of the high school Friends. There was also a separate planning session for the spring Quake. In addition, outreach trips to Duneland and Downers Grove Meetings took place. Meetings for adults interested in working with Young Friends have begun in the Chicago area.

A successful Quake was held in the spring in Rockford. We are grateful to Ann and Brent Eckert and Mike and Steve Kerr who hosted the group of sixteen Young Friends and Young Adult Friends. George Price came from Philadelphia to conduct a sweat lodge. The participants learned about the tradition of sweat lodges in Native American culture, built the lodge, and in it were able to speak from their hearts. For the service project the group cleaned up the extensive area around Rock Valley Meetinghouse. They filled a dumpster full of debris including a bed, three TVs, and assorted auto parts. On Easter morning Rock Valley Meeting provided a sumptuous breakfast, an Easter egg hunt, and an opportunity for all ages to share their name stories. A rich meeting for worship followed with inspiration from their lovely stained-glass window. We are tentatively planning a December Quake in Milwaukee and a spring Quake in Champaign.

We have been involved in activities in addition to IYM and YouthQuake. In September Mike Kerr participated in the IYM clerking workshop. In February Zeb Schobernd and Mike Kerr attended the clerking workshop at Pendle Hill; this summer Katharine Jager and Katherine Michael are interns at Pendle Hill. Ian Fritz, Nathan Falck, Tim Walsh, and Casey Kashnig attended FGC this summer. Next fall Ben White will be going to Scattergood; Zeb Schobernd will be starting at Earlham College. Kai Immier has begun a certificate program in Youth Ministry at Alverno College.

This IYM session has been fruitful. The junior high group continues to remodel the shed. The Young Friends have led afternoon games and again went to the water park on Friday. On Saturday Patrick Nugent will answer questions about Earlham College and Anna Rich will talk about her involvement in the Quaker United Nations Office. Young Friends have decided to have tri-clerks; Lydia Robbins has agreed to be the new co-clerk. Mike Kerr and Robyn Holmes will continue as co-clerks along with David Westling as recording/reading clerk. Steve Kerr is now the photographer. This year the Young Friends are using revised guidelines and an affirmation. A sizable Adult Young Friends group has appreciated being together again.

Kai Parry Immier and Katherine Trezevant

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

(See Minute 48)

The annual retreat focusing on sustainability was held at McNabb last May. The Meetinghouse was shared with the IYM Ministry and Advancement Committee. Each committee had separate programs but both benefited from social interaction during meal times. Except for the storm Friday night, the weather was fair and suitable for outings. After breakfast, Saturday morning was spent in Meeting for Worship, which was followed by a great hike into the nearby George Park Memorial Forest Nature Preserve. This hike was led by Clance Wilson and Friends enjoyed the large trees and wildflowers. The abundant wood nettle lessened the experience for some.

The committee will be sponsoring a workshop at the IYM Yearly Meeting focusing on sustainability and farming. This year's fall gathering will be at the Indiana Dunes, October 3 & 4 sponsored by the committee and Duneland Friends Meeting. The topic for the next retreat (May 14-16, 1999) will be announced in the fall AMONG FRIENDS.

Finally the committee is requesting IYM Meeting for Worship with a Focus on Business endorse presenting the following issue and queries to Monthly Meetings this coming year:

Sustainability and Quakers:

The Environmental Concerns Committee is addressing the sustainable use of the earth's resources. Sustainability shares common themes with the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, community, and equality.

We request that IYM and Monthly Meetings examine the following queries to help address this concern. We invite your comments and responses to these, and to help us later write a minute about sustainability.

1. Is sustainability of global ecosystems a rightful concern of Friends?
2. Do you and your Meeting strive to live a life of simplicity and responsibility in your use of natural resources?
3. How do you and your Meeting use your purchasing power to make positive impact on resource sharing and environmental justice among all peoples?

Send your Meeting's or individual comments and suggestions to Noel Pavlovic (clerk of Environmental Concerns Committee, 130 Hawleywood Rd., Chesterton, IN 46304) by January 31, 1999.

IYM PEACE TAX FUND

(See Minute 48)

1. The Peace Tax Fund of Illinois Yearly Meeting has the following purpose, as minuted in the 1989 IYM Sessions:

"Certain members of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, having examined their consciences regarding participation in war, feel led to refuse to pay taxes used for military purposes. Wishing to stand in unity with these members and attenders of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends Meetings in their efforts to maintain the Quaker peace testimony, and in recognition and support of efforts other groups have made to redirect taxes to peaceful purposes, Illinois Yearly Meeting establishes the Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends Peace Tax Fund."

2. The fund's current status is as follows:

Balance: \$5,774.95

Place of deposit: South Shore Bank, Chicago, a socially responsible institution

Interest earned in 1997 available for distribution to groups whose work furthers Friends' life-affirming principles: \$136

Amount deposited in prior year: \$84

Number of depositors: 5

3. I am in the process of polling depositors and members of the Oversight Committee to develop a consensus regarding distribution of last year's earned income. I expect to have disbursements completed in August. As always, the Committee welcomes suggestions for Quaker or non-Quaker groups whose grass-roots work may be supported by this fund.

Marcia Nelson, Clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(See Minute 49)

The Religious Education Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting continues its work of encouraging meetings to examine faithfully the quality of religious education for adults and children and of keeping meetings informed of current methods and materials for use in religious education.

We have enthusiastically welcomed four new members: Chris Jocius, Nancy Jordan, Constance Olivia, and Eric Volkel. During our October meeting we discussed our concerns and ideas about religious education in our monthly meetings for both children and adults. Some of our concerns: how to make adult religious education meaningful without requiring daunting amounts of reading ahead of time; how to help new Quakers learn more about Quaker faith and practice; how to help teenagers bridge into meeting for worship; how to give children a sense of belonging and inclusion in the life of the meeting; how to help children (and adults) to better understand and practice Quaker business practice.

We feel quite certain that these concerns are neither new nor unique to the group of individuals gathered at our committee meeting. The answers may be as diverse as the meetings that ponder these concerns. We hope to foster the sharing of stories so that we may learn from one another.

At the 1997 Yearly Meeting session we continued sponsoring workshops. Marsha Holliday, a staff member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, led a workshop about working with middle and high school youth in small isolated meetings and how to help them maintain a Quaker community. Attendees expressed gratitude for the many supportive suggestions they received. Tom Paxson and Marlou Carlson offered a workshop using the newly published *Friendly Faith and Practice* by Larry and Joanne Spears. Copies of this publication were distributed to all 32 attendees. Friends seemed responsive to the selections Tom chose from London's faith and practice and to the study method.

When we checked in on the health of Sandbox Worship Sharing after the 1997 session, we discovered that the space around the sandbox had been used for another activity during the worship sharing time. We would like to remind parents of young children of this unique opportunity for spiritual sharing at Illinois Yearly Meeting. Each day during the regular worship sharing time, a group meets for worship sharing around the sandbox by the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. Parents are invited to bring their small children to play in and around the sandbox as we meet for worship sharing. Attending to our children's needs while we maintain the spirit of worship has been a worthwhile (sometimes challenging!) discipline. We ask that the members of the yearly meeting continue to save the space around the sandbox for this group during the worship sharing time.

Lessons in a Bag are in production and may be available at the 1999 session.

The Traveling Library has rested this year. We are looking for someone who travels among us who would take the Library along. If you feel led to explore this idea please see Grayce Haworth or Marlou Carlson.

Our regular column for *Among Friends* continues to be written by Sarah Pavlovic. If you have not already read it, her discussion about intergenerational worship in the Summer 1998 issue is particularly thought provoking.

We are distributing copies of the publication *Quakers on the Move* to each meeting. We hope that the children who read the stories will gain new understandings, not just of a Quaker history alive with faithful struggles and transformations, but of a contemporary, spirit-led, Friends movement of which they are a part.

We are considering the long-postponed Religious Educators' Saturday as a program in conjunction with Blue River Quarterly in 1999.

We have wondered if we might assist meetings to plan seekers retreats or days.

Three people from IYM attended a rich and inspiring conference on adult education, *Companions Along the Way*, at George School, north of Philadelphia, in June of 1998. Marlou Carlson, Roxy Jacobs, and Scott Searles brought back renewed inspiration and many interesting ideas about how we might be companions for one another on our spiritual journeys.

Marlou Carlson

PAST YEARS' REGISTRATION NUMBERS

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>
Blue River:						
Adults	50	58				
56	45	65				
67						
Young Friends	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	—			
31	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>	—			
42						
TOTAL: 78		87	87	80	110	109
Chicago North:						
Adults	46	44				
45	45	45				
43						
Young Friends	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	—			
20	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	—			
9						
TOTAL:	65	60				
65	61	51				
52						
Chicago South:						
Adults	44	41				
48	53	48				
56						
Young Friends	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	—			
26	<u>26</u>	<u>28</u>	—			
29						
TOTAL:	60	60				
74	79	76				
85						
Other:						
Adults	13	17				
15	14	16				
10						
Young Friends	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	—			
6	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	—			
7						
TOTAL:	13	23				
21	21	23				
17						
TOTALS	216	230				
247	241	260				
263						

PREVIOUS YEAR TOTALS:

'91: 237', 90: 220. '87: 214, '86: 262, '85: 251, '84: 262, '83: 215, '82: 240, '81: 199

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

(See Minute 16)

Scattergood Friends School has had another successful academic year and has been accredited by the Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS).

The capital campaign has now surpassed the original goal, which is a major factor in the school's stability and ability to plan. The expansion of the boys dorm has increased the capacity of the school to 62 students, and the school has been operating nearly at capacity.

The Endowment has grown to \$1,000,000 (small when compared to most Quaker schools, but the most ever for Scattergood; thank you for your contributions).

Nancy Ryan, Director of Development at Scattergood, is at Iowa YM (which meets simultaneously with Illinois YM) so she is unable to be with us here, but she would love invitations to visit your monthly meetings. We even have a video tape!

We are now in the midst of an extensive Long-Range Planning process. When completed, the plan will include a Five-Year Financial Plan and Capital Spending Plan. The planning process builds upon the school's Self Study that was part of the ISACS application, and a school committee retreat that provides the larger conceptual framework. In part, this framework can be stated (from the retreat report):

"Scattergood [is] a model of what the Quaker learning process and American education ought to become. [Our strategy is] to further strengthen Scattergood internally and to disseminate its model to the larger Quaker community [through] an updated development plan and a 'new message'.

"It is clearly time for American society to acknowledge that learning occurs in many settings, that they are all important, that they must be strengthened and work together. For us at Scattergood we have come to see our inherited assets in a new light and can work to strengthen those assets as a more intentional 'learning community'. We have also come to see that we were born and continue to exist as part of a larger Quaker Learning Process."

As an example, a major opportunity at Scattergood in alternate years is a month-long work/study trip taken by the juniors and seniors as part of the Spanish language studies. Previous trips have been to Mexico; this year 19 students and staff members went to Nicaragua where they worked with Pro-Nica. Talking with the students who participated, it is clear that this is a transforming experience.

Although such trips are among the more exciting aspect of the program at Scattergood, the entire school year can be seen as a work/study program, because a major component of building community at the school is the crew system, where the staff and students work together to carry out the day-to-day work of making the community work.

For those with access to the World Wide Web, Scattergood can be found at: <http://site033213.primehost.com/sfs.htm>. Truly, a plain Quaker URL.

What would you like to know about Scattergood? How can I better serve Illinois YM on the School Committee? I would be interested in hearing from you with questions and comments.

My association with Scattergood, both as a parent and on the school committee, has convinced me of the importance of Quaker educational opportunities; I urge each monthly meeting to consider establishing a scholarship program to assist children to attend Quaker schools. (Ask me about my "One-more-year" plan).

Joe Davison (with thanks to Burt Kisling, for his assistance)

REPORT ON FWCC, SECTION OF THE AMERICAS, ANNUAL MEETING

(See Minute 39)

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas met from March 17 to March 22, 1998 in the CA Vines 4H Center just outside Little Rock Arkansas. The representatives of Illinois Yearly Meeting: David Finke, Judith Jager, Elizabeth Mertic and Becky Westling were all present. Thursday was committee day, meaning that most of the program committees and administrative committees spent the day working on program details and considering new ways to interpret FWCC to Friends; on Friday morning the representatives of the regional units met together as a region and on Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday the Section met as a whole to conduct business.

We also set aside time for worship and informal interactions. Each morning before breakfast there was worship under the care of COAL. Each business session began with worship. On Sunday morning there was a programmed meeting for worship led by Marnie Miller-Gutsell of New England Yearly Meeting. Informal sharing took place over meals, after business meetings and on into the evenings. The tranquil setting provided paths through woods and around a small lake. We also took time on Saturday afternoon to travel into Little Rock for a look at Central High School and the museum nearby which is devoted to the 1957 desegregation action.

In our business sessions we accepted the report of the nominating committee thus providing that the work of the Section will continue for another year. We accepted the treasurer's report, then gave careful consideration to the budget for Fiscal 1999 with particular care for Right Sharing of World Resources and International Quaker Aid programs. The IQA Committee made suggestions for ways in which some of the requests for help might be responded to by individual yearly meetings. An example of a North American and Latin American Yearly Meeting relationship is New England and Cuba with each group sending visitors to each others' annual sessions as well as working together on religious education, and other topics by mail and telephone.

Right Sharing of World Resources Committee, along with IQA will be discontinued as a program of FWCC. The committee met for the whole day on Thursday and reported to the plenary that they see two options for continuing the work: affiliating with AFSC or becoming an independent organization.

Elizabeth Duke, FWCC General Secretary, reported on the work of the World Office and news from other Sections. She spoke about plans for the Triennial to be held in New England in the summer of 2000. She encouraged yearly meetings to forward concerns for consideration by the Triennial.

We heard Kathleen Wright's report that the 1998 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will take place in England and Sweden from July 10 to August 10. There was great interest from many Friends for the positions of leaders and pilgrims. The QYP Committee felt that all of the applicants for the 14 pilgrims openings were well qualified and regretted having to turn down some.

This annual meeting was an intense, painful at times, and rewarding experience for me. Thank you, Illinois Yearly Meeting, for the opportunity to be part of it.

Elizabeth Mertic

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON UNITY WITH NATURE

(See Minute 48)

FCUN celebrated its 10th anniversary in the brilliant fall colors that surrounded Powell House, near Albany, NY on October 9-12, 1997. This gathering of older and newer members was punctuated by story telling, skits, laughter, committee work, and sharing on a vision for the future of FCUN. Several calls were heard for witness - an awareness that something Divine is calling each of us to a criteria beyond the immediate self. These thoughts led to a planned FCUN Retreat in the raw beauty of Zion Nation Park, UT, March 6-9, 1998. The many expressions there may be grouped into:

- I. The Spiritual Basis and Our Work.
- II. Projects: The Practical Work.
- III. The FCUN Structure and Our Work;

Each area has specifics to be implemented at the next FCUN meeting (Oct. 1998.)

The flavor of the Retreat is expressed in the following (and many other thoughts):

1. "We should remain firmly embedded in Quaker faith and practice.
2. We are challenged to be open for language of the full spectrum of Friends.
3. We are moved to engage Friends at every level, from corporate witness... to letting our lives speak in a place where we can meet in love and tenderness..."

Bill Howenstine, McHenry MM, IYM, and also Clerk of FCUN's Ann Kriebel/San Luis Project in rural Costa Rica reported that two members of the Finca La Bella, the cooperative farm, sojourned in June with the Howenstine's Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. Another pilot exchange program of two other Finca La Bella members will be working on a Vermont organic vegetable farm in August. FCUN members continue to visit Monteverde/San Luis via the Stuckey tours. Monteverde Friends have contributed art work of the San Luis valley with the proceeds going to our Ann Kriebel Project.

FCUN has a strong Population Committee, clerked by Stan Becker, Baltimore Yearly Mtg. Their work continues through invitation for visits, talks, discussion, earlier leaflets and a new leaflet to be prepared on family planning. Other emphases include simple living, reduced consumption, opportunities for women, sex education and counseling, etc.

Bob Wixom, Columbia MM and Clerk of FCUN Sustainable Committee, reported that this Committee has been active in reaching out to monthly meetings, yearly meetings and non-Friends groups via 11 talks, a retreat and 8 exhibits. We are working to develop a meaningful description of sustainability for our religious community.

FCUN has other effective Standing Committees - Publications, Spiritual Nurture, Annual FGC Program, Native American Understandings, Nominating, Finance/Development, plus several embryonic ones to explore new directions. Alice Howenstine, McHenry MM, continues as our excellent Treasurer.

FCUN has multiple short publications, a newsletter - "BeFriending Creation", and a Speakers List, which all Friends are encouraged to explore and invite to their Meetings or nearby communities. We encourage Young Friends to share in these endeavors.

Robert L. Wixom

FGC CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

(See Minute 48)

Illinois Yearly Meeting continues to be well represented in Friends General Conference from the presiding clerk of Friends General Conference, Janice Domanik, through committee clerks Marlou Carlson (Religious Education), Cathy Garra (Finance), and Frank Young (Investment Management Oversight), to such stalwart and veteran members as Paul Buckley and Kenneth Ives. All of these persons are better positioned to report on the activities of Friends General Conference than am I.

The Central Committee, meeting in October 1997, considered and approved three proposals with major implications for the future of Friends General Conference. These were (A) the Long Term Plan, (B) a Traveling Ministries Program, and (C) a proposed feasibility study for a major development campaign. Of these three, the one which is expected to have the greatest visibility is the second, the Traveling Ministries Program.

Building on the good work of Allen Oliver, who served three years as volunteer nurture coordinator, FGC decided in October to launch a Traveling Ministries Program. Deborah Fisch, Assistant Clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), has begun serving as coordinator of this new program. The objectives of the program are as follows:

1. Encourage, support, and facilitate travel by volunteer Friends who reach clearness with their meetings and with FGC to travel in a "nurture ministry" among Friends in North America;
2. Identify and connect appropriate resource people (teachers, workshop and retreat leaders, Friends with experience in conflict resolution) with the yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings which need specific kinds of assistance, so that appropriate workshops, retreats, discussions and other learning can be held;
3. Provide programs fostering spiritual awareness and growth to Friends and meetings, especially in the ten smaller yearly meetings;
4. Establish good, trusting relationships with clerks, committees, and other leadership (both formal and informal) within the yearly meetings and regional associations we serve, especially the ten smaller ones, and be "available" to them as they identify needs, problems, and opportunities;
5. Strengthen the FGC yearly meeting visitor program by providing better preparation, more support, and effective follow-up for FGC visitors;
6. Identify, develop and provide materials and resources for spiritual growth and strengthening of Quaker faith and practice to meetings and Friends we serve.

This ambitious new program will require the allocation of substantial resources and the cooperation of such standing committees of FGC as Advancement and Outreach, Christian and Interfaith Relations, Ministry and Nurture, Religious Education, and Publications and Distribution. The resource issue remains a source of concern, concerns eloquently expressed in October by Religious Education Committee members. If the program develops as hoped, Friends General Conference should become more responsive to the needs of constituent meetings and should become known by more Friends for activities beyond the annual gathering.

The Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee is sending two persons to the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, to be held this coming December in Harare, Zimbabwe. They are Rebecca Kratz Mays, editor of Pendle Hill publications, and Tom Paxson. In addition, Alex Kern, who is also a member of CIRC, will be attending the Assembly as a steward. Friends General Conference is an original member of the World Council of Churches. Friends United Meeting and Canada Yearly Meeting are also members. Britain Yearly Meeting is not a member, though like many "non-member churches," it sustains an active dialogue with the World Council.

Friends General Conference is sponsoring two conferences during the coming year:

1. Religious Education: Ideas that Work, September 11-13, 1998, at Pendle Hill. Three intense workshops will be offered: "Teaching Techniques for Beginning Teachers," "Making Quaker History Come Alive," and "Teaching the Bible to Quaker Middle and High School Youth." Our own Marlou Carlson (Duneland Monthly Meeting) will lead evening sessions in which participants will engage in creative activities appropriate for wide ranges of youth and intergenerational groups.
2. Nurturing the Nurturer: Attending to Care of the Soul, March 11-14, 1999 at Penn Center, St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Deborah Saunders and Bruce Birchard will speak at the conference. Workshop topics have not been announced.

The next general Gathering will be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan July 3-10, 1999 at Western Michigan University.

Tom Paxson

Several highlights of the work done by FGC this year include:

- a. Joint sponsorship of Companions on the Way (on adult religious education) at George School in June, 1998 by the Religious Education Committee of FGC.
- b. The Religious Education Committee will do a Pendle Hill Workshop, "Religious Education: Ideas that Work", in September (see Marlou Carlson or the posted flier for details.)
- c. Starting the Traveling Ministries Program.
- d. Doing a feasibility study to determine whether to proceed with a Development Campaign.
- e. Reprinting the new Friends Hymnal.
- f. Staff leaving include:
Evelyn Whitbeck-Poorbough resigned to explore new career opportunities.
Liz Yeats resigned to move to Austin, Texas with her husband.
- g. New staff include:
Marsha Holliday - Religious Education Coordinator (she was employed by Baltimore Yearly Meeting).
Nadine Hoover - Distribution Manager (she was on staff for Southeastern Yearly Meeting)
Barbara Hirshkowitz - Publications Coordinator (she has experience managing publications).
Deborah Fisch - Traveling Ministries Coordinator (she is a member of Iowa Conservative Yearly Meeting and will do this job from her home in Des Moines, Iowa.)
- h. New titles continue to be developed as part of the publications program.
- i. The bookstore continues to supply Quaker publications for pick up or by mail.
- j. The CIRC continues its work with the World Council of Churches.
- k. FGC continues to handle the pay checks and expenses for Barry Zalph and Mary Nurenberg.
- l. A small conference is planned for March 1999 on Nurturing the Nurturer in South Carolina (see the posted flier).

The Gathering this year was at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls. The planning committee included members of Northern Yearly Meeting and members of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Next year it will be at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There will probably be members of IYM serving on this planning committee as well.

This has been an active year for the standing program committees of FGC. IYM members have been involved in this work. Marlou Carlson serves as the Clerk of the Religious Education Committee. Jeanette Baker and Donna Bisset are invited members of that committee. Tom Paxson is no longer clerk of CIRC but is a member and will go to the World Council of Churches gathering at Hirare as an FGC representative. Cathy Garra is the Clerk of the Finance Committee and Frank Young serves as a member of that committee as well as clerking the Investment Management Oversight Committee. Kenneth Ives continues his many years of service with work on the Development Committee. Paul Buckley who was clerk of the finance committee continues to serve FGC as a member of the Discernment in Long Term Planning Committee. IYM has a reputation at FGC for having individuals with a concern for careful stewardship of money. Is there a cookie jar at the root of this? Finally, Janice Domanik serves as Presiding Clerk of Central Committee of FGC.

Any of the individuals serving as appointees of the yearly meeting or as coopted members of FGC would be glad to share more details with you about the work of FGC.

Janice Domanik

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

(See Minute 48)

FLGC continues to thrive as a vital network for Friends concerned about gay and lesbian issues. FLGC meets twice annually, at its own Midwinter Gathering in February and at Friends General Conference Gathering in July.

The Midwinter Gathering, held at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, had as its theme "Different Paths, Common Journey." Keynote speakers were Willie and Agnes Frye of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM), who have courageously witnessed to gay and lesbian concerns in that yearly meeting. Workshops discussed diverse topics such as Gender and Spirituality, Racism, and Clerking Skills.

At the FGC Gathering this summer at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls FLGC held its usual meetings for business and also hosted a daily well-attended meeting for worship. Over the years numerous attenders at Gathering have expressed appreciation for the worship experience which FLGC provides at Gathering.

FLGC has several ongoing projects to increase support and communication within FLGC and with the wider community. We continue our Fund for Suffering for Friends who need financial assistance, and also offer travel funds to enable Friends to attend gatherings or to undertake FLGC business. FLGC is also in the process of updating its compilation of Friends' minutes on gay and lesbian issues and same-sex marriage. We also plan a sequel to "Each of Us Inevitable," an anthology of talks at FLGC gatherings which address issues of sexuality and spirituality.

FLGC has not come to unity on a name change which reflects the presence of bisexual and transgendered persons among us. Yet we are committed to being inclusive of these concerns, and have expressed this commitment through a variety of worship sharing and workshop experiences which have enriched our understanding. As more FLGC participants of the baby boom generation have reached middle age (as is true of Friends in general) we see a need to reach out more to diverse age groups among Friends. In all of our activities we become more intensely aware of the different paths we walk while engaged in a common spiritual journey.

Roger Hansen

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

(See Minute 52)

Quaker educators met recently for the 19th annual conference of the Friends Association for Higher Education, June 18-21, 1998, at the comfortable conference center of Friends University, Wichita, KS. Our theme was "LISTENING, LEARNING, LEADING: FRIENDS AND THE CULTIVATION OF LEADERSHIP" - a greatly needed subject that was explored and shared from a variety of directions - papers, plenary talks and displays; perspectives from faculty, alumni, administration, department chairmen and Earlham students. About 80 Friends from ALL branches of Quakerism attended. With this diversity, only a few highlights, particularly those relevant to IYM Friends, can be shared in this brief report.

Our FAHE Clerk, Jan Wood, presented an inspired message on "Common Threads in Friends Understandings of Leadership", which has been condensed in the following paragraphs:

"The first and most important mark of Quaker education is an intangible, invisible quality of a world view. Teaching, learning and administering a complex, multi-million dollar business are all refigured by the faith assumption that God is Present and Involved... There is no way to predict how this will play out in the course of a day or a lifetime: choice of love over hate, care over disregard, humility over arrogance, nurture over destruction, wisdom over carelessness, forgiveness over contentiousness, service over status, wholeness over fragmentation, centered life styles over driven busyness, and the Eternal over the temporary".

"The second mark is our orientation to listening... It is the listening receptivity to Scripture that allows the Spirit to flow so powerfully through it. It is during the inner stillness of unprogrammed worship that we sense God..."

"The third character is the constant awareness that we share this universe with others as precious as ourselves..." - our Testimony on Equality.

"The fourth mark is the nexus between valuing every person and living in a spirit of listening from which our governance emerges..." - our Quaker practice of Openness and Honesty.

"The fifth characteristic is the hallmark of service. Friends teach and learn as an act of service; we learn through serving..." If FAHE members knew about our IYM's QVSTC Committee and its work, they would be overjoyed.

"The sixth attribute is the expectation of others in that Quakers practice what they preach... One cannot envision the wholeness of human experience and acquiesce to the iron curtains between disciplines, between secular and sacred, between teaching and learning, between liberal arts and vocation... We should be able to count on each other to live our vocation with Integrity, Authenticity and Courage".

"Leadership for Friends is a power **for**, rather than power **over**.... Leadership is fluid, dynamic and contextual. We are all **both** leaders and followers... Leadership for Friends is in a paradoxical tension of being ahead of the group, and yet being shaped by the group. Leadership is not diminished as it is shared. It is rooted in a deep ability to know the heart of wisdom and thrives in an atmosphere of respect and goodwill... It is worthy of developing in ourselves..." (i.e., in our colleges, and yes in our Monthly Meetings and our Yearly Meetings).

Sally Merrill, Duneland Monthly Meeting, IYM, outlined aspects of the development of moral theory and leadership: "Do the noble step whatever it costs you; Be altruistic - take care of others; We are all interdependent, contrasted with - Be conventional, Might makes right, Take care of yourself", etc.

Michele Tarter, Charleston MM., IYM, emphasized "The Sacred Act of Storytelling - "Let your lives speak; Live our lives on the basis of love; Listen Within, and Listen to our (Quaker) stories..."

Bob Wixom, Columbia MM, IYM, presented a talk and display on "Leadership Projects for Sustainability in Higher Education" at this FAHE conference. Principle 21 from the Rio Declaration (UNCED Conference, June 3-14, 1992) stated, "The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all." Many youth in a wide variety of backgrounds and countries have responded to this challenge. However, the response of adults and their organizations, being quite mixed, is less than a clear answer. Query from Bob - Are Friends encouraging a love of natural beauty and openness with all Creation among our Young Friends?

Queries from Stephanie Crumley-Effinger, Earlham College (with minor modification by this Reporter):

1. What encourages and challenges you as a Friend in your nurture of leadership in youth and the members of your Meeting?
2. What are the significant factors in the development of leadership in yourself or in others?
3. What is life-giving for you in integrating your Quaker Faith and your Calling as a Friend?

Robert L. Wixom

REPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO IYM SESSIONS

COUPLE ENRICHMENT

(See Minute 17)

Sebrina Tingley and Dennis McQueen offered a weekend workshop at McNabb in September, 1997. They hope to make this an annual event on the second weekend in September. Both leader couples from Illinois attended the Couple Enrichment Leader's Retreat at Quaker Hill in January and led Couple Enrichment workshops at Friends General Conference.

We have been seeking ways to become integral to the life of Illinois Yearly Meeting and its member meetings. In discussions about this at Continuing Committee sessions, it was suggested that we seek support from our own monthly meetings before approaching Illinois Yearly Meeting. In January 1998, South Bend Friends Meeting approved a minute of support for the Couple Enrichment work of Sebrina and Dennis. In April 1998, Northside Meeting of Friends passed a similar minute in support of Pat Lucas and Sandra Huntley. Both minutes are appended to this report. We hope this will lead to further discussion at Illinois Yearly Meeting and a greater opportunity for us to serve you.

South Bend Minute

A Meeting for Worship is nourished by the healthy relationships between its members and their long term partners. Healthy long-term relationships are a path to promoting community peace and encouraging personal growth. The South Bend Friends Meeting supports all Friends who willingly and lovingly endeavor to enrich their relationships with their partners. It also acknowledges the importance of taking an active role in encouraging these endeavors.

Recently, the importance of this issue was brought to the attention of the South Bend Friends Meeting by Sebrina Tingley and Dennis McQueen who have chosen, as their specific Ministry, the providing of ways to strengthen long term relationships. The Meeting recognizes and supports their Ministry through their involvement in the Couple Enrichment program.

Northside Minute

Northside Friend's Meeting endorses the work of the Couple Enrichment Program. We particularly appreciate and endorse the work of Pat Lucas and Sandy Huntley, a couple united under the care of our meeting.

Northside Friends Meeting values couples in our Meeting. We recognize our responsibility to provide support for them. We encourage Friend to participate in the Couple Enrichment program.

We ask Illinois Yearly Meeting to consider ways to support the Couple Enrichment Program within Yearly.

Pat Lucas and Sandra Huntley
Dennis McQueen and Sebrina Tingley

FIELD SECRETARY REPORT

(See Minute 21)

For the third time, I have the privilege of reporting on the past year's work as field secretary for IYM. With gratitude to Friends and the Divine, I report continuing deepening of my relationships with IYM meetings and worship groups and a clear sense of calling to continue in this work.

During this period, I have (or will have) visited Charleston and Springfield Worship Groups, Rolla Preparative Meeting, and Clear Creek, Columbia, Decatur, Duneland, 57th St., St. Louis, Thorn Creek, and Urbana-Champaign Monthly Meetings. As in previous years, I led and participated in a variety of programs and discussions, as well as joining Friends for meetings for worship and meetings for business. The IYM Clerks' Retreat, two M&A Committee Retreats, and Blue River Quarterly Meeting (where I co-led a program on Peacemaking Among Friends) rounded out my IYM visits. As in the past two years, I visited the office of Friends General Conference (FGC) in Philadelphia and participated in the annual FGC Field Workers' Retreat in Bangor, PA. I enjoyed seeing a number of IYM Friends at FGC Gathering in River Falls, WI, where I followed a leading to present a workshop, "When Friendliness Falls Short," about how meetings can grow in the Light in spite of interpersonal friction. (As always, I paid my own way to FGC Gathering.)

My correspondence with IYM Friends has increased this year. In addition to the meetings and Worship Groups that I visited, I have corresponded with Friends from Bloomington-Normal, Downers Grove, Evanston, Heartland WG, Hill Street WG, Lake Forest, McHenry County, Milwaukee, Northside, Rock Valley, Terre Haute WG, and with members of the IYM Ministry & Advancement Committee.

In contrast with previous years, my schedule for visits already extends well into the autumn. In the two months following Yearly Meeting, I plan to visit four meetings; five other meetings are considering times for me to visit in the next few months. I feel particularly thankful to have received return invitations from several meetings that I have visited before. This rise in visits reflects both an increase in IYM Friends' familiarity with me and a new emphasis on my establishing relationships with meetings before problems or conflicts arise. It is much easier for Friends to approach me in a difficult time if they already have a good relationship with me.

As always, the IYM Ministry and Advancement Committee and its Field Secretary Oversight Subcommittee remain essential in steering, participating in, and providing constructive feedback on my work. I thank Carolyn W. Treadway and Judith Gottlieb for their participation on my Oversight Subcommittee from 1995 through early 1998, and to Margaret Katranides and Roxy Jacobs who agreed to take their places. I also thank continuing members Kenneth Ives (clerk) and Janet Means. Developing close, spiritually nurturing relationships with these Friends, and others throughout IYM, is a cherished gift to me.

Barry Zalph

"RELEASED FRIEND"/COORDINATING CLERK REPORT

(See Minute 28)

THE BACKGROUND

I have served as IYM Coordinating Clerk off and on for a number of years since the early 1980s. In 1991 the duties of Registrar were combined with those of the Coordinating Clerk at my request. I already maintained the mailing database and, by streamlining registration procedures and putting those records on a spreadsheet, I could have complete and accurate address information for Friends attending IYM - which was not always the case when registration duties rotated among the area planning groups.

In 1994 the yearly meeting considered the possibility of a paid administrative position. The Ad Hoc Committee on Work was appointed to look at the work required for maintaining the organization of the yearly meeting and how that work was getting done. The ad hoc committee recognized that there were less volunteer hours available among Friends than in the past and recommended specific tasks to be added to the coordinating clerk responsibilities. At the 1995 session, Yearly Meeting approved my "release" (at one-fifth time) to carry out what we all considered to be a ministry.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Coordinating Clerk Responsibilities as defined in the Handbook are:

- Coordinates the activities of the Yearly Meeting between Sessions.
- Distributes the Minutes of the Continuing Committee and makes any necessary mailings determined by Continuing Committee.
- Mails out the announcements and agenda for Continuing Committee.
- Sends out the report of membership form to Monthly Meetings two months before the Annual Session.
- Works with Presiding Clerk and the Assistant Clerk in distribution of materials and information relative to the conduct of the Business meetings.
- Maintains an updated list of participants, meeting contacts, committee conveners, and members.
- Makes sure that the log books are transferred to designated conveners.
- Provides and distributes the official Illinois Yearly Meeting stationary.
- Responds to requests for information.

Tasks to be done by the "released Friend" in addition to the volunteer work as Coordinating Clerk/Registrar:

1. Coordinate the collection of documents and see to the preparation of the Minute Book and Plummer lecture for printing.
2. Coordinate and distribute the Yearly Meeting Calendar.
3. Maintain address database for the IYM Directory and the support of IYM committees, clerks and officers.
4. Continue to maintain and develop logs.
5. Prepare all documents and do mailings for IYM registration, providing volunteers with all necessary documents for registration at IYM.

THE HOURS

Although I have tasks on my annual checklist for every month of the year, the bulk of the work is done between spring and fall. Since 1995, the average number of hours per week has gone from eight to nearly ten. With most of those hours spent between April and October, the average hours for those weeks is closer to fifteen. And the five to six weeks following IYM require nearly full-time hours for preparing publications, directories, correspondence, etc. And at all times of the year I am "available" to respond to a variety of requests.

The hours have increased over the years as I have picked up more and more of the details that used to be covered by other clerks, or the area planning groups, or jobs which need to be done but have not been defined - like managing the use of the IYM site during the year. We have increased the IYM publications to include the evening talks given at IYM and I prepare these for copying and distribution. Some services I perform are a natural outgrowth of having a great deal of information easily retrievable on the computer - such as providing mailists to FGC and mailing labels to Blue River Quarterly. I have not wrestled the work out of other's hands, but sometimes it is just as efficient for me to do a mailing than to mail labels to a clerk, or the tasks someone volunteered for were more than they had time to complete and someone needs to pick up the slack. Some of the increase in hours is also due to e-mail. Electronic mail has improved communications but it definitely adds to the hours I spend.

THE WORK

Essentially, I am staffing an office for IYM, providing support for the work of our clerks, representatives, committees and volunteers and I think this is a need that will not go away. The number of volunteers and the time they have to offer has not increased from three years ago when this position was created to solve that very problem. I love working for and with Friends and have felt "lead" in doing this work and am willing to continue. There is more that could be done to maintain the "good order" of the yearly meeting as well as to enhance the communication that is so important to our sense of community. Some possibilities:

- A Yearly Meeting Newsletter, sent out every one or two months, that would keep Friends abreast of activities in IYM before they happen and provide more timely mailing dates for committees and planning groups to get information out to monthly meetings. A newsletter would not be in competition with Among Friends but would complement it. Among Friends is a forum for our reflections as meetings, committees, and individuals but is not published often enough to keep Friends informed of activities throughout the year.
- A frequently maintained web site - an electronic newsletter and resource for Friends who prefer to communicate "on-line".
- Site management: The Yearly Meetinghouse has been used increasingly by small groups in the spring and fall. A process for guaranteeing the "readiness" of the site and providing a liaison with Clear Creek Meeting needs to be worked out.

- Care of records: There are "housekeeping" tasks that have been languishing for years such as organizing and archiving our records - both yearly meeting and some monthly meetings. The IYM Records Librarian sends our publications to various libraries, but what is happening to the boxes full of correspondence, old log notes, committee minutes and records? (There is also the frequently asked question of how to care for the old books in the meetinghouse.)

The following suggestions, from various Friends, are examples of more optional long-term projects, requiring time and coordination:

- It has been suggested that all Minutes of IYM, since the beginning, be put on disc as a research tool.
- The Yearly Meeting could be much more of a resource for new and growing meetings by providing specific help and information on record keeping and archiving, weddings, burials and memorial services - sharing the combined experience of our monthly meetings (as a supplement to Faith and Practice).

- Putting together a combined history of the monthly meetings in IYM and the development of the yearly meeting's organizational structure (as done by North Carolina Yearly Mtg. - and probably others) would be a wonderful resource for both adult and children's RE.

THE PROBLEMS

The difficulties I have with this position as it is now defined are mainly two: (1) For the past year, I have had no oversight committee to provide support, stimulation and feedback. I need committee help in defining the parameters of this position, deciding on how my work can best support the yearly meeting and its monthly meetings and worship groups, and with setting priorities and time frames for that work. (2) Although the job is defined as part-time (one fifth), there are periods of time during the year that require nearly half time to full time hours. Having another part time job to supplement a small income is difficult due the "seasonal" aspect of this work.

THE FUTURE

There are two issues that I hope will be discussed during the evaluation process for this position. One is that the Yearly Meeting consider if it has reached the point of needing and wanting permanent paid staff. This is different than "releasing" someone to carry out their ministry. It puts the emphasis on looking at the long-term needs of the yearly meeting rather than reacting to the availability of a particular individual. Many yearly meetings have staff in the same combination we have now - an administrative secretary and a field secretary, whose work complements and supports each other.

And that leads to the second issue I would like to see addressed: that the yearly meeting and the committees appointed to the oversight of these positions see them as complementary, though distinct, and not competitive. The number of hours and total compensation for each should be determined by the needs of the yearly meeting and the finances available. Concerns about "parity" (other than equal per hour compensation) will only hamper our ability to hear God's voice as we seek His leading in caring for our beloved community.

Finally, I want you to know that I am grateful and feel blessed for the opportunity to work with and for Friends in Illinois Yearly Meeting. You have been a second home and extended family to me, both physically and spiritually, for twenty seven years. I take this opportunity to say thank you.

Mary Nurenberg

REPORT OF PASTORAL COUNSELOR

(See Minute 51)

Dear Friends:

As in previous years, I am writing to bring Illinois Yearly Meeting up to date about my ministry of pastoral counseling and to request a minute stating the Yearly Meeting's continuing endorsement of that work. As before, I need a letter from the Clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting noting this endorsement and quoting the 1998 business meeting minute which specifies this endorsement. I would be glad to present my report or update in person on Saturday, or to have this letter suffice if you wish to include the request earlier in the week's agenda.

Now in my twenty-first year at BroMenn Healthcare, I continue to be part of a small pastoral team which is part of BroMenn Counseling and embedded in a much larger health care system. We are slightly more secure and financially viable than last year, but we struggle to make our pastoral identity known to the larger community. Nonetheless, we on the pastoral team continue our deep commitment to our spiritual roots and beliefs and to linking with churches in a ministry of healing.

I continue to enjoy and find a spiritual and professional home in the annual conference of Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling (QPCC). Again, I encourage any of you who are counselors, Quakers, and interested in the interface of spirituality and counseling to become part of QPCC.

Once again, I want to express my deep appreciation for Illinois Yearly Meeting's support and endorsement of my pastoral counseling which makes my work possible. Thank you.

Carolyn W Treadway

Dear Friends,

Once again I want to express my gratitude for IYM's endorsement of my work. I have been a hospital chaplain for twenty years, a chaplain educator for sixteen years and endorsed under your care for fourteen of those years. As I reported last year, healthcare has undergone great changes in the past few years as the "managed care" model of healthcare delivery has swept the nation. Both these changes and my own increasing responsibilities in an administrative role, led me into spiritual direction with Janet Means to discover a more life-giving sense of my vocation.

In the past year, I began a Doctor of Ministry program at Chicago Theological Seminary where I was pleased to sojourn academically with two other IYM Friends, Tom Stabnicki and Sebrina Tingley. My focus for this program is spirituality and healing. With one class a quarter this will be a slow but hopefully enriching process.

One of the fruits of this process has been an introduction to Meeting for Worship for Healing, after the manner of Friends. Hildegard Weiler, of Evanston Meeting, and I worked with our meetings to co-sponsor a workshop in the Chicago area this past January on healing worship. Northside Friends Meeting has subsequently established a monthly Meeting for Healing under its care. Other meetings are also offering opportunities for healing prayer in IYM.

Tom, Sebrina and I developed a directed study for ourselves at CTS on Quaker Spirituality and Healing. As a part of this class we will present a workshop in February of 1999 for both Quakers and the CTS community on Quaker Worship and Quaker Meeting for Worship for Healing. We hope that some of you can attend to strengthen the worship experience for non-Friends and to experience Meeting for Worship for Healing if you have not done so.

The support of Friends has been essential in all these endeavors. I appreciate the opportunity to report to you each year.

Beth Burbank

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

YOUTH OVERSIGHT / YOUTHQUAKE PROPOSED MINUTES

(See Minute 5 & 13)

Draft of Minute 1

The Youth Oversight Committee at their January 1998 meeting and Young Friends and Young Adult Friends at the Rockford Quake in April 1998 approved the following:

Students in the Young Friends Program are expected to participate in the program and follow the guidelines and expectations for Young Friends. Anyone of any age with Young Friends both on or off IYM grounds are expected to follow the guidelines and expectations.

We would like the Yearly Meeting's concurrence with this request. The full Guidelines, Expectations, and Affirmation are appended as part of the Youth Oversight Committee Report.

Draft of Minute 2

Last December IYM had eight participants in Youth Quake 97 held near Ashville, North Carolina along with a former IYMer, Don Smith, currently part of New England Yearly Meeting. Attending were: Mike Kerr, Zeb Schobernd, Susan Bisset, Cam Domer, and Tommy Jager. Katharine Jager was an assistant Family Group Leader, Jesse Davison, Don Smith and Kai Immler were Family Group Leaders. In addition, Kai served as part of the Crisis Intervention Team.

The Youth Oversight Committee recommends that Illinois Yearly Meeting become a sponsor of YouthQuake 2000, a Triennial gathering of Young Friends from Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends International, and Conservative backgrounds. The following Yearly Meetings and groups are sponsors of YouthQuake: Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Evangelical Friends International, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Indiana Yearly Meeting, Mid-America Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Northwest Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Western Yearly Meeting, and Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

We view this as an opportunity for IYM Young Friends to explore their spirituality and the Bible, to become acquainted with Young Friends and adults from all branches of Quakerism, to both deepen and broaden their understanding of what it means to be a Quaker, and to provide groundwork for future FWCC Triennials where Quakers can continue the dialogue begun in their youth. We feel that it is important for us to share the work in planning YouthQuakes so that we are full participants in every phase. Last year because we weren't part of the planning group, when situations arose we had no voice.

The projected cost of sponsorship for YouthQuake 2000 (to be held in Seattle, WA) is \$3000. One adult Friend needs to make a three year commitment for involvement in all the planning meetings. The \$3000 cost equalizes the travel and planning costs among all the sponsors.

The Youth Oversight Committee at its January 1998 meeting approved:

1. The selection of Kai Immler as the adult representative.
2. The use of \$2000 from the Youth Oversight Fund to pay for sponsorship costs. Kai Immler has agreed to be responsible for the other \$1000 needed.

The Youth Oversight Committee requests that Yearly Meeting:

1. Consider whether IYM wishes to be a sponsor of YouthQuake 2000 and, if so:

2. To approve \$2000 from the Youth Oversight Fund for that purpose.

Our youth are Quakerism's future. What experiences do we want them to have?

The mission statement of YouthQuake is as follows: YouthQuake is a national conference for Young Friends to explore Christ-centered Quaker spirituality. We will examine the historical Jesus Christ of scripture, be challenged to experience the presence of the Living Christ in our spiritual journey, celebrate our Quaker heritage and present day witness, and build a spiritual community based on love, respect, truth and understanding across the breadth of Friends.

The following are statements from YouthQuake participants:

I think that Illinois Yearly Meeting should support the YouthQuake program. However, some feelings were hurt at YouthQuake. I feel that the pros outweighed the cons. YouthQuake not only expanded my understanding of Quaker diversity but strengthened some of my former beliefs.

At YouthQuake I found new ways to cooperate, accept, and even enjoy some of the differences between the many forms of Quakers there. Though don't get me wrong, it was not all fun and games. My friends and I had to struggle with our anger and frustration and the anger and frustration of others concerning our differences.

Michael F. Kerr

I definitely think YouthQuake is a worthwhile experience. It exposed me to a type of Quakerism I had never encountered before. It gave me the opportunity to examine what I believe and to have my beliefs tested by those whose opinions differed greatly from mine. It was a great learning experience.

Zeb Schobernd

Putting my thoughts on YouthQuake together and getting them down in writing is a much harder task than I imagined. The experience was far richer than I can hope to convey. Before arriving, I was nervous about the confrontation I foresaw between evangelical Friends and universalist Friends. As it turned out, my fears were mostly unfounded. With a few exceptions, most people I encountered at YouthQuake were interested in learning about each other, and helping others to understand them.

I was a Family Group Facilitator at the gathering, so my role was less explorative and more that of a guide, or a mediator. I kept discussions within our group from being one-sided, and tried to get people to allow themselves to see truth in each other's faith. Through the week, we played games, had worship sharing sessions, asked and answered questions, and worshipped and prayed together. Each session ended with a moment of silence, and then I asked one of the young men in my group, who was a youth pastor at his Quaker Church, to close with a prayer.

There were many issues of difficulty at the gathering, issues of sexual preference, issues of evangelical Friends trying to convert universalist Friends, atheist or nonatheist Friends disrespecting other's faith. Within my group, the only one of these issues to come up was that of evangelical Friends attempting to convert others. The young man who closed our meetings together was a Godsend on this issue. He eased the tension in our group by mentioning an allegory of the Wind and the Sun betting who can make a man take his coat off. The Wind blows as hard as he can, trying to force the coat off the man, but the man only clings it tighter to himself. Then, the Sun warms the man, who, enjoying the warmth, no longer needs his coat, and takes it off himself. He understood that threatening non-Christian Friends with Hellfire and Damnation was no way to get them interested in Christ, and instead, he did what he could to warm them.

Jesse Davison

I enjoyed my trip to North Carolina for this year's YouthQuake. I'm being honest, though, when I say that my favorite part was seeing my old IYM friends. It was interesting being introduced to a completely different type of Quaker. I knew that there were two branches of Quakers, but I never knew they were this different! I was surprised at how close they were to just being Protestant. Some of the programmed friends didn't do the things that we feel make us uniquely Quaker. For example, many of the programmed friends only had five minutes of silence during meeting. Also, the programmed and unprogrammed friends held very opposite views on topics like Jesus, God, Sexuality and Abortion, which surprised me. This wasn't a bad thing though, in fact, it made the trip more interesting. After the trip was over I figured out why I had gone to YouthQuake '97. It was to get to know my religion better. I realize now that it was a huge mistake to assume that all Quakers were like Illinois Quakers. It was a very good experience for me and I hope to be a part of it the next time around.

Tommy Jager

First, let me start by thanking Illinois Yearly Meeting for sponsoring me at YouthQuake '97. It was an experience I am very glad I got the opportunity to participate in. I was wary of going on my own, but once I learned IYM was sponsoring others my mind was eased. Having familiar faces around was a comfort and a blessing.

The week was filled with so many experiences that it is difficult to sum it all up in a short report. It is probably best to start by explaining how the program was organized in order to highlight the high and low points. The smallest and closest subdivision the youth were placed into were the "Family Groups" with an average of eight to ten youth per group. These groups were made to have members from different Yearly Meetings. It was within these groups where I felt most understanding was accomplished. We would together twice a day with one or two leaders and start with a topic planned for us. My group often strayed from the topic to fill each of our personal expectations and goals for the week. We discussed topics like how we know when the Spirit is speaking to us and the practices and beliefs for each of our Yearly Meetings. I found a lot

of comfort within this small group. We quickly bonded with each other, putting aside any differences in beliefs while still discussing our faith and the sources of that faith. The Family Groups were the biggest help in giving the experience I was expecting before YouthQuake.

The next larger group we met in was our "Extended Family Groups." This group was simply three or four Family Groups put together that met once daily. This is where we centered most on our general similarities and differences between various forms of Quakerism. We discussed personal likes and dislikes of our Monthly and Yearly meetings. Other topics were the history of Quakers and the pillars of Quakerism. This was a good chance for participants to talk with others outside of their Family Groups but it seemed to lack any real substance. It was interesting to observe some of the activities we did in Extended Family Groups. This gathering opened my eyes a bit to the differences that weren't apparent in my Family Groups.

The remaining, and personally the most difficult, part was the full YouthQuake activities. These were the Worship sessions and the workshops. For every great moment of joy, content, or laughter, these large gatherings supplied an ache. Each Worship session was geared toward a different style of prayer. The idea was a good one but possibly more guidance was needed before each gathering to help those who don't use that style of Worship. We went from a fully programmed service with responses and hymns to a silent Worship (which never really was silent--ARG). After a full day of new experiences and challenges, all I wanted was a chance for the Light to reach out to me. All I got was aggravated at the group as a whole for never actually having silence. I guess with 500+ teenagers in one place, everyone had something to say and used Worship as their forum. I spoke with many participants who had never even attended an unprogrammed Meeting and assumed there should be no more than two minutes of silence at a time based on what they saw within these times. I often felt overlooked since I felt I was trying new forms of Worship and others didn't try the one I am most accustomed to. The possibility is that some of these Quakers don't know simple silent Worship. The workshops were a source of frustration as well. There were about 15 different topics from which each person chose two to attend. Topics ranged from working for peace in modern society to sharing Quaker practices with others. The topics were average, a little something for everyone, but there was nothing I got overly excited about. I finally chose "Living with Integrity" and "The Bible". The first was later labeled as the best one to attend. The room was packed and the activity was simple, to the point, and hit very close to the heart. Everyone walked out feeling great, myself included. I only wish that I could say the same about the Bible workshop. I had toyed with the idea of going early in the week and was convinced after a conversation with Don Smith (who passes his hello to everyone at IYM). There is no loving way to say what happened there, I simply felt attacked. My views were very different from the 45 others, including the workshop leader, and they let me know that I was the only one vocalizing against what they were saying. I thought the purpose of the entire week was to open yourself to new views and experiences but they all seemed to label me as the outcast and tried to pull me into their views. I went to my room in tears. I went to the unprogrammed Meeting (it wasn't in the program but it was started the second day so there was some real silent Worship) and cried again. It hurt to be attacked by so many people I had set high expectations for. I can still say I am glad I went to the workshop so all was not negative. Maybe someone in that room saw my purpose in being there.

Overall, and I guess what it really comes down to, is that I would like to see IYM more involved with YouthQuake. There are practices that we have that aren't being represented on the planning committee or within the adult leadership. There are beliefs among the youth that need to be addressed, pressed, and shared with others. I don't mean for this to sound like we must join and start changing the program but I would like our valuable voice to be part of the chorus. Ideally, I would like to see IYM simply participate again next year and see the differences between two YouthQuakes since every one is surely different. But we, as a Yearly Meeting, have as much to offer as any other Yearly Meeting. It is a big commitment to make and hopefully IYM would provide more than just the money if we do decide to become involved. There is a great need for Family Group Leaders, people to complete the endless paperwork, even providing moral support for Kai Immler. I guess the best testimony I can give as to whether we should sponsor YouthQuake is the fact that I plan to return in 2000. With all of the struggles I encountered, there were still more positives than negatives. And, more important, I took a deep look inside myself and made improvements due to the people I encountered there. I thank you again for sponsoring me at YouthQuake '97. It was an experience I will never forget.

Susan Bisset

At the end of December, 1997, I joined several Young Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting at the 1997 YouthQuake at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. There I participated in the gathering and also served as an assistant family group leader for 10 Young Friends from across the Quaker spectrum of belief. My experience at YouthQuake was both painful and joyous. Ultimately, it has convinced me that Illinois Yearly Meeting has a definite ministry to offer the wider body of Friends, in its potential sponsorship of future YouthQuakes.

Based on the conviction that my relationship with God revolves around my own personal Truth-seeking, and my experiential knowledge of God's unconditional love for me and for all people, I felt a leading to be completely honest with my group of Young Friends about my identity as a lesbian. I made this decision because it seemed to me to exemplify the nature of God's love and thus my own integrity as a child of God. I also knew that among the 450 Young Friends at the gathering, many of them were struggling--much as I had struggled--with who they were, and how they might navigate in a world marked by oppression and hatred towards gays and lesbians. I felt obligated to speak truthfully, for their sake, so that they might know that they were not alone, and that God loved them not despite the way they loved, but because they were capable of love. I knew that many of them were struggling, and also that they were very brave.

My decision to come out was a positive one for my family-group. Aged 14 to 18, these Young Friends showed remarkable insight, sensitivity, respect and humor. At the end of the gathering, they bestowed me with imaginary "gifts"--I received all the money I could ever want so that I'd always be safe, and a magic phone so that I would always be able to call upon those who loved me, among other wonderful things.

For myself personally, and for the gathering, my decision to be honest about my identity rendered me invisible. Following my coming out to my family-group, there was a meeting called by the overseers of the YouthQuake to determine whether I'd be sent home, because it was felt that I was bringing adult issues to a Young Friends gathering. I was not directly told of the possibility that I might be dismissed from YouthQuake. When I did learn of the intense discussion surrounding me and my decision, I sought out our group of IYM Young Friends, and found myself supported with tenderness and with grace. It was decided that we together should speak our own experiences and convictions about the integrity of gay and lesbian people, not just because of my immediate experience, but because we all collectively belonged to Monthly Meetings that have stood lovingly and implicitly for gays and lesbians. Together, we also belonged to a Yearly Meeting that has continually sought to attend to the Light within all of its members and attenders, honoring and supporting their struggles toward Truth. Illinois Yearly Meeting has been the spiritual home that has sheltered, strengthened and fed us as separate individuals and as a community of Young Friends. It gathers us together in a community marked by respect, love, and powerful fellowship, and empowers to listen, always, for the presence of God within our midst.

As a Yearly Meeting, we were very few at YouthQuake, and we were told that while we could hold a discussion about sexuality and spirituality, as we had asked to do, we would not be able to announce or advertise for it. We held the meeting regardless, and it was well attended. We also met with a group of Young Friends from Colorado Yearly Meeting, to talk about where we each stood on the issue of homosexuality. Many IYM Young Friends spoke to how their Monthly Meetings sought to provide commitment ceremonies for their gay and lesbian members. Young Friends from Colorado told of how they would not have such ceremonies, but that they had support groups for gays and lesbians who wanted to repent and change their lives. Their youth pastor told us that in addition to that group, their Friends church also held Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous support groups, and that everyone was welcome there regardless of their sins.

I knew, from conversations, that I was not the only gay person serving as staff at the gathering. I was, however, the only person who was open about herself. A gay male group leader told me that I should have known better and kept silent about my identity. Because my family-group was so positive about my leadership, and because my head family-group leader, while he clearly expressed to me his misgivings about homosexuality, informed me that he respected my honesty and my leadership abilities, I understood that I would be allowed to remain at the gathering. The final few days of the YouthQuake left me feeling silenced and overwhelmed. There seemed to be a flurry of quiet discussion about, but never with, me. Both Programmed and Unprogrammed Friends seemed to have much to say about the subject of homosexuality, but neither group appeared to have any leadership about the issue and its connection with spirituality. I worried that my coming out at YouthQuake would be seen as a political act, when in fact it was an act deeply rooted in faith. Through this, however, I realized how important Illinois Yearly Meeting has been in my life, and, over time, I have found that I am able to see a painful experience as one infused with joy and with love.

I have never doubted that God loved me, but I realized at YouthQuake that this bedrock conviction was laid in the spiritual soil of Illinois Yearly Meeting, I came to understand, at YouthQuake, as I have realized every summer in the flat fields of Illinois, that my F(f)riends from IYM shared my sense of God's love, and that, again, we had blossomed together in God's presence into something resilient, strong, and beautiful. Our knowledge of love, and fellowship, has sprung from good prairie seed. It is made to withstand fierce winters, and sometimes, it flowers only after a scourge of lightning fire.

I am convinced that the power of YouthQuake rests in its unique ability to bring together Young Friends from all over the country, in the hope of someday altering the fragmented and fractional body of American Quakerism. To do that, we must all participate, in the manner of Friends, in the discussion and the struggle to acknowledge God's power and love in our own lives and within each other. Towards that end, Illinois Yearly Meeting has a powerful testimony to provide future YouthQuakes. It is my hope that, as a Yearly Meeting, we will sponsor the upcoming YouthQuake 2000, so that we might sit quietly and labor, with love, with the rest of Friends, as to what it means to be a Quaker at the beginning of the 21st century.

Katharine Jager

Working staff at YouthQuake was a really frustrating and awe-inspiring experience. Frustrating because there were, of course, some people there so wrapped up in their own belief systems that they aggressively criticized people who saw things differently, but also awe inspiring because they were in the minority, and the majority were really reaching out across the theological gulf. I don't think either the most extreme evangelicals or the most extreme atheists came away satisfied (don't ask me why an extreme atheist would want to come to a self-avowed Christ-centered worship experience, but we had a few), but those of us in the middle learned a lot more about each other. I feel much renewed and strengthened in my own faith. Coming into direct confrontation with people who have radically different interpretations than you can really focus your sense of why you believe what you do. I come out of this experience with a renewed appreciation for unprogrammed, silent Quaker worship. I found a lot more commonality with the programmed friends than I expected, and that was delightful, but I found that the discipline of silent worship really worked for me in ways that programmed services don't.

After the first couple of days, a group of teens (I believe from Baltimore Yearly Meeting) took the initiative to schedule and shepherd a silent meeting during the free time before dinner, and that continued as a daily activity for the rest of the

week. There was a real power in that silence, and I spoke with some kids from the programmed tradition for whom this was their first unprogrammed meeting, and they had been very impressed with the depth of the sharing.

For a lot of these High School students, this was their first confrontation with people who called themselves by the same name, but defined that name completely differently, and it was a phenomenal challenge to try to create a space where people could reach across those differences and find common ground. I saw that as my job, as a facilitator of a small group of 10 kids, fairly evenly spread across the theological spectrum, that met every day. I tried to start us off in the direction of open sharing and honest curiosity, not hostile challenges or threatening pronouncements. Thus people could talk about the difference Jesus made in their lives, or how their ongoing spiritual journey has not included Jesus, without totally freaking out the others. I am deeply grateful that they were willing to do that. Not every small group was. Because of that basis of trust, I think we were able to learn about each other and ourselves. I saw kids recognize that Jesus could be more than the weapon of a conservative religious hierarchy, and I saw other kids realize that diversity need not feel threatening. It was a truly awe-inspiring process to witness and I think it is crucial to support it - especially with the youth.

The program as such was less important, I think, than the connections built between individuals at other times. It is interesting, though, to mention that this was the Gathering's first attempt to bring explicitly Quaker speakers: An actor from New York who did one-man dramatizations of Biblical stories, as well as a full two-act play based on the life of John Woolman; A pastor from a NC meeting was supposed to speak on Quaker roots, but his talk bewildered me, because although he talked about characteristics of early Friends, all of his examples were about people in his Church. Deborah Saunders was definitely the highlight of the official program. Her topic was practicing what you preach, and she started with the good Samaritan, and went from there. She was phenomenal; full of energy, humility, fire and love.

One of the central concepts behind Quaker practice, as I understand it, has always been to seek the Will of God in Unity, under the principle that if everyone involved is really listening to the Spirit, and really submitting their own will to God, then everyone will find the same message in the end. If people split into smaller groups, then all you have done is to find a group that is similar enough to agree, which has nothing to do with really listening to God. We have not spoken with one voice, as a society, since 1827, to our own detriment. YouthQuake is the most exciting (maybe even the only) current attempt to reach across the legacy of division we have inherited and look for some kind of Unity. Clearly that Unity is a long way off, but if we don't talk to each other, it's never going to happen. I found the attempt to be exhilarating, frustrating, uplifting, heartbreaking, and definitely worth continuing.

Don Smith

The most important thing I do is to help youth experience God in their lives whether it's through worship and prayer, service projects, or simply play. YouthQuake provided a remarkable opportunity for shared spiritual experiences. The participants wove together a vibrant, multi-dimensional tapestry of spiritual journeys and experiences.

YouthQuake was a stretching experience for me -- spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I was aware of being wholly open to the workings of God within me and others, to experience the Living Christ in addition to a chronic lack of sleep, and a new appreciation of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's skill at playing four-square.

It was hard work building trust when peoples' emotions ran strong and their theologies differed. Truly, God was at work. Since I served on the Crisis Intervention Team for Young Friends with serious emotional difficulties in addition to being a Family Group Leader there were a few missed meals and wind sprints to get to sessions on time. But there were also remarkable spiritual gifts: from talking with Deborah Saunders to late night theology jams to facilitating a discussion group on sexuality and spirituality, to mention just a few.

Music was an integral part of much of the worship at YouthQuake. With Judith Gottlieb's help, will you join me in singing "Ubi Caritas".

God's love definitely was present at YouthQuake. In becoming its sponsor Illinois Yearly Meeting would give witness to our faith, joining other Quakers in moving forward together in the Light. To repeat: Our youth are Quakerism's future. What experiences do we want them to have?

It is clear that Young Friends want the YouthQuake experience. The middle school group in my Meeting, who call themselves the Twizzlers, has raised close to \$700 this year for travel expenses for YouthQuake 2000. Please join IYM Young Friends in "Refreshment for the Children of the Light" with expresso and strong coffee from 3:30 -- 4:30 at the west side of the Meetinghouse to support their going to YouthQuake.

Kai Parry Immler

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING YOUNG FRIENDS' EXPECTATIONS, GUIDELINES, AFFIRMATION

IYM has a special program for Young Friends (as at FGC, the summer program generally is for those entering 10th grade through the summer following graduation from high school. School year programs are, in general, for those in 9th grade through 12th grade. There is a separate program for college age or Young Adult Friends.) The goal of the Young Friends Program is to help Young Friends learn Quaker process, develop a spiritual community, be exposed to Quaker values, and have fun within the context of IYM activities.

EXPECTATIONS

1. All Young Friends are urged to help out with the many jobs to be done in the kitchen and on the Yearly Meeting grounds.

2. Students in the Young Friends Program are expected to participate in the program and follow the guidelines for Young Friends. Anyone of any age with Young Friends both on or off IYM grounds are expected to follow the guidelines and expectations.
3. The Fox Hole is off limits from 9:00 P.M. - 8:00 A.M. Sleeping in the Fox Hole and Meetinghouse is prohibited.
4. If Young Friends want to leave the grounds after snacks, they must sign out and be sure that they are with at least two other people. When they return, they need to sign in. The curfew for Wednesday and Thursday nights is midnight. The curfew for Friday and Saturday nights is 1:00 A.M. At this time Young Friends must be on Yearly Meeting grounds. (Stay away from school grounds en route to the cemetery.)
5. No Young Friends may use cars after snacks.
6. Young Friends are expected to get sufficient sleep to participate fully in IYM activities.
7. Young Friends are expected to respect the needs of others who are attending IYM. No smoking on IYM grounds (including the cemetery). No alcohol or other drugs or sexual activity is permitted anywhere during IYM.
8. Young Friends are expected to abide by IYM "Community Guidelines".

GUIDELINES

It is our wish as the Young Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting to set some guidelines and make clear the given role of leader. The role of paid staff/volunteers requires one to be aware of one's position in relation to teens, setting, and IYM expectations. The IYM Young Friends Guidelines shall be respected by all paid staff/volunteers at all times.

A volunteer or youth leader is inevitably elevated to the level of role model and mentor. One should always be aware of their powers of influence.

The importance of using discretion in verbal and physical actions should already be understood. Extracurricular counseling for individual teens should not overstep the boundaries of one's position. If very real concerns about an individual teen arise, please seek the proper help -- do not ignore it or give amateur advice -- your words may be misconstrued.

To be blatantly clear about physical expectations: there should be no sexual interactions or verbal innuendoes between paid staff/volunteers and Young Friends.

These expectations should be fully adhered to during IYM and other Young Friends activities.

If the policy is violated, Youth Oversight will address the issue at the earliest possible time. If necessary, Youth Oversight will call on Ministry and Advancement Committee for assistance. Violations of these guidelines may result in the individual(s) being asked to leave Yearly Meeting or other youth activity immediately. Any decision will be reported back to both Youth Oversight Committee and the Young Friends Business Meeting.

AFFIRMATION

IYM brings together Friends of various backgrounds and from different Meetings. Being sensitive to another's beliefs and traditions means being willing to modify one's own behavior so that all persons at IYM can take part. I agree to make this effort and adhere to the community expectations and guidelines on the previous page. If I break this agreement I understand I may be assigned consequences accordingly, including being sent home at my own expense.

Please talk with Katherine Trezevant or Kai Immler, Co-Clerks of the Youth Oversight Committee, if there are any questions or concerns. Also, if you would like to be a member of the Youth Oversight Committee, please speak with Katherine or Kai.

HISTORY OF ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING MINUTES CONCERNING *FAITH & PRACTICE*

(See Minute 33)

1955 Minute 16(c)

That since the supply has been exhausted for the Book of Discipline now in use, the Monthly Meetings be asked to consider what to do and report back through their Quarterly Meetings to the next session of Yearly Meeting; this too was approved.

1956 Minute 5

...It was also reported that many of the (Blue River) Monthly Meetings had given much thoughtful consideration to the adoption of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's book of discipline. Reaction of the various meetings was mixed.

The report of Fox Valley Quarter recommended: (1) tentative adoption ... of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's new Book on Faith and Practice, with appended Illinois variances; (2) encouragement of efforts, well advanced in both Quarters represented here, towards re-writing of the present Book of Discipline specifically for IYM.

1956 Minute 47

The round-table on "Disciplining IYM" recommended the following procedure: (a) A subgroup to be appointed by the Ministry & Counsel Committee to prepare a mimeographed supplement to, or a revision of, part 2 (Practices and Procedures) in the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Book of Faith and Practice. (b) IYM should make use of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Book of Faith and Practice for the present [1998 *Note that the language is "make use of", not adopt*] (c) the Yearly Meeting should encourage those monthly meetings so inclined to attempt writing a new Book of Discipline and asks that a work team be appointed by the Ministry & Counsel Committee to carry out this project to the point of completing a first draft for consideration by monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and the Yearly Meeting. The report was approved.

1957 Minute 48

Charles H. Harker, Jr. expresses a concern of Peoria Monthly Meeting that our adoption of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith & Practice, as amended, be considered only as a temporary measure pending the preparation of IYM's own Book of Discipline. As several Friends share this concern, monthly meetings are encouraged to make specific recommendations to the subcommittee on the Book of Discipline.

1958

Yearly Meeting held outside of Middleton, WI

Nothing until 1991 when the 1972 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is adopted "as our working document" and the new Faith & Practice Committee is appointed.

Paul Buckley, Clerk, *Faith and Practice* Committee

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING, AND WITNESS: Request of Network Steering Committee

(See Minute 41)

Dear Nancy Duncan,

I am writing on behalf of the newly formed steering committee of the Quaker Volunteer Service and Witness Network to report on our accomplishments over the past year, and to ask continued assistance from Illinois Yearly Meeting as the QVSTW effort moves into the next phase. While considerable progress has been made in building a national base for the Network, we hope that Illinois Yearly Meeting will be willing to continue to provide spiritual nurture and care for this new endeavor. Specifically, we ask that IYM assign its Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee (QVSTWC) to function as an oversight committee for the emerging QVSTW effort. While direct responsibility and leadership initiative is no longer required of your yearly meeting, this different role is very much needed now. It is our guess that this arrangement may be needed for two years, but suggest it is appropriate that it be reviewed annually.

We also ask that IYM maintain custody of the funds generated by the April, 1997 conference in Burlington, NJ until an appropriate national organization is formed. We are pleased that Ken Ives has agreed to be treasurer of the Network steering committee if IYM agrees to the continuance.

Considerable progress has been made since the Burlington Conference in April 1997. A directory for sharing management information among Friends' projects, a web site, a newsletter, and an e-mail list-serve were created. The follow-up work from the conference itself is now complete and a steering committee has been formed to begin the next phase.

The new steering committee met in Chicago in early June with Friends from Illinois Yearly meeting to plan the next stage of our effort. The core committee is David Finke (Illinois Yearly Meeting), Mary Lord (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), Chris Parker (New England Yearly Meeting) and Victor Vaughen (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association). Mary Lord is clerk. Judy Jager as Clerk of the IYM QVSTW Committee, Ken Ives as Treasurer of the effort, and Roger Conant as Webmaster complete the core working group. Computer technology allows us to continue our work on e-mail.

At the June meeting, we re-affirmed the goals set at the Burlington conference. Our task with your help is to: (1) Build a national network for Quaker service and witness, (2) Increase Friends Service and witness opportunities, and (3) Share how witness and service grow out of and enrich our religious lives.

The network will offer practical technical assistance to strengthen existing volunteer service and witness programs. Immediate tasks include visiting existing projects to provide encouragement and learn more about their needs, and updating and distributing widely the information about the many Quaker service and witness opportunities available today. We are exploring ways to release young adult Friends for this work. We want to enlist the energy and vision of young adult Friends in the creation of the new enterprise. As the network grows, it can perform those functions best handled by a central group. These can include national coordinated recruitment of volunteers, a central information source for inquiries, liability insurance and benefit programs, program evaluation, and some kind of fundraising. The network can also help increase opportunities for Quaker service and witness. Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations that want to establish a Friends service program could turn to the network for help, drawing on the experience and help of other Yearly Meetings and existing service and witness programs.

Despite the progress that has been made, we are aware that for several months this winter activity stalled as the press of daily life interrupted the ability of several Friends to continue to work on the Conference follow-up. It was the intervention of the IYM Committee that provided the impetus to restart the effort, and moved forward the formation of the present steering committee. We believe the continued oversight of this dedicated group of Illinois Friends will not only provide the new committee with a point of accountability, but will also provide good advice and counsel as we move forward.

Friends everywhere owe Illinois Yearly meeting our thanks for the steadfastness with which you have carried forward this important concern.

Sincerely, Mary Lord

RELEASED FRIEND OVERSIGHT

(See Minute 45)

The yearly meeting released Mary Nurenberg to work for the yearly meeting and her work has facilitated our communication which has helped us accomplish the yearly meeting business. It has also given her a unique perspective about the yearly meeting.

We recommend extending Mary's work for one year. In addition we recommend the formation of an oversight committee to be made up of the clerk, the treasurer, a trustee, and the clerks of standing committees all as ex-officio members. The committee will be clerked by the assistant clerk. It will meet twice a year in connection with the continuing committee's meeting. If the clerk of any given standing committee does not wish to serve, the committee is asked to appoint another member to serve instead.

The committee will advise Mary and will share their unique knowledge of various aspects of the yearly meeting and how it functions. The committee will be charged with gaining a broad knowledge of the yearly meeting so that a larger number of members will have the perspective that Mary has gained. We think that this will serve the yearly meeting well. The committee will advise the yearly meeting about the next steps with regard to Mary's work and the work of the yearly meeting.

Janice Domanik, Nancy Duncan, Elizabeth Mertic

MEMORIALS

Robert Beach

Robert Beach, a long-time member of the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, passed away last August following a stroke. He was 73.

Robert gave our Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting many years of devoted service, paying particular attention to maintaining the buildings. He lived for a year on the grounds of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and his attention to detail still shows in the labels and notes he left. More importantly, Robert personified many qualities Friends hold dear, and he lived according to his principles to an uncommon degree but without self-righteousness. He was a conscientious objector, serving time in prison for those beliefs, and he lived as lightly on the Earth as possible. Robert was always a gentleman, and he took a respectful interest in the children of the Meeting. His service continues after his passing, as he left his body to medical research and generously remembered our Meeting and the Wider Quaker Fellowship in his will. We remember and miss him.

Joe Seeley

Rex Corfman

Rex Mohler Corfman, 82, died early Saturday morning, January 17th, at Weiss Memorial Hospital. He had been admitted the night before with an injury to his head sustained when he fell a week prior. Rex had attended Northside Meeting since 1993, after meeting Roger Conant at a Fellowship of Reconciliation. For several weeks before his passing he had been preparing to recount his spiritual journey--scheduled, poignantly, for the day after he died.

Rex was a retired fundraising consultant for the United Negro College Fund, the YMCA, the United FUN, and other non-profits. Born in Malinta, Ohio, he grew up on small farms, attended Bowling Green State University, Ohio State, and Roosevelt Universities, studying business administration and accounting. He was educational director for a farm bureau cooperative in central Ohio until he was drafted in 1941, and became a conscientious objector, serving 4 years as a hospital orderly and a forest ranger until the war ended.

More recently, he helped launch Facts for Democracy, an organization dedicated to presenting a neutral source for factual information on matters of public interest. He worked tirelessly in this effort. Rex delighted in dressing in 18th century garb as pamphleteer and revolutionary firebrand Thomas Paine, talking about the foundations of democratic government and the importance of information to the popular decision making process. He was married 35 years and divorced in 1986. Rex is survived by his son, Thomas, an attorney, and a daughter Regina, a librarian, and his two grandsons.

Northside held a memorial service Feb. 22 after Worship. Friends, family, and Meeting members recounted some of the significant ways in which Rex touched and transformed those around him, in Meeting, and in his AA. chapter meetings, and everywhere his path led. Tears were shed and much laughter was shared. Rex was depicted as a giving individual because, in large part, he was grateful for what he had been given. He identified with individuals living in skid row, and volunteered to help with homeless shelter feedings. Once he cooked a gigantic pot of hearty soup for the shelter feeding. It was filled so close to the brim it was quite a trick to drive it to the shelter intact. In retrospect, the incident seems symbolic of his life: full, warm, and hearty.

He had a big heart and a generosity that was inspiring, especially given his modest means. As his biography reflects, Rex was filled with fire and drive, and his life clearly had periods of turbulence. But over time his nature was tempered with a refined humility, burnished by rich experiences, and certainly, the trials of his life. He readily and quickly acknowledged imperfections in himself, which made it easy to find comfort with one's own limitations when speaking with him. He also clearly reflected back to others his recognition of the divine in them. Rex's life was a testimony to peace, non-violence, and recognition of that of God in everyone.

Martha Catherine Devere Craig

Martha Catherine Devere Craig was born on May 15, 1898 at her parents' farm four miles south of Kankakee, Illinois. Her father, Samuel Devere, was the son of French war-refusers (Crimean War) from the Bourgogne region of France who emigrated to the United States and to Kankakee County, Illinois. Her mother, Sara Ella Mason, was the daughter of renegade Quakers from the Richmond, Indiana Society of Friends. (Perhaps this sheds light on how Martha came by her indomitable determination to work for peace and justice.) Both of Martha's parents were teachers prior to their marriage and continued their interest in education all their lives. All three of their daughters attended university, a most unusual occurrence in the early nineteen hundreds in America.

Martha's education began in the little one-room Devere School one mile from her farm home. She entered high school at the age of 12, and graduated as valedictorian of her class in 1915. Throughout her high school years she traveled the six miles to school by horse and wagon. On the way to school, five days a week, she delivered the milk cans from the family farm to the dairy in town, making the trip alone for the first two years until joined by a younger sister.

She did her undergraduate work at Earlham College and the University of Illinois, graduating in 1919 with a double major AB degree and winning the Omicron Nu Honorary Society award. The following year, she obtained a Master's Degree in French at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

She taught French at the college level for two years, then resigned to marry John Andrews Craig in 1923. At that time, women had no choice but to resign from their teaching careers when they married.

Cars were a luxury for newly married couples but, in 1928 after the birth of their second child, Martha and her husband bought an Oldsmobile sedan. Some of the neighbors complained that its headlights were much too bright. This was the only automobile Martha ever owned; she eventually sold it as an antique.

After 12 years of marriage, her husband died in 1935, leaving Martha with two small children to support in the middle of the Great Depression. She returned to the work force, as a records management officer for Rotary International, a position which she held for 17 years, then continued as a records management specialist for the Council for State Governments in Chicago until her retirement in 1968 at the age of 70.

The list of organizations to which Martha belonged and her dedicated participation in those organizations are a clear statement of her strongly held beliefs.

- Treasurer and Board of Directors of the County Line Cooperative Association.
- Member and President of the Chicago Filing Association.
- Founding member and President of the League of Women Voters.
- Chairman of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Western Suburban Chapter, until 1996.
- Secretary of the West Suburban Fellowship of Reconciliation until her 98th year.
- Treasurer of Friends of the Library in Western Springs from its inception until she was 97.
- Active organizer and participant in the Inter-Racial Fellowship of LaGrange-Western Springs, later the Ridda Davis Society.
- Founding member of the American Association of University Women of Western Springs.
- Coordinator in Western Springs of Amnesty International.

Martha was pre-eminently an ecumenical Christian and an active participant wherever she was. Her church associations included:

- The Congregational Church of Western Springs, where she had been Superintendent of the Junior Department of the Sunday School, and where she played an active role in the Women's Society until 1996.
- The Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, where she often attended Sunday services and other meetings.
- Downers Grove Friends Meeting, where she attended worship in her later years and participated actively on the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Throughout her life, Martha held a steadfast belief that education would foster peace, harmony and well-being for all. Her energy was devoted to organizations promoting these aims. She was especially interested in the education of women and strongly encouraged their participation in government. As she approached her 100th birthday, invariably she greeted any new young female care-giver with the question: "Are you a member of the League of Women Voters?" If she received a negative reply, she demanded: "Why not?" At the age of 98 she exercised her franchise in the federal and state elections. Thus she continued to live out her insistence that women should responsibly take part in government.

Martha was very active in encouraging interracial activities and an avid supporter of the peace movement. Martha was a mover and motivator, always optimistic that her efforts would help create a better world where people could all live in peace and harmony, cooperatively sharing the necessities of life, ever vigilant that justice be served in the world.

Martha's life came to an end on Wednesday, October 1, 1997 at the Fairview Convalescent Center in LaGrange Park, Illinois at 99 years of age. She is survived by two children, John Devere Craig and Ruth Ellen Craig Bumpus; two grandchildren, Lowell McAllan Orcutt of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Janobai Jenifer Orcutt Smith of Perth, Australia; and two great-grandchildren, Gabrielle Judith Orcutt and Miriam Judith Orcutt of Vancouver, BC.

Martha Devere Craig lived a full life, dedicated to her highest ideals. The world is a better place because she was here.

John Mingesz

John Mingesz, a beloved member of Milwaukee Friends Meeting, died on July 24, 1997 at the age of 78 years from cardiac arrest while bicycling with Rebecca North and Bob Greenler.

Although we recognize William Penn's philosophy that John's presence remains in us all, it was with mixed feelings of appreciation and sadness that Milwaukee Meeting gathered for a memorial service at the Meetinghouse just three days after John's death. Another Quaker memorial service, held at the Habitat for Humanity Warehouse, was attended by approximately 200 people, including his partner, Nancy Stott, other family members, Friends, Habitat workers and many others from throughout Wisconsin.

In 1980, upon retirement from his job, John followed his leadings into a new post-career life. He became a Quaker, earned a Master's degree in kinetics from the University of Wisconsin, ran and biked in marathons, and began putting his engineering skills to work for Habitat for Humanity. In fact, on the last day of his life he had worked a full day at Habitat. Executive Director Jean Leslie observed that in his presence there "he stood for...peace and peace education and helping humanity. And his eyes always seemed to twinkle."

John was a regular Meeting attender as well as greeter. His was the first face many newcomers saw as they walked toward the doorway which led to the worship circle; his hugs were famous and generously given. John was active in Friends prison visitation at Waupun Correctional Institution and is missed by many of the men there with whom he met monthly. His skills proved invaluable when it came to keeping the Meetinghouse in good repair; at the time of his death he had been helping to create a handicapped accessible bathroom for the Meetinghouse. Other outreach in which he was involved include service in a shelter for homeless men, providing food at The Gathering meal program, and working with others in Meeting with the AFSC Material Aids Project and annual Holiday Gift Shop.

John was not big on speeches but when he spoke, it was always with love, conviction, and respect. Despite all of his accomplishments, he remained humble. Despite tragedies in his life, he maintained his sense of humor.

Some time ago, as Milwaukee Friends began to put together an album of member and attender photos with accompanying biographies, John placed in it a picture of himself, white hair and beard shining, blue eyes smiling at the corners. He tore off a scrap of paper and wrote on it this caption: "Not as curmudgeonly as he looks."

We already knew that, John. The first time each of us set eyes on you, we felt your warm goodness and continue to feel it still.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Bloomington-Normal Friends Meeting continues small and strong. Over the past year several Friends stopped attending meeting, and they are missed. We maintain telephone contact with some members who no longer attend. Having found a new spiritual home, one founding member recently transferred her membership to that new Friends meeting. Meanwhile, our posters and word of mouth brought several new attenders. We now have about as strong attendance at Meetings for Worship as in past years, and Meetings with a concern for business are typically better attended than before.

Our meetings for worship are quiet, often silent. We find it a centered quiet, one that fosters peacefulness and mindfulness in the rest of our lives. Friends describe worship as "peaceful," "satisfying," and "hopeful." The quality of the silence is powerful, and vocal ministry reinforces its spiritual strength. We have begun reading queries on the first First Day of each month and at the conclusion of each month's meeting for worship with a concern for business.

This year, several formal and informal gatherings offered opportunities for good works and fellowship. We met recently to hammer out our meeting's contribution to the setting of annual priorities by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Responding to a draft statement on membership in Illinois Yearly Meeting (IYM) provided the focus for another fruitful discussion. We hold pot-luck lunches after meeting for worship on the first First Day of each month, and we enjoyed an especially well attended gathering prior to Christmas that featured live music and singing.

In response to requests from several Friends during last year's visit from IYM Field Secretary Barry Zalph, we stopped meeting in the Campus Religious Center and started meeting in the homes of members and attenders. Locations for the coming month's Meetings for Worship and Business are planned at each month's Business meeting and announced in the minutes, which are distributed to all members and attenders via U.S. mail or e-mail. We are conscious that meeting in private homes makes us less visible, harder to find, and less accessible to possible disabled visitors. However, we judged that the benefits to the comfort and spirit of the meeting made those risks worth taking. We contacted Friends Journal to bring our announcement up to date with these recent changes in time and location of meetings.

Given that summers have traditionally been quiet for this meeting, summer 1997 was unusually active. We met 4 of 5 First Days, held regular Meetings with a concern for business, and joined in monthly pot-luck lunches. We painted a large playroom in the basement of The Baby Fold, a children's advocacy center based here in Normal. Bloomington-Normal Friends visited Clear Creek meeting in McNabb on the last First Day of July, and spent the rest of that day laboring to prepare the kitchen and dining room for Illinois Yearly Meeting later in the week. In August we hosted a "Welcome (Back) Picnic" which brought together Friends who had been away for the summer and some new faces.

An active and enriching First Day School has met nearly every week. Young Friends have studied Quaker history using the book, *Quakers On The Move*, which includes lessons on religious persecution, Quakers' refusal to join in the Revolutionary War, and Friends' role in the abolition of slavery. Letters were written to President Clinton and Secretary of Defense Cohen to encourage peacemaking in the United States' dealings with the people of Iraq as well as to urge the United States to sign the Ottawa treaty banning the use of landmines. First Day School often concludes with the singing of "Simple Gifts" and other Quaker songs, and First Day School reports following meeting for worship have regularly led to meaningful dialogue between young and grown-up Friends.

We put into action Quakers' historic commitments to peace and justice in several ways. July saw Quakers marching among many others in the Bloomington-Normal "Not in Our Town" Rally Against Racism. Later in the summer, Friends joined members of several other spiritual communities in a quiet protest against the "Prairie Air Show." The "highlight" of the air show was an appearance by a Stealth Bomber; "Don't be entertained by weapons of war!" read one of our signs. At the height of tensions between the United States and Iraq this past February, a letter penned by one of our co-clerks on behalf of the meeting appeared in The Pantagraph. The letter urged officials of the United States and United Nations to seek peaceful means for resolving their complaints against Iraq and to help get badly needed food and medicine to the people of Iraq.

Our goals for the coming year include further advancement of the meeting by inviting people with forward-looking energy into the meeting as it continues to grow. We wish to make the meeting both more visible and more available to the larger Bloomington-Normal community and to all Friends who may wish to drop in for a visit.

Bob Broad

CLEAR CREEK

Greetings from the monthly meeting that keeps your IYM meetinghouse company all winter. A group from Maintenance and Planning came in this spring to start pruning trees and many groups will be here in the coming months. We appreciate the care given to the buildings and grounds.

Our members and attenders come many miles to join us on a Sunday - from Princeton, Lacon, Metamora, Utica, and towns closer, though very few from McNabb. We had mid-week Meeting for Worship through the summer months.

We donate time and money to local organizations though we do not initiate many projects. We take part in the Adopt-a-Highway program and clean Route 89 between McNabb and Quaker Lane. We sent items with Margie Haworth for the Creative Learning Center in Monteverde, Costa Rica when she returned there for work after her Christmas break. Prior to that we sent shoe boxes to Romania.

Our Open House remembered the 160th anniversary of the first Meeting for Worship held in the Clear Creek community. For Homecoming Sunday we had a Subway Potluck across the road in the camping area. In conjunction with the Environmental Retreat, Clance Wilson and Gloria McMurray sponsored an EARLY morning bird walk and breakfast at the Putnam County conservation Area.

No decisions have been made concerning our inheritance from land sold in Kansas. We'll talk more about that when people come home from the south.

One Sunday in February we met with the Peoria-Galesburg group for Meeting for Worship in the home of Zelda and Wayne Sellman. Our winter coffee hours were again in homes. We are looking forward to our Easter gathering and getting back into the Meetinghouse, though we appreciate the small coziness of the Clear Creek Room.

Rachel Mershon and Grayce Haworth

COLUMBIA

Columbia Friends have had a relatively quiet year. We continue with a healthy variety of Meeting activities. The Sunday discussion times, the women's group, the Monday night bible study, the Wednesday Quakerism 101 classes and the Friday fun nights enliven our fellowship. Differences that once inflamed feelings have been quietly worked on. We are learning to live more comfortably with our differences.

The Meeting's social concerns have consistently opposed violence locally and internationally. Individual friends remain involved with numerous other concerns, most notably those organized through the Alternatives to Violence Project, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and activities through ecumenical groups.

Average attendance at worship has fallen slightly to the mid-twenties. We miss the few people who have moved out of the area as well as others who aren't able to share our fellowship as regularly as they once did. But we celebrate the coming of new attenders and sojourners from other Meetings. The children's Meeting has had problems but after an hiatus of a few months, we have regular child care and First Day activities again.

The Meeting celebrates the final payment on the Meeting House mortgage.

We mourn the May passing of Viola Young and Diana Nomad, occasional but treasured participants in our Friends community.

Dale Gardner

DECATUR

The active membership of Decatur Friends Meeting has remained at the same level as last year (around 8 people). Visits back and forth with the Springfield Friends Worship Group have continued. A special occasion resulted when the family of Mary Wood requested Friends' oversight of Mary's memorial service, held in the Springfield Church of the Brethren. She had been active in the earlier Springfield Friends Meeting, and had encouraged the initiation of the current worship group; she attended it as long as her health permitted. She will be missed.

We welcome occasional visitors. A Millikin student with a class project to study Quakers provided some stimulation; she asked good questions. We have continued monthly use of material from Philadelphia *Faith and Practice*, currently the queries.

Some of our members are employed in demanding jobs; the remaining adults are involved in varying amounts of volunteer work in local schools and service agencies. Our one resident child seems to keep busy, too, with schools scouts and music. First Day School is taught in monthly turns by three of us. Two of our retirees are taking on some quarterly and yearly meeting duties. We still enjoy the fellowship of cleaning up our mile of city street three times a year.

Friendship and mutual concern characterize our group; we tend to be gentle with each other. This is not a new pattern: a review of our file of State of the Meeting report starting in 1968 reveals this sentence from 1970, written by Bob Wilson: "We have enough diversity of background that we could find excuses for controversy, but the members find it more natural to care for and respect each other's views."

Another theme which recurs in earlier reports was expressed well by Agnita Dupree in 1986: "We may hope for more people, but we shall continue to meet as long as two or three are gathered in the Spirit."

Carolyn S. Treadway

DOWNERS GROVE

Downers Grove Meeting held its first Business Meeting at Avery Coonley School, January 29, 1952, requesting the status of a preparative United Meeting under the care of 57th Street Meeting. In 1955 it became a Monthly Meeting with 14 resident adult members. Its growth since inception can be likened to the maturation of an individual.

Last year, former clerks Susanna Davison and Donna Bisset in a report to Illinois Yearly Meeting entitled "A Journey of Discovery Begins" opened their account with these words: "Downers Grove Friends Meeting has been on a journey of discovery of our values as a meeting, our roots in two Quaker traditions, and our maturity as a middle-aged meeting" (*Among Friends*, Winter 1996-97).

As we near the end of 1997, the simile of an individual's journey is still appropriate. Surviving our adolescence in the turbulent sixties is a story to be told elsewhere.

Downers Grove Meeting's development is probably fairly typical of the journey experienced by a number of Friends General Conference meetings that sprang up when World War II young adults from varying religious backgrounds were attracted to the newly-gathered peace-loving groups, often started by a nucleus of long-time or birthright Quakers. By observing and working with these elder members, the newcomers absorbed lessons in Quaker ways which were caught, rather than taught. Testimonies and

immediate practical concerns overshadowed details of procedure and organization. In Downers Grove, at least, there was almost a parent-child relationship between elders and newcomers.

Now, for the most part, our elder-parents are no longer with us. We have stumbled into maturity, facing the responsibilities that maturity entails. We look for elders and realize that they are us.

We have become a grown-up community. Having come from a variety of backgrounds we are already fairly comfortable with one another's differences in style and belief. This acceptance of diversity can be a positive factor in finding ways for all members and attenders to share in community-building. Meanwhile, we are also gaining strength through experience, as change gives opportunities for new leaders.

Changes and Transitions

In January the Cheney family, C.R., Barbara, Harmony, and Forrest, moved to Summertown, Tennessee. C.R. had been Worship and Ministry Convener, Recording Clerk, renovator of the Resident's quarters, active also in IYM with Barb, the quiet support and stabilizer for all the activity. Their good-bye party had been held in November, one of the last get-togethers at the Bisset's home, where Kendrick's model trains were a popular feature.

Kendrick Bisset left in March for a new job in Rochester, NY, and Donna followed in June. Christopher and Kathie, now working in Houston, and Susan in college, now have a new house to call home. Kendrick and Donna had been mainstays in Downers Grove Meeting for 24 years, both having served as clerk and in almost every other capacity.

The loss of these two talented and active families created quite a challenge for the meeting, but a new "home-grown" clerk has come ably to the fore - Dorothy Moorman, who was 13 when her family decided to join Friends.

In April, a hilarious "Hello-Good-bye" party had welcomed Jeanne Maloy and James Baker into membership, while giving Donna and Kendrick a lively sendoff.

In June, a picnic was Sarah Davis Knacke's choice for a way to say good-bye when Sarah, George, and Little Mimi moved to Houston, the result of George's new work assignment.

On October 1, our Resident of 20 months, Marty Dybiczyk, moved to Kansas City in pursuit of a significant life change. He had started coming to Meeting as a quiet stranger and left as a beloved friend, known for his creative support of group activities, a sensitive and caring listener and caretaker. We marked his departure by holding a "Marty-Fest" of fun and games. He also received a heart-felt send off with cake and an original song by the Meditation Group.

Fortunately, our good luck with finding replacements continues: James Baker had already replaced Kendrick Bisset as Recording Clerk, and now he has also assumed the role of Resident, very propitiously, as it happened. In the varied background of work experience he had gained familiarity with wells and pumps, so was ready to supervise, and record, the installation of a new pump to end an uncomfortable waterless crisis.

We happily recorded two marriages: Barbara Sherman to the Rev. Tom Holmes, September 28, 1996. Ben Davis to Sue Rhodes, January 11, 1997, bringing Sarah, 8, and Amanda, 11, into the widening Davis family.

It is said that impermanence is a fundamental fact of life, and we accept change as inevitable, but are saddened by the death of two Friends this year.

An overflow crowd attended the Memorial in Downers Grove Meetinghouse for Tom Forsythe, a long-time member of our Meeting, most recently of Northside Meeting. Tom was an eloquent speaker, a poet, and Professor of Russian.

As this is written, we are planning a Memorial Service for Martha Craig, who celebrated her 99th birthday last May. Martha will be remembered for her firm commitment to peace and justice issues, frequently offering us opportunities to sign yet another petition. She led a local chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation for more years than most of us can remember.

Outreach to the Community

Peace and Social Concerns Committee is short-handed, but Don MacCrimmon reports at each Business Meeting on mail and notices received, in the hope that more members will be inspired to join the committee. We have the same hope for finding a regular attender for the Downers Grove Ministerium.

In the meantime, it is interesting to see that neighbors and others with no formal connection to Meeting are being attracted to various Meeting activities: the food co-op, the Healing Group, Moving to Music, Meditation, and even one person to Quakerism 101.

We are also experimenting with year-long listings in the telephone directories in several nearby towns.

In September, 8 members, including Katie Styer, age 8, "walked" to raise money to help care for those living with HIV and AIDS.

Our most recent outreach has been to arrange opportunities for a juvenile offender to perform 40 hours of court ordered community service work. He has helped with landscaping chores and preparation for painting the Meetinghouse.

Several Meeting members continue to serve their home communities in various tutoring programs.

Stewardship

Business Meeting attendance averages in the twenties. Reviewing the many actions required of this fairly small group of members and attenders, it is impressive to find how much is accomplished in practical ways.

The financial budget estimate for the past fiscal year was described as "right on target." In recent years, our Treasurer's reports are becoming increasingly understandable, as technology advances.

A fire inspection in May found the building "in excellent condition."

Following the recent breakdown in our water supply, requiring a new pump, a serious effort toward more detailed record-keeping is planned for building maintenance.

The Finance Committee met at a Naperville bank to update and clarify records, and the Corporation has made some needed changes in the by-laws.

A Memorial Book, indicating the location of plantings and markers in memory of past members, has been lovingly prepared by long-time member (and first Meeting bride) Alice Uyttebrouck.

House and Hospitality Committee has cleaning days and food serving times well in hand, with carefully planned assignment cards being mailed to all able-bodied prospects. The rare occasions of forgotten snacks are solved with peanut butter and accepted with good humor. After all, the objective is sociability as well as nourishment, and an empty serving counter reinforces awareness of community responsibility.

Worship and Ministry-- Motions of Love

Adult Religious Education, gently guided by Chris Jocius and Betty Clegg, continues twice a month before Meeting for Worship. At present the subject is Mothers of Feminism by Margaret Hope Bacon, the history of early Quaker Women in Britain and the many active roles played by Quaker women in our country.

Attendance of children at Meeting has lessened, partly because the suburban tendency to schedule youth sports on Sunday seems to be spreading. Parents find themselves hard-pressed to fit together the pieces of the time puzzle. Sometimes we found ourselves with as many teachers as children, so this year, classes are combined. On the day of adult Business Meeting, the children are holding their own business meeting, to plan future activities, thus being introduced to concepts of Quaker procedure, with one of the older youth acting as clerk. For the last 15 minutes of worship, the children join the adults in the Meeting room. Rather than being a distraction, their presence has a tendering effect on the gathering. One Friend remarked, "When I see the parents and children reacting so lovingly, I feel there's hope for the future."

A small classroom has been transformed into an inviting Children's library.

Quakerism 101 was offered for the third time this spring. Because vacation interfered with attendance, the facilitators, Chris Jocius and Christine Bruder, have concluded it would be wise to schedule further 101 sessions during the winter.

The final session, a "practice" business meeting, addressed the possibility of making the Meetinghouse more accessible to persons with disabilities. An "idea meeting" is scheduled for November, with architect Jack Ostergaard as a resource person.

In the past, Worship and Ministry Committee has had to carry out all pastoral and oversight duties. This year both a Committee on Caring and a Celebrations Committee will take on a share of the responsibility, leaving Worship and Ministry more time for spiritual ministry.

Joe and Sue Davison, and Mike Ero trained for the Listening Project. At present, Mike Ero has continued with the practice at Northside Meeting. The goal is to help any member who feels his point of view is not being heard. An interviewer and a recorder try to listen and record with such empathy that they will all experience a spirit of unity.

In October 1996, Barry Zalph (Field Secretary of IYM) led a 1-day retreat at the Meetinghouse--a getting to know you time, with discussion of community and simplicity.

Also in October, James Baker attended "Mystics Among Friends Today" at Pendle Hill. His moving and inspirational report of the experience has reminded other Friends of that valuable resource.

The end of February Retreat at Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center in Woodstock, IL was appreciated by those participating, although attendance was low. The game "Where do you stand?" evoked consideration of Friends' testimony of simplicity applied to daily living. John Michaelis led an in-depth exploration of what it means to be a community.

Our members of the Western Yearly Meeting Restoration Committee have faithfully met each assignment and reported back to the Meeting at large. Despite the large investment in time they obviously have found the fellowship and dialog with WYM Friends to be spiritually rewarding. There have been several meetings to discuss their progress.

Downers Grove Friends take an active part in Illinois Yearly Meeting, which is nearer at hand. In July, Donna Bisset came back from Rochester so that she and Sue Styer could fulfill their role as Food Coordinators at IYM. Chris Jocius and Betty Clegg led a workshop which paralleled the ongoing one at DGFM involving Quaker Spirituality and Journaling. A workshop on children's religious education was particularly helpful this year.

Thoughtful individuals have shared their interests and talents with the Meeting. These "Motions of Love" lend spiritual depth to our usual routine.

- * Meditation every morning at the Meetinghouse initiated by John Todd and Betty Clegg.
- * Monthly Meeting for Healing with Betty Clegg. Hands-on modalities and prayer.
- * Moving with Music, led by Betty Winker. "Gives people a chance to be themselves."
- * Bible Study with Dave Moorman. Reading Bible selections and relating the text to the individuals' understanding and belief.
- * Support groups. Some ongoing, set up on request by Worship and Ministry, others informal, spontaneous.
- * Friends may also request a Clearness Committee to help with a difficult decision.
- * Wednesday evening Worship has been suspended, as several participants have moved away.

Looking Ahead

Downers Grove Meeting has two important subjects waiting for consideration:

1. Accessibility of the Meetinghouse for persons with disabilities:

In view of Downers Grove Friends' experience in dealing with controversy during the past 3 years, we should be well-prepared to handle this many-faceted but practical subject.

2. Restoration Process with Western Yearly Meeting:

Whatever the outcome of our differences with WYM, most Friends appear to feel it has been an informative process. We pass no judgment in this report, but close with an excerpt from a report in Friends Journal of November 1989 from Jack Willcuts, who was an active Quaker pastor and missionary, past president of Evangelical Friends Alliance, who spent nearly 9 months as a Friend in residence at Woodbrooke, the Quaker study center of London Yearly Meeting.

"Any influences bridging the cultural or international distinctions between Quakers may be most effectively demonstrated in Spirit-filled, authentic Christian living in consistent, quiet witness, rather than hard, rigid, insistent sermonizing. Let each of us - on both sides of the Atlantic, and each yearly meeting over here - find spiritual strength, light, and action from within our own stream of Quakerism. But let us engage in dialog and common seeking of a new Light as the Lord leads us. This may even be with Friends who worship and express their faith and convictions differently. Let it never be said again that 'Friends love everyone except each other!'"

Christine Bruder

DUNELAND

Duneland Friends have chosen a query from *Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, under which to consider the state of our society: "Is your meeting a loving community of which Christ is the center?"

Interest in the foundation of our faith and concern about defining our identity as Quakers were awakened by the FWCC queries concerning identity, authority, and community. We were led to hold a retreat in early February for exploring these fundamentals together. A program planning committee undertook to discern a series of queries around which to focus our discussions: How have you experienced God? How has your spirituality developed? When does meeting begin for you? How have you experienced the gathered meeting? How is our inner spirituality reflected in our outer life? What happens at the rise of meeting? We also made collages, were led in guided meditation, sang songs, and did yoga and Tai Chi exercises. As our exploration progressed we became aware, some of us painfully so, of differences among us. For some of us Christ is the center, others are more God centered. Some of us deeply desire the experience of the gathered meeting, others enjoy an individual worship experience with God. We differ in the extent to which we find support in the experiences of earlier Friends.

We became joyfully aware that we have a depth of love for one another that is holding us together in our diversity as we continue to explore our spiritual lives and our Friendly identity. We are learning to speak the Truth of our hearts. We are learning to listen to each other's Truths and to lay aside our negative responses to certain words. We are working on ways to inform newcomers what it means to be part of the Religious Society of Friends and what it is we are "doing" in meeting for worship.

Our growing understanding of what it means to be a loving community has led us to offer one Friend transportation to meeting events rather than support ownership of a vehicle. We uphold one another in this effort.

Together we grieve the loss of one of our founding members, Catherine Warrick, who died April 14, 1997. We worked closely with her family to create a Quaker memorial service attended by large numbers of her community paying their respects to Catherine's dedication to peace, justice, equality, and laughter. We watch with love in our hearts as Catherine's daughters, two of our early First Day School attenders, continue their lives in North Carolina and Virginia. Catherine's husband, Lyle, continues to worship with us.

We have welcomed a new attender, Ashley Michelle Thalman, Roxy's one year old granddaughter. Her vocal ministry has warmed our hearts.

In May we welcomed travelers in the ministry, Marty Grundy and Connie McPeak. As an outgrowth of our retreat, we had invited them to share their own experiences of God's work in their lives. Their presence among us inspired interest in how a small spiritual group might deepen the quality of our spiritual lives and our worship.

The idea of forming a spiritual nurture group was explored further in our adult forum. After several hesitant starts, a small group of Duneland Friends began meeting for spiritual nurture in October, committing to one meeting a month for six months. Our query was: "Please share with us ways in which you have experienced Divine Love, Guidance, or Strength beyond yourself or others, either during times of joy or of challenge. How have you experienced the Truth or Love of the Divine today?"

When the time came in June for the nominating committee to work on filling meeting positions for this year, we began by holding members in the Light and being mindful of their gifts. We searched carefully for gifts we might call forth. We reorganized our First Day School coordinator position into a committee of three. We reorganized our adult forum to encourage attenders to present discussion topics that are impacting their growth in the Spirit.

Several of us were inspired to continue our spiritual journeys at Friends General Conference Gathering and at Illinois Yearly Meeting in July and August.

As our reorganized committees work, members of Ministry and Counsel are exploring what it might mean to have oversight of meeting for worship. The First Day School committee also made some recommendations about meeting for worship which were

approved in meeting for worship for business. In order for adults to pass along a sense of what Quaker worship is, we have begun an inter-generational, semi-programmed, meeting for worship once a month. As adults and children participate together, many have noticed a developing sense of spiritual awe and a strengthening of our sense of community. We rearranged our First Day schedule to better meet the needs of those who prefer a quiet beginning. Children worship first, then go out to First Day School. We are experimenting with singing at the rise of meeting.

Our answer to the query, "Is your meeting a loving community of which Christ is the center?" seems partly formed. We feel we are a work in progress. We continue to ask ourselves questions, to open our hearts to the Divine Presence, to develop our relationships, to try to act from a base of love, and to pray for guidance.

Marlou Carlson, Charlotte Mansavage, Sandy Bowies White

EVANSTON

Evanston Monthly Meeting is a vibrant community that has had a full and productive year. The Meeting experienced the continuation of a conscious planning process, many ways for members and attenders to expand and nurture their spiritual lives, active work by active committees and creative events that involved us all. We have grown through births and new members and have lost significant members of the community.

Building on 1996 discussions on how the meeting witnesses to the greater community, we came together in 1997 to work in small groups and share the sense that the meeting serves as a spiritual core for most of us; our activities provide ample opportunities to know each other better; and we looked forward to deeper sharing to discuss our ethics and values, service and outreach.

Spiritual growth and knowledge of Quakerism developed through the Quaker Inquirers Group, group spiritual direction, special workshops, shared spiritual journey presentations and other adult discussion programs, a midweek meeting for worship and healing, a Bible study group, a Quaker Readers group, participation in Illinois Yearly Meeting, Western Yearly Meeting and other Quaker educational programs. In our meeting, many of us actively contribute to one or more of these endeavors to the enrichment of us all. A series of adult discussion programs addressed prayer in our lives with many members leading fruitful discussions.

Our committees and their members have overseen significant new projects and continued support of all the functions that keep us sound. Trustees and House and Grounds oversaw major renovation of the meeting house rest rooms that now give us greater capacity, comfort and accessibility. The vibrant program of education and care for the children was provided by a growing number of teachers, storytellers, song leaders and child care workers. Our children joined the first part of meeting for worship, had a busy activity period and worked hard in their First Day School hours. The Library Committee oversaw the transition to the new hymnal, *Worship in Song: A Friend's Hymnal*, and contributed to our knowledge through new bulletin board postings and publications for our collection. Ministry and Counsel has been available to members and attenders in need and welcomed everyone at the close of meeting each week while arranging the annual silent retreat, special programs and adult education. Our potlucks, breakfasts, celebrations and after-meeting coffee were cheerfully and efficiently managed by Friendship and Hospitality assisted by many helping hands. Peace and Social Concerns established a youth peace award in honor of the 50th anniversary of the AFSC Nobel Prize, organized continued support of our sponsored Tibetan family and initiated a contact list of members and attenders to promote cooperation on specific issues and concerns. A new Outreach Committee was formed to develop new ways to make the presence of the meeting known in the community. The clerk, recording clerk and treasurer kept the organization going through careful oversight for the good of all.

The meeting and its members continued involvement in Illinois Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting with dialogue with IYM about the development of a *Faith and Practice* unique to the yearly meeting and with WYM on issues of authority and the relationship between the monthly and yearly meetings.

In 1997, Evanston Monthly Meeting had 49 resident adult members, 14 resident junior members with 82 non-resident adult and junior members. Our numbers grew through the new membership of Gerry Gorman and Christopher Gillock, Consuelo Gillock and their daughters Amanda and Sarah. The births of Tess Oberholtzer and Aidan Morgenthaler Hurley brought two additional junior members. We mourned the loss of long-time attender Chester Kolmodin as we celebrated his long history of giving to others. Muriel Esty Baker, a faithful attender, died at the age of 95 after a life filled with family, travel and service. Our average weekly attendance is about sixty adults and fifteen children who come together to celebrate God's work on earth and our life as a community.

57TH STREET

In 1997, 57th Street Meeting of Friends was a group of 15 to 20 active members who, together with attenders, sought God's blessing in our lives. We gathered regularly for worship, fellowship and business, conducted First Day School year round, and have accomplished an impressive number of projects for such a small group. Throughout the year many of us have given faithful service and have sought to encourage the Seed in each other; yet we have also experienced strains, exhaustion or the breakdown of trust - dynamics which were also observed in last year's report.

We opened the year in an "exercise of the meeting," using business sessions to explore our way forward "to grow and serve together in faith." This work was interrupted by three great labors: facing our difficulties in naming a committee on Ministry and Counsel; a difficult, extended search for a new director of our residential program; and our second successful Peace Camp. At the close of the year we returned to something of the spirit of our opening exercise, now examining our structure of work, our meeting house, and our vision. This work has been in earnest. In January 1998, our small numbers, large commitments, and difficulties led

us to name our need to examine not only our vision but our viability. Those who regularly attend meeting for business have shown great patience and commitment in pursuing this process.

What a seemingly dire -- but important -- place for a Meeting that welcomed an amazing nine new members in 1997! Four joined by transfer and five by application. Then three of these moved away for jobs following the completion of graduate studies, and one withdrew from attendance. With one other member having moved away, our attending membership stands now at nineteen. We are aware of 5 who are planning to relocate for jobs or studies within the next year, which could reduce our numbers to fourteen. Among attenders, several who had made significant contributions to the meeting stopped attending or decreased their involvement, while a few others have come (or returned) to share some part of our life with us. Overall, average First Day attendance fell twenty percent, from thirty adults in 1996 to twenty-four in 1997, and from twelve children to eight. The effects of our mobile society and university community are all too evident, but so are the effects of both the riches and the poverty of our worship, fellowship and witness.

We are an intergenerational community with varied life situations, needs, gifts, and rough edges. Among our attending members, eleven are men; eight are women. Six are over sixty-five; three of these have lost spouses and four live alone. Five of us are parents with grown children. Seven of us are parents with children at home. One is single and middle-aged. Two are in their twenties, single, and seeking to start or train for careers. Currently First Day School draws from a pool of eight children of members and four children of attenders. Thirteen adults are employed outside the home. Two (both men) care for young children during the day. Six do not live in the immediate neighborhood; four of these live outside the City of Chicago. Several of us face health problems. By profession, we are social workers (6), teachers and university professors (5), homemakers (4), independent business people (3), librarians (2), a research administrator, and an environmental engineer in government service -- with some double counting for those who have had more than one career. Six of us offer spoken ministry with some frequency, four on occasion, and nine very rarely if at all. Of those members who speak frequently, only one is a woman, though among attenders we more frequently receive ministry from women than from men. Eleven members attend business meeting with regularity. All serve on at least one committee. Strong friendships and mutual affection exist among many of us, yet there are breakages and loneliness, too.

Although many members and several attenders have made significant contributions to our work, a few carry a great deal of work and face the danger of burn-out. In fact, conflicts and heavy labors did burn out two attenders who shouldered major responsibilities this year. By the fall, three important jobs were unfilled (recording clerk, clerk of the Residential Program Committee, and Western Yearly Meeting representative). House Committee had only two members, and Peace and Social Concerns Committee felt shorthanded.

Our worship has had times of depth and stirring -- enough to attract our new members! -- and no lack of earnest commitment. Yet there have also been tensions over theological differences. This and other instances when we may have outrun our Guide in length, frequency, or focus of messages has left some Friends longing for more deeply centered worship, and for peace.

It took several months and two called meetings for business before Nominating Committee was able to name four members to the Committee on Ministry and Counsel. During this time Friends examined the role of Ministry and Counsel, meeting members' expectations of the committee, and the way the committee and the meeting have handled conflicts. Concern was raised about the viability of a meeting without a Ministry and Counsel. The new committee has sought to approach its work in a spirit of simplicity and has made particular efforts to encourage Friends in their efforts and to hold in the Light those who are facing difficulties.

The search for a new Residential Program Director occasioned strains within and among the Residential Program Committee, the meeting, and the residents. Differences were related to theology, vision for the program, confidentiality, and good process. As three candidates turned down the job and the search dragged on over the summer, all but one resident chose to leave Quaker House. Some persons expressed strong concerns about how the search process was handled. The RPC clerk resigned, no one was willing to take her place, and the new director arrived in October, a month after the previous director had left, facing the need to rebuild the program. A reconfigured committee, recognizing that it lacked clear vision and institutional memory, organized a planning retreat in December, facilitated by a trainer from the Quaker Board Training and Support Project.

The Peace Camp, a one-week day camp for children in and out of the meeting, was a major organizational effort, a real partnership with the community, and a happy success -- as it had been the year before. The camp drew thirty children, six teen counselors, and volunteer counselors and staff from diverse backgrounds. It was a fun time for the children and a real learning experience for the staff, which included four members and attenders of the meeting. Peace Camp has also raised awareness of the Meeting and Friends' testimonies among non-Quakers in the community.

As we addressed the challenges of our work and life together, we sometimes tried each other's patience and got badly bruised. We generated more ideas and intentions than we were able to implement, and some well-intended efforts did not receive the participation hoped for. But it is equally important to remember what we accomplished, and how much dedication, good will, and joy went into it:

- A year-round First Day School.
- An "Exploring Quakerism" series for inquirers and members (Jan. - Mar.).
- Service on as many as five clearness committees at one time.
- Institution of a time to raise up joys and concerns following meeting for worship.
- Production of a new "Welcome!" brochure.
- Raising of a peace pole in the front yard.
- Community classes in math for kids, photography, family songs and more to raise money for Peace Camp.

- Four evening programs organized by Outreach Committee seeking to inspire, inform, and involve meeting members and others in social concerns.
- A "Simple Gifts" shop run by the children which raised \$236 for a play center in Ramallah in the Palestinian West Bank.
- Collection of 10 layettes to send through AFSC as a gesture of solidarity with Iraqi parents and children.
- Use of Quaker House for a wide variety of good purposes: the residential and guest programs, a parents' cooperative day care for six children, yoga and meditation classes, meetings of other churches, 12-step programs, a music-and-movement class for young children, folk dancing and more.

It should be noted that many of the activities reported above had an outreach intent or component, and that we continue to attract many visitors at meeting for worship.

At the close of the year we held a threshing session on "Our Structure of Work, Our Meetinghouse, Our Vision," and a follow-up session facilitated by Laura Melly of the Quaker Board Training and Support Project. At the threshing session, we raised up our frustrations and our dreams -- for centered worship, loving fellowship, vigorous service, clear witness, and effective outreach; and for peace, good order, and mutual encouragement. At the session with Laura Melly, we explored the meaning and shape of declaring a year of Sabbath or Jubilee for the meeting. While that idea has not been adopted by business meeting at the time of this writing, it raised up important spiritual and practical questions for us: Are there ways to simplify our work so that we are not overextended? Do we need to turn, to rest and be healed in the presence of God? How do we do this while not hiding under a bushel at a time when our numbers suggest a need for growth? Can we celebrate our gathering together in the Light? Where else will we find our vision?

Paul Kelly

HILL STREET WORSHIP GROUP

Changes have occurred for Hill St. Worship Group this year. Recently we have changed our meeting time and location. Meeting for Worship is now held on First Days at 6:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center in Rockford. The reason for these changes is our attempt to accommodate people who may attend other religious services on First Day mornings and to allay possible apprehensions about coming to a stranger's home for worship. We have a regular attendance of three adults and two Young Friends and recently another adult has joined us. (It remains to be seen if we continue this format indefinitely. We are open to trying new ways to see what works best for us.)

In the fall we held an "inquirers' meeting" but unfortunately the only attendee was a friend who happened to be visiting us at the time. Last fall Hill St. Worship Group was profiled in the local newspaper's "places of worship" column. This publicity only produced one visitor. Over Easter weekend Hill St. Worship Group hosted the spring IYM Quake at the home of Ann & Brent Eckert. There were about 15 Young Friends and 5 adults in attendance. The main program was provided by George Price of Philadelphia who guided Young Friends in building and using a Quaker sweat lodge. (The sweat lodge frame is now a grape arbor in the Eckert garden.)

Our personal lives have experienced change this year, as well, with Doris Peters moving to the home of Ann & Brent Eckert and family.

We have also initiated a reading and studying group which meets on Sixth Day evenings. We have read the Gospel of Luke, *Wisdom's Daughters* by Elizabeth Watson, and have studied listening techniques based on the Listening Project. We have already had occasion to try out these skills in conflicts arising in our daily lives. Next we plan to read and study the Gospel of Thomas.

For the coming year we will continue to search for ways to make known the Quaker presence in Rockford. We are encouraged by several recent inquiries by potential new attendees. Ann & Brent Eckert feel called to regularly visit other Friends and Friends meetings and worship groups in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area.

Our worship group very slowly expands. We reach out to you with encouragement and light.

Ann & Brent Eckert

HEARTLAND WORSHIP GROUP

The Heartland Worship Group in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, has been meeting regularly for worship and fellowship Sunday mornings in Friends homes. It was reformed with an exclusive focus to be mindful of sharing our lives and spiritual struggles openly and honestly and to be intentional and compassionate with one another in seeking a gathered meeting. We have felt strengthened and supported in the challenges and concerns of life by the searching in the worship and in the fellowship that follows worship.

Roy C. and Carolyn W. Treadway

LAKE FOREST

"What is the Quaker faith?...It is an experience of discovery which starts the discoverer on a journey which is life-long...No one is allowed to get it second-hand by accepting a ready-made creed. Furthermore, the discovery points a path and demands a journey and gives you the power to make the journey."

(Excerpt from the writings of Elise Boulding, quoted in *Faith and Practice*, Revised 1997, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.)

One way to assess the State of the Lake Forest Friends Meeting over the past year is to review the extent to which we individually and collectively seem to be engaged in the journey of faith referred to in the above excerpt by Elise Boulding.

Few members of our Meeting have embodied the life-long journey of faith and usefulness to humanity as fully as Blanche Frey, our much-loved member who moved late in 1997 from Barrington to Crosslands, a Quaker retirement community in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Her contributions to her local community and our Meeting over the past 45 years were profound and lasting. Not surprisingly, just as she was preparing to leave Illinois, she was awarded both the highest national award of Church Women United, the Valiant Woman Award, and Earlham College's Sesquicentennial Alumni Peacemaker Award. The citation for the latter award stated that Blanche's life "reveals that there is a place for peacemakers everywhere, and your actions have been a testimony to Martin Luther King's claim that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Blanche will always stand as a model for inspiration as we continue our lifelong journey of faith.

Journeying can occur on many levels. On the spiritual/intellectual level, the Meeting over the past year sponsored an unusually rich and stimulating assortment of forums, Tuesday night discussions called "Life of the Mind", and adult discussions prior to Meeting for Worship on Sundays. Some of these events had little to do with Quakerism (e.g., forums on Brazil and the Dalai Lama); others had much to do with it (e.g., a discussion led by Dan Seeger, the visiting Executive Director of Pendle Hill; and another, ably led by Maurine Pyle on the meaning of Quaker stewardship). A forum focusing on religious education and ways to "reach" older children, revealed that most of us had started our religious journeys attending non-Quaker "Sunday schools," with only a small minority being raised in the Quaker religion. Some members' journeys were more than metaphorical: our hard-working clerk, Elizabeth Mertic, traveled to England to visit Quaker landmarks and attend the FWCC triennial meeting in Birmingham; Janice Domanik earned thousands of frequent flyer miles traveling back and forth to Philadelphia in her important role as Clerk of Friends General Conference (FGC); and a number of Lake Forest Meeting Friends journeyed to Virginia for the annual Gathering of FGC. In addition to Blanche leaving our Meeting, Claire Cafaro, a much valued source of spiritual energy and sound guidance in the Meeting for many years, moved to Saratoga Springs, New York, with her husband, Ralph; and MaryEllen Sarbaugh, longtime attendee whose Quaker roots, love of books and talents as an anecdotalist enriched the Meeting, moved to Foulkeways, a Quaker Retirement Community in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania.

The Meeting showed a healthy openness to the "experience of discovery" in other areas as well. For the first time, it experimented with holding Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business at 9 a.m. before our regular Meeting for Worship. After three months, the experiment appears to be successful with more members attending than under the old scheduling. Another experiment, never tried before, was holding an intergenerational "retreat" at the Meeting House. High points were a cooperative build-something-out-of-newspaper exercise and a talented high school age story teller, recruited by Paul Perkinson, who enthralled all ages with her tales of a clever Grandmother Spider and other characters. Ben Cohen, Rachel Cohen and Erin Eaker were effective facilitators for the intergenerational "games." This unique happening was also made possible by the coordinated efforts of Jim LaVigne, Jenny Lang, Kip Perkinson, and Linda Sizemore.

One reason that this experiment "worked" is that the three First Day School classes, taught by Melissa Luebbe, Janet Means, Janice Domanik, Lyn Cima, Kip Perkinson, and Becky Cima, with occasional assistance from other members, have established a consistent and creative First Day program. These classes help the Meeting to attract new families with children and enrich the Meeting as the children describe what they did and learned during the previous hour. At least one adult has commented that sometimes First Day School seems more Quaker-centered than Meeting for Worship.

Another first for the Meeting was Daniel Cohen's formulation of a "query about queries" which included the following probing inquiry: "As a meeting, can we do a better job of using the queries in creative and imaginative ways that will deepen and enrich the life of the meeting?" The men's discussion group continued to meet regularly and explore personal journeying experiences. Janet Means shared her gift for healing with participants of the Tuesday evening discussion group and taught us some of her techniques.

All the committees had busy years. Ministry and Counsel, convened by David Shiner, has helped to initiate the Listening Project to guide the Meeting in arriving at a position on the subject of same-sex marriage under the care of the Meeting. The Meeting will address this issue in the coming year. Peace and Social Concerns, convened by Lyn Cima, continued to oversee the PADS program for homeless men, women and children in Waukegan once a month. Susan Murphy has tirelessly coordinated this program which has sufficient support from members of the Meeting to justify its continuation. Jim LaVigne was a conscientious convener of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and oversaw a major repainting and retiling project for both bathrooms. His job became more challenging when our long-time, loyal caretaker, Victor Stanis, retired.

Pam Kuhn, co-recorder, reported as of December, 1997 that Meeting had 67 resident households and 47 non-resident households. She estimated an average attendance on Sunday of 27 adult members, 19 adult non-members, and 12 children. Membership applications have been received by Nancy Wallace, Barbara Lyle, Paul Strieleman, and Lynn Albers.

Journeys are never without bumps. In the past year, the issue of exploring the possibility of having an antenna erected on Lake Forest Friends Meeting property became the cause of unfriendly words and accusations. The minutes of the May, 1997 Business Meeting state, "We are concerned about our apparent willingness to condemn those who have a different perspective. We need to remind ourselves that we should speak tenderly and act prayerfully in our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business."

These are important words to remember as the Meeting seeks to obtain consensus in the coming year on the issue of same-sex marriages under the care of the Meeting.

For most of us the focal point of our association with the Lake Forest Friends Meeting is the one-hour of mostly silent worship each Sunday. This is an important time for spiritual renewal, community building, centering, taking stock, letting go, and worship-sharing. Spoken ministry comes in many forms. Some members rarely, if ever, contribute to oral ministry and should be encouraged to follow the spirit when it urges them to speak. Some members believe that the river of our spoken ministry is wider than it is deep.

The words of Rufus Jones, as read by Jim LaVigne in the query for February, 1998, may be apt: "Silence itself, of course, has no magic. It may be just sheer emptiness, absence of words or noise or music. It may be an occasion for slumber, or it may be a dead form. But it may be an intensified pause, a vitalized hush, a creative quiet." With the demonstrated willingness of our Meeting's members to embark on the life-long journey of faith in so many creative ways, the challenge of combining a soulful oral ministry with a "vitalized hush" should be within our reach.

Wallace C. Winter

MCHENRY COUNTY

We come, we go, we grow. McHenry County Friends Meeting continues small and vital as ever, as always.

Many Friends are active in Quaker organizations. Longtime Meeting members Bill and Alice Howenstine continue active in Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. Bill serves as clerk of the Ann Kriebel/San Luis Project Committee, Alice as treasurer. Under the auspices of the Illinois Yearly Meeting's Environmental Concerns Committee, they hosted an autumn retreat and inter-meeting visitation at their Pioneer Tree farm in October, which attracted 15 people from a number of Meetings. To further explore Friends relationship with the earth, eight of our number took a field trip to Volo Bog State natural Area in early fall.

Members of seven families - an impressive percentage of all those currently active in our Meeting - attended Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1997. Three of our members were also able to attend the annual gathering of Friends General Conference. One member attended the Walden Gathering held in October for Meetings of northern Illinois.

Our numbers have grown. Long-time attendee Barbara Day was joyfully accepted into our Meeting. The regular attendance of the Albright family, Friends from Maine, brings two more children into our midst. Any or all of five people may join the Nelson family for their Aurora-based home meeting, held on the last Sunday of each month.

Barbara Day was also one of several Friends representatives at the Heifer Project International's quilt and craft auction and living gift market held in the Chicago area in October. Members of the Meeting crafted a quilt square to contribute.

To be of service, our Meeting set up an earmarked fund which can be used to receive, and disburse, amounts for special projects we might choose to support. Our first project was underwriting costs associated with testing to be listed on the national bone marrow donor registry, which helped potential donors to register. The earmarked fund gives us flexibility to consider other special projects in the future.

Study group continues to deepen its understanding of our Quaker heritage, with a thorough consideration of First Among Friends.

Marcia Nelson

MILWAUKEE

States of Society in the past have been written in response to traditional Queries. We return to this tradition.

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance and openness to healing? Are we prepared to let go our individual desires and let the Holy spirit lead us to unity?

Effort to achieve a sense of Meeting around the challenging issues of providing physical space to meet our needs is currently a compelling preoccupation in the life of our Meeting. A number of us have invested much care in spelling out the alternatives to expanding our building. Two years ago we minuted, as a matter of conscience, to make our Meetinghouse handicap accessible, knowing that structures alone do not remove barriers, but are one needed step. A beginning was made with the converting of a cloakroom into an accessible unisex bathroom. Half of the cost of this venture was gratefully absorbed by voluntary labor.

Despite considerable effort to proceed in the manner of Friends in decision-making around issues of expansion or alternative solutions, there has been divisiveness and rancor. Some Friends have felt that their opinions were not valued and have been met with hostility. Others have felt that their expressions of needs were ignored. Efforts toward reconciliation have been made privately and at Meetings for Business. Two threshing sessions were held this spring so that all would have an opportunity to state what their experience and feelings have been around these issues and our process. We are grateful for these efforts to restore unity to our community and continue to work in the Light towards a sense of Meeting.

How do we share our deepest beliefs with our children and with one another?

First Day School for our children continues to be a productive and gratifying commitment despite the severe lack of space. We are often delighted with creative presentations to the adult Meeting following worship. Sincere effort is made to implement and sustain intergenerational fellowship. The Twizzlers lead the way with their Friendly mentoring of our little ones. These self-named

Twizzlers of middle school age participate actively in Meeting. They host pancake breakfasts to raise money for Quaker testimony grants to local organizations and had a rummage sale to help fund their attendance at YouthQuake 2000. They also participated in a walk for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to support research that we expect will contribute to the well-being of a beloved child in our Meeting who carries this diagnosis. We are mindful of the space needs for our young people and their teachers, and feel some sense of urgency in meeting these. Our Teen Friends have had no space at the Meetinghouse for the past two years. Their minute to Meeting for Business stated that gathering away from the rest of Meeting has made it much harder to function as a cohesive group and a part of Meeting. We miss them.

While we are aware of our shortfalls in "minding the Light", our spiritual development continues to be nurtured by frequent centered Meetings for Worship, the enduring Women's Spirituality group, a more recent Men's Spirit, a new Young Women's Spirituality group, regular and well-attended adult education discussions following fellowship on First Day, a most rewarding retreat with some seventy persons attending, a renewal of evening potluck groups, and an increasing attendance at Meetings for Business. Friends ministry to one another is lovingly evident and clearness committees are frequently made available.

As we work for peace in the world, are we nourished by peace within ourselves?

The week-long Peacemakers Daycamp for young children continues to be a highlight in the life of our Meeting, and we are grateful for the creative involvement of so many, and the leadership given by a few, which make this joint Meeting community program possible. FCNL action alerts and letter writing have been revived. Our widest participation is in our annual Gift Shop, now in its 26th year. For the past two years, we have raised over \$5000 each year for the AFSC.

What are we doing about the injustices which are part of our social and economic life? How do we help those who suffer from discrimination and poverty?

Through our participation in the church organized advocacy group Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICA) and the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, we are kept aware and informed of the issues around W-2. We continue to serve those in need through a monthly meal for the local Catholic Worker shelter, Loves and Fishes food distribution and our monthly visitation to prisoners at Waupun. An annual distribution of \$7000 in grants was made to local groups extending our Quaker testimonies into the larger community.

Are we prompted to "get over" sorrow or do we work our way right to the center of it?

The sudden death of John Mingesz last summer left many with a feeling of heartache and loss which continues. Jack Eisendrath is also gone. We remember the many ways he contributed to our community, particularly his vital effort in securing our land. We have yet to focus our attention on the life cycle and the contemplation of our own deaths and that of our loved ones. Among us are aging Friends and those with chronic physical pain or illness, with much lowered energy for deeply felt concerns. Some of us struggle with depression, and others experience a dark night of the soul, where the spirit within feels muted. We try to help one another through these times and it is an important part of our Meeting life. We seek to create a community where it is safe to reveal our vulnerabilities and inadequacies, where we can be led to the Quaker sense that we are indeed covered and that underneath are the everlasting arms.

NORTHSIDE

The biggest event in the life of Northside Meeting in the past year has been our move to a new meeting place and time. We are now meeting at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark, at 10:30 in the morning. This change involved much effort on the part of our meeting, both in terms of exploring our future needs and dealing with present realities. This year Northside began a building fund, an experiment to explore the possibilities of acquiring enough funds to purchase a more permanent home for the Meeting. The fund met with initial success and the unfolding year will reveal its future.

Our move has been a great change for the Meeting, and this change has provided a metaphor for the life of our Meeting. Some old Friends have moved away; new Friends are taking on more responsibility. The life of our meeting community is rich in nurturance and spirit. But as with any change there has been a period of adjustment. It has taken us a while to find a new center, both in our lives together and in worship. Sometimes we have worried that our worship is missing depth and then the Spirit surprises us with a renewed richness in our silent meeting. Friends have been building community with a focus on spiritual growth in spiritual support groups, two of which are meeting regularly. Also, Friends are feeling comfortable utilizing clearness committees to achieve spiritual clarity. Ministry and Counsel developed and facilitated a three part series on spiritual discernment. Education and Development committee has organized a full roster of Quakerism 101 classes for newcomers and long time attenders. These have been well attended and have created an atmosphere conducive to learning and spiritual growth. The change to a morning worship time has benefited our First Day Program, as the children were usually tired when we worshipped at 4:00 pm. Friends of the Meeting are individually taking advantage of a chance to become acquainted with our young people by sharing their special skills and spirituality with the children.

As a meeting we have supported the work of individual Friends. We have minuted an endorsement of the work of Pat Lucas and Sandy Huntley with the Couples Enrichment Program. In the spring Beth Burbank felt a leading to begin a Meeting for Worship for

Healing at Northside. The Meeting has taken this ministry under its care and regular Meetings for Healing have begun here. Ray Olson encouraged the Meeting to sponsor and host a visit from the South Side Family School (Minneapolis). We agreed to follow his leading and with much effort by Ray and assistance from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee we hosted a dinner in April where the students presented a slide show on their tour of the great civil rights sites in the South. We are beginning to explore with Robert Foulkes a workcamp project at Port Oneida in the Rural Historic District in northern Michigan. Education and Development will meet with Robert to determine how best to support his leading.

In the wider Quaker community, many Northside Friends serve on IYM committees: Roger Conant, Robert Foulkes, Sandy Huntley, Judy Jager, Pat Lucas, Marti Matthews, Marie White, Mark Robinson, and Carol Zimmerman. Additionally, Judy Jager serves on Friends World Committee for Consultation, Carol Zimmerman is active with Chicago General Meeting and serves as our General Meeting Representative, and Alissa Cooley Rowan serves as Northside's representative for IYM's Continuing Committee and as co-coordinator of clean-up during IYM sessions. Many Northsiders turned out for the IYM work weekend in May, and many also attended FGC Gathering and IYM sessions.

The changes within our Meeting as a whole are also reflected in the changes in the lives of individuals. Tom Jager is graduating from High School and will start college at Columbia University in the Fall. Katharine Jager graduated from Grinnell College and has an internship at Pendle Hill for the summer. Dale Hayes is studying at Earlham School of Religion and is also the director of a center for conflict resolution. Marti Matthews and Roger Conant studied full time at Pendle Hill; Ray Olson has also studied there, part time. Beth Burbank is studying at Chicago Theological Seminary; Tom Stabnicki graduated from this institution in June. Sharon Moriarty has graduated with a Master's in Social Work from Loyola, while her husband Tim Doran finished his program of study in the Urban Teacher's Corps (DePaul) and will be continuing to take general education courses for certification. David Rapp Rowan is studying to be a psychologist and has completed his first year at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Tim Narkiewicz completed one year of Law School at Chicago/Kent College of Law and is taking an indefinite leave of absence to explore other options. Roger Hansen has recently begun working in hospice, which has been a leading for him for some time.

Weddings:

On June 14, 1997 Elke Urban and Tim Narkiewicz, long time attenders of the Meeting, married under the care of the Meeting. Elke then took the surname of her husband. On June 6, 1998 Allisa Cooley and David Rapp married under the care of the Meeting. They both then took the surname of Rowan.

New Members:

We welcomed Tom Dix into membership in March 1, 1998, who came to us from Evanston Meeting where he was a junior member.

Deaths:

Our Meeting has a practice of presenting our spiritual journeys, providing Friends with the insights and experiences of their lifetimes. Attender Rex Corfman, an activist and valued presence in the Meeting, spent long hours preparing his presentation for us. On January 17, 1998, the day before he was to deliver it, Rex died. Northside held a memorial service for him on February 22, 1998.

Births:

Laure Grey Gunnell Goode, the second daughter of Chris Goode and Kate Gunnell, members of our Meeting, was born March 17, 1998. We welcomed her on May 17, 1998.

We continue to grow as a community, strengthening our bonds with each other and maintaining connections with Friends who have moved away. This year Ogden and Mary Hannaford visited from Ohio; Nancy Filson was back for a visit from Greece (and Peter Clay visited her in Greece); Joy Ehle Bao visited twice from New Jersey with her young son David (and Ray Olson visited Joy and family in NJ). Robert Foulkes visited the family of Jenny Houghton (Churchtown Meeting in Dublin, Ireland); Jenny came to the US and spent a month with the Jager family. This sojourn created the space for many interchanges of culture and Quaker involvement. Nancy Filson continues to reside in Crete, Greece; Peter Clay returned from his work in Africa. Roger and Shirley Conant will move to Amherst, Massachusetts, at the end of July. Sophie de la Mar moved away from Chicago but continues to return to worship with us and to maintain a connection to our community. Our website serves as a connection to Friends who have left and also to those of us who travel, sojourn, or are absent for an extended periods of time. We invite all to visit us at: <http://members.aol.com/NSQUAKERS/quakes.html>.

OAK PARK

The Oak Park Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is in the midst of exciting growth, maturation, and change. The Illinois Yearly Meeting clerks' retreat and the addition of Friends from other meetings to our group have led to a cross-fertilization that is beginning to bear fruit. A gathering to discern the direction of the meeting last fall led to the creation of a new committee structure. This has both formalized our activities and led to new opportunities for social and spiritual sharing. With committees for Ministry & Worship, Oversight, Finance, and Peace & Justice, Friends are finding new opportunities to get to know

each other outside of first-day worship, support each other's good works, and share in our spiritual journeys. It has provided a structure for our meeting to raise concerns, grow to take on larger challenges, and tap attenders' interests and energies.

Many of our members make tremendous efforts to live out Quaker testimonies. Examples include travels to Stockholm, St. Petersburg, and Bethlehem, leading the C.R.O.P. walk and Heifer Project fund-raisers, actively participating in Dollars for Democracy, ASSIST, Amnesty International, and the Central American Action Coalition.

As a religious community, we seek to follow the example set by our more active members. Our collective actions this year included hosting PADS dinners for the homeless, participation in the "Adopt a Family" program at Christmas, supporting the Iraq Layettes Project, supporting a referendum for a Gay domestic partnership registry in Oak Park.

Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business provide an opportunity to move beyond the individual search for enlightenment and seek to find spiritual unity. In this endeavor, we strive but often fail to listen for the spirit in each other's messages. We have spend much time in the past year working to improve our business practices through our Ministry & Worship committee, adult education, and in the business meetings themselves. We also honor the memory of Anna Alexa by including time to reflect on social concerns during our meetings for worship to conduct business.

Our children's education has once again proven successful. We are fortunate that there are those in our midst called to provide a meaningful experience for our children and a time of calm for their parents.

The lack of a space of our own creates such challenges as noise, poor heating, time restrictions, and the inability to easily serve meals. We continue to explore alternatives, but make the best of our situation and remember that others gather in prayer under far worse circumstances.

We have in our midst deeply spiritual participants and energetic seekers, and we are beginning to find ways to share our spiritual journeys. While we each bring to and take from meeting different experiences, some feel that the palpable presence of the Spirit is not often felt by the meeting as a whole and wonder if there are ways to deepen our prayer and come closer to the Light.

We look to the future optimistic that our growing pains will soon lead to a synthesis of spirituality and social activism and an environment where both Quaker unity and diversity can flourish.

OSHKOSH

The meeting began the year with the reading of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Advises. We had four people attend that meeting. Two people were members. Before the month would end, we would lose one member. As the year ends, we have five members and two attenders.

This year would see many changes for our meeting. Donna Wright, a new member, became treasurer.

The meeting moved from the First Congregational Church to 419 Boyd Street. We also ordered a phone for the meeting (920-232-1460).

For the first time we were recognized for our community work by receiving a volunteer service award for our work with the Kurdish resettlement program.

We renewed our place with Illinois Yearly Meeting after some years. We had three people attend IYM July 30-August 3, 1997. We also traveled to Lake Forest Monthly Meeting to attend First Chicago General Meeting and IYM Continuing Meeting. Two friends also attended Fox Valley Friends Retreat. We have had only one visitor this past year. Nicole Gottleff from AFSC who shared with us the work of the service committee.

As a Meeting, we are active with local community through the loan program and donations to Oshkosh Boys and Girls Club. We are active in Friends Programs such as Pro Nica in Nicaragua, the Sarajevo Project sending books and the Milk and Mittens for AFSC to North Korea. We have not forgotten our roots in Quaker history, as our study group has reflected on this in our session. We have tried to put our faith in action, sharing the group responsibilities by taking care of one another through prayer and the hand of helping.

"The seed will prosper the vine shall give it's fruit." Zechariah 8:12

ROCK VALLEY

As Rock Valley Friends put together our annual report, we recognize that we are something special! We have real friendship among us. We care for each other. We are bonded. And we shared together many years and many changes.

Some of us are now "the gray ones" and need to let others lead in the Meeting and in the Friends House Center. But there begins to be an influx of younger people with more energy. In the past, we were overburdened by responsibility for the house. Newcomers hesitated to pick up the burden and we lost them.

We have now "passed on the torch" to the Friends House Neighborhood Center for Creativity and NonViolence. Rock Valley Friends Meeting has membership on its board. But the Quakers are no longer in charge. We are asking ourselves, "Have we REALLY passed on the torch? Or are we clinging to our former power? In certain areas we are sensitive: Who should have house keys? Decisions about changes in furnishings and equipment. The quality of the house repair.

The Friends no longer provide programs. Our program energy is used in support of others, such as the Walden Gathering, hosting the Chicago Metropolitan General Meeting on May 2, participating in Illinois Yearly Meeting. However, Friends House Neighborhood Center provides a Peacemakers Program for teenagers which the Meeting highly values and supports.

At present, the Meeting has a First Day School for 8-12 year olds. We are planning an introductory program for new attenders and the broader community after the manner of "Quakerism 101" (or 202). Four new attenders give new life to the Meeting.

We are seeking new direction and establishing new goals.

This report has been prepared from contributions of members and attenders of Rock Valley Friends Meeting at a business meeting on May 24, 1998.

Doris Peters and Brit Lathrop

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

Stability has characterized Rolla Friends during the past year. We have had six in attendance at most meetings, but not always the same six. With minor shuffling of responsibilities, we decided in March to keep the same officers that had served during the previous year.

One source of great delight has been our once-a-month, intergenerational first-day school, directed by Jane Driber. She never fails to devise activities that are fun and that are thought provoking to participants ranging in age from seven to seventy-seven.

In our "book study" on the second First Day of each month, we have been studying "Testimonies," by Ben Richmond. Meetings with a concern for business are held on third First Days. Queries are read on first First Days and, on the last First Day of each month, meeting is followed by first-day school and potluck.

It is always inspiring to have visits from Friends. During the past year we had a visit from Dawn Rubbert, representing AFSC. On another occasion we were visited by David Finke, Margaret Katranides and Harry DesRoches, representing IYM and St. Louis Monthly Meeting. Later, Margaret was with us again when the Field Secretary, Barry Zalph, spoke to us.

Projects:

- Our records, that had been in three cardboard boxes, were organized and filed. Lists of members, attenders and officers from the beginning of our Meeting were prepared.
- We are grateful to be able to meet and have potluck in the building of the Wesley Foundation, but we have had no sign to indicate our presence. Recently we constructed a stand-alone sign to be placed outside the building each Saturday evening to Sunday afternoon.
- Each year, on a first-day close to William Penn's birthday, we celebrate "William Penn day." This year we decided not to invite the general public, but to make the occasion more introspective. Friends prepared five-minute talks on the life of Penn and the life of our meeting.
- Last fall, as usual, we actively were involved in the annual Block Party of Rolla's four Main-Street churches.

We are concerned that our Meeting remains small, but it is of great significance to us who attend, and we continue to be a Quaker presence in Rolla.

George McPherson, Jr.

ST. LOUIS

The first day of March marked our first formal meeting for worship in our new meetinghouse. It was a difficult year, in which we struggled for unity as we bought a building in a transitional neighborhood south of downtown St. Louis and sold our beloved meetinghouse in suburban Rock Hill. Probably every emotion in the human repertoire has been felt among us, along with a few banged fingers and aching backs, in the process of readying the new building and moving into it. And then, centering down in our new meeting space, surrounded by carpenters' debris and dust, we looked around us and saw that we had made it through together. The first message shared in that meeting was from a young Friend who confessed having had doubts about the building, but told us he now knew that it was all of us being there together that would make it a meetinghouse.

At the same time, we realize that in the struggle to find and occupy appropriate space, suited to the needs of all our community, we have focused so much time and energy on real estate that many other functions have been partially or completely neglected. We are beginning to pick up these dropped stitches and to reknit the frayed edges. As spring returns to Missouri, we are feeling a renewal of energy and enthusiasm.

Even before we knew we were moving, we knew that the children of the Meeting should have a place that was adequate for their needs; this thought kept us focused when the process seemed too difficult and overwhelming. Another guiding thought was that we wanted to keep the Meeting intact, and we knew that attending to each other's needs and feelings was more important than any particular outcome. Through many difficult business meetings over two years or more, we struggled to listen to the Spirit, rather than ourselves; now, looking back, we see how many surprising turns we have taken, and we believe that we have been led, even when we couldn't see it. We find ourselves growing in trust that the Spirit can lead us as we do our business.

There have been many costs for us as a community over this past year. In the nine months between purchase and occupancy of the new meetinghouse, we learned that limbo is not a place where meetings grow. Many projects and activities were put on hold, partly because so much energy was going into readying the building, and partly because we didn't know when we were moving. We also realized that we have issues to work on in how we work with each other, how to divide labor, and how to accept each others' contributions.

One heartening development during the year, reinforcing our sense that we are on the right path, has been seeing our children become even more integrated into the Meeting. True, warm friendships exist between children and adults, the children are beginning to take ownership and responsibility for both the building and the community, we have seen an eleven-year-old attender ask for membership, and other young people have given vocal ministry in meeting for worship.

During the year before we moved, lack of space forced us to invite the children to stay in meeting for worship for the full hour, once a month. Initially we programmed some of this time, but eventually dropped the planned program in favor of a waiting worship energized by the presence of the children. As a result, we have seen some of our children beginning to grasp what our unprogrammed worship is about, and some of our adults becoming more comfortable with the children's presence.

During this year, four non-resident members withdrew from membership. Their numbers were balanced by four attenders being welcomed into membership.

We continue to sponsor a Bosnian high-school student, who lives with one of our members and has become a valued part of our community. We have co-sponsored a children's peace camp, and plan to do so again this summer. A committee of the Meeting continues working with ex-offenders, under the umbrella of a local ecumenical group. We have sponsored members who take the Alternatives to Violence Project into a nearby prison and other community sites. A group of members and attenders, the Friendly Investors, continue to explore investing using Friends' principles as guidance. Individual members of the meeting community participate in various outreach programs, but as mentioned above, much of our accustomed activity has been sacrificed during this past year to the demands of the meetinghouse move. We hope and expect that, having made the move, time and energy will be refocused on what we are really about -- deepening our relationship with God, and carrying God's love into the world, under the guidance of the Light.

SOUTH BEND

This year was a fruitful one for South Bend meeting as we grew in numbers and deepened our spirituality and understanding through two six-week sessions of Quakerism 101. First Day School for children also expanded to include a pre-school section and additional learning activities for school-age children. Searching for a new meeting space to accommodate the needs of larger numbers of children and adults has continued to be a concern. An Ad Hoc committee on Peace and Social Concerns has also begun research on ways that we can address needs in our community and the wider world. The meeting shared in the joy of Georgine Resick and Jim Regelean as they planned and celebrated their marriage under the care of the meeting.

Marsha Heck, Michael Quintero, Carter Nash, Tony Noble, Julie and David Shadinger and the Shadinger children began attending meeting this year. They have contributed their talents to various Quaker activities. The tutoring program at St. Paul Bethel Baptist Church has continued to be an important link both with those of other denominations and with children in the South Bend community.

Sebrina Tingley and Dennis McQueen opened their ministry in Couples Enrichment to the Illinois Yearly Meeting community with a retreat and South Bend Friends Meeting wrote a Minute of support for this work. Sebrina and Tony also attended a workshop on healing and shared this experience in one of our monthly after-meeting discussions.

The Committee on Worship, Ministry and Advancement played a leading role in the life of the meeting by continuing our after-meeting discussions. One important topic which was reviewed was our policy on membership. Matthew Bell and Mary Nurenberg also initiated an in-depth study of our faith and practice through Quakerism 101. The response was overwhelming and two groups of 10 met at the Kinsey and Heck-Quintero homes to study the history, theology, testimonies and practices of Quakers. Matthew

Bell, Marsha Heck, and Monica Tetzlaff led these sessions where we shared our beliefs, experiences and questions. Those who took part felt that it deepened their relationship to Quakerism and to each other and we agreed to meet at the home of the Shadingers to plan what we might do to follow up on this experience.

The meeting met informally at fourth First Day after-meeting social hours and at potlucks at the Tingley-McQueen and Bell homes. The Easter meeting and potluck included a Celebration of Children which welcomed Gemma Van Jacob to the meeting.

Our new fiscal year from October 1 to September 30 seems to be working well for the Finance Committee. Finding a new meeting site continues to be a deep concern which involves the spiritual and financial health of the meeting. We rejoice in our growth in members, attenders, and children and we are carefully considering a number of options for renting or buying a new meeting space.

Average attendance for the year was 17 adult members and attenders, 1 adult visitor, .5 teenager, and 2 children. For 28 First Days total attendance was over 20; for 4 of those First Days attendance was over 30.

Monica Tetzlaff

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Our Meeting has continued through the typical ups-and-downs; our recording clerk suddenly left us as did another long-time attender, but we have added some strong new attenders who have given us renewed energy. One of these, Lisa Zee, was a child in the early days of the meeting years ago. She has returned to Carbondale with her daughter, Briana, and has asked for a clearness committee for membership.

Over the past year we have managed to keep the meeting running for the summer. Five children have been regulars in our First Day program. This year we have enjoyed discussing stories about the Sufi mulla Nasrudin. For example, one day Nasrudin is discovered kneeling in a dusty street. A passerby asks him what he is doing. "I lost a golden ring in my house and I'm looking for it," answers Nasrudin. "But why aren't you looking for it in your house?" asks the stranger. "Because the light is better out here!" says Nasrudin. This led to a discussion about the Inner Light. We have also enjoyed some of the parables from the "Masnavi" of the great Sufi poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi.

After a visit from St. Louis Friend Margaret Katranides, we have all pulled together to work on generating a stronger sense of community in our meeting. The adults have begun frequent letter writing for Amnesty International, an event usually combined with our potlucks. Some of us have helped with the on-going renovation of the Interfaith Center, where we meet. We have also begun to have singing after meeting, thanks to the musical energy of Lisa Zee and Eric Andrus. Tom Leverett, another member, has begun a newsletter which not only contains news and announcements, but short essays as well as a cartoon strip featuring "Super Slug," a Friendly super-hero, suggested by Nathan Alexander, and brought to life by Adam Alexander and Justin Leverett.

Thomas Alexander

TERRE HAUTE WORSHIP GROUP

Once upon a time, a long time ago, we lived in Philadelphia where there are lots of (FGC) Friends. Now we live in Terre Haute, Indiana where there don't seem to be very many. When we moved here 11 years ago, we said hopefully, we will start a Meeting here. People said to us, others have tried before you and have never succeeded. But we persisted and for several years we were able to worship with a small, dedicated group.

But now, Friends have moved away or grown older and there does not seem to be anyone except us who wants an unprogrammed meeting. So at present, our group is not meeting.

Frank is very active in FGC. He attends committee meetings faithfully. We worship in Indianapolis on an infrequent basis and also visited South Bend meeting last fall. We also visited our "old" meeting, Peoria-Galesburg, this spring. We think often of our friends in IYM and continue to hope that our worship group here will come to life again.

Julie and Frank Young

THORN CREEK

We are a simple Meeting, we continue in a healthy state. We meet in people's homes, most often in a fully wheelchair accessible retirement community. We are happy to welcome Carol Prombo as a member and appreciate her representing us at IYM functions.

Carol Prombo

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The year since we left the old meeting house has been a year of transition and some pain. We have been saddened by the death of Bob Beach, longtime member of our meeting and well known to many members of Illinois Yearly Meeting. In addition, Gene and Virginia Glimmer, members of our meeting for thirty-five years, are moving to California to be nearer their children. Our dearly loved Friends have ministered to us with their lives, and they will be sorely missed. Others have moved on as well: Jack Flenner moved to Asheville NC; Suzanne Grosse and Robert Kirchner, with their children Naomi and Miriam, have moved back to Los Angeles; Cheryl Frank moved to Ithaca NY; Darcy Walker moved to Rockford to take a job as a librarian; Henry and Mary Byers and their children Katy and Hank have moved back to the Washington, DC area; Rosemary Blanchard has moved to Albuquerque NM to do her dissertation research in a school serving a Navaho community; Dimitri Mihalas has moved to New Mexico; Belle Drake finished her Bachelors and has moved to Beason IL; and Mike Griffith finished a Bachelor's in engineering and has moved to DeKalb.

We have several young children with us in worship sometimes. Dylan was adopted by Joan and Tom Nelshoppen, and Lilah Wiener joins her brother and sister, Robert and Ariella, and her parents, Erik Wiener and Constance Olivia. Sasha and Richard have been adopted by Liz McKenzie and David Long. We are delighted to have a new family, Rebecca and Ian Brooks and their twins, Matthew and Heather, adding to the number of very young children who enrich the meeting. A program for Wee Friends has begun, with lessons for the children two Sundays a month and a collection of story books for adults to read to the children on the other Sundays. In addition, Ellen Baranowski and Bobbi Trist regularly bring children from an after-school program Ellen runs at a housing project. Ellen will be teaching the elementary age group on First Days. Chris and Jane Kashnig and their children Georgia and Casey have also come to the community, and Jane is planning to teach a junior high group for First Day School. The sounds of the children gladden our hearts during worship.

The Peace Bazaar was held in a new location this year. With the loss of the meeting house, we joined with Community United Church of Christ, also near campus, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Community United donated the space for the Peace Bazaar, Joan Nelshoppen donated her porch and entire house for storing the goods beforehand, and the three organizations working together managed to bring in more than \$1700, which was divided evenly among four local and three international organizations. The Gilmores helped start the Peace Bazaar and contributed their energy and devotion to it for almost thirty years. It is one of their many legacies to the meeting and to this community.

The Sunday morning study group has been inviting various Friends to share their spiritual journeys. These presentations, on first and third Sundays at 9:45, have been very moving, and there has been a good attendance. Speakers in the series so far have been Jay Mittenthal, Sandy Bales, Gardiner Stillwell, Helen Satterthwaite, Mariellen Gilpin, Rosemary Blanchard, Dorothy Neumann, Rachel Weller, and Bobbi Trist. Because our meeting is heavily tied to the academic calendar, we plan to put the series into recess during the summer and begin again in the fall. One thing that has become clear to us is that Friends feel a need for a do-it-yourself religion, and we especially resonate to hearing about one another's struggles and growth.

On the other Sunday mornings during the month, the study group is reading aloud together from Patricia Loring's *Listening Spirituality*. The book is a series of thoughtful descriptions of various methods people have used to listen to God. We read a few descriptions, have silence for Friends to experiment with whatever method speaks to them personally, and then we share what we have each learned from our experimentation.

We continue to meet for worship at Illinois Disciples Foundation, at the corner of Wright and Springfield in Champaign. Our post office address is Box 4221, Urbana IL 61801. We continue to search for a new home. Friends have looked at several properties to buy. Some of us have become so enamored with the possibilities of particular locations that we have stopped listening for the Spirit and begun lobbying instead. This has caused much pain in Meeting and is responsible for at least one Friend's reluctance to attend Meeting for Worship. In an effort to help Friends come together, Ministry and Oversight recommended a threshing session on what we wanted in a meeting house. The threshing session was rancorous, and several Friends felt other Friends were telling them how they ought to feel.

Ministry and Oversight recommended a second threshing session on what unites us as Friends. At this session, Friends were in agreement that they wanted to nurture themselves and each other, and it was out of this community that service projects would arise. While different Friends had different emphases on worship and service, they agreed that they were not wedded to the idea of using the meeting house to do community service on the one hand, and on the other hand, we agreed we didn't want the meeting to be a closed group.

John Andrick has pointed out that Friends are eclectic in creed, in outlook, and in mission. The meeting has no lack of wisdom and leadership, but we are not strong in discerning the stream of Spirit and finding unity. Our eclecticism has not been a source of divisiveness. Our problems are due to our humanity, not our eclecticism. There is God in everyone. Some of us have been hurtful to others; we need to apologize and get on with being a community.

Ministry and Oversight recommended that we devote our April 19 business meeting entirely to deciding how much money we have or are likely to get, and how much of that we are willing to spend on a new home. Our resources have been greatly augmented by Bob Beach's generous gift from his estate to us and to Wider Quaker Fellowship. During business meeting we labored together and made a decision about which there seems to be a widely felt sense of comfort. At our last business meeting we spontaneously reopened discussion about one of the candidate locations. Discussion was forthright and at the same time we were gentle with one another, and we formulated a plan for reconsidering the property in light of our greater unity of purpose.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CLERK'S COMMITTEE:

1999 Janice Domanik,
1999 Tom Paxson,
1999 Melissa Meyer,

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Noel Pavlovic, Clerk

1999 Noel Pavlovic,
1999 Sarah Pavlovic,
1999 Nancy Halliday,
2000 Chris Jocius,
2000 Clance Wilson,
2000 David White,
2000 Carol Prombo,
2001 David Westling,
2001 William Howenstine,
2001 Alice Howenstine,
2001 Roy Treadway,
2001 Robert Wixom,

COMMITTEE ON FAITH & PRACTICE: Paul Buckley, Clerk

Tom Paxson,
Carol Zimmerman,
Larry Stout,
Melissa Meyer,
Nancy Duncan,
Kip Westling,
Paul Buckley,
Janet Means,

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Roger Laughlin, Clerk

1999 Don Mertic,
1999 Harry Desroches,
2000 Roger Laughlin,
2000 Nancee Miller,
2001 Sandra Huntley,
2001 Cathy Garra,
Ex-officio: Treasurer

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Clerk to be appointed

1999 Allen Treadway,
1999 Larry Stout,
2000 Bobbi Trist

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Sebrina Tingley, Pat Lucas, Clerks

1999 William Howenstine,
1999 Clance Wilson,
1999 Sue Styer,
1999 Bob Bell,
2000 Pat Lucas,
2000 Sebrina Tingley,
2000 Kip Westling,
2001 Allen Treadway,
2001 David Westling,
2001 Marie White,
2001 Beth Schobernd
Ex-officio: All Trustees

MINISTRY & ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE: Roxy Jacobs, Clerk

1999 Carolyn Treadway,
1999 Ken Ives,
1999 Margaret Katranides,
1999 Carol Zimmerman,

2000 Ann Eckert,
2000 Janet Means,
2000 Beth Schobernd,
2000 Paul Schobernd,
2001 David Finke,
2001 Roxy Jacobs,
2001 Dorothy Day,
Ex Officio: Presiding Clerk, IYM Field Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Jerry Nurenberg, Clerk

1999 Wayne Benenson,
1999 Jerry Nurenberg,
2000 Sue Styer,
2000 Sharon Haworth
2000 Becky Westling,

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Marcia Nelson, Clerk

1999 Marcia Nelson,
2000 Tom Paxson,
2001 Chris Jocius,

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Grayce Haworth, Clerk

1999 Grayce Haworth,
2000 Pat Wixom,
2001 David Finke,
Ex Officio: Editor of *Among Friends*, Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Coordinating Clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Marlou Carlson, Clerk

1999 Sarah Pavlovic,
1999 Chris Jocius,
1999 Constance Olivia,
2000 Marlou Carlson,
2000 Nancy Jordan,
2000 Eric Volkel,
2001 Grayce Haworth,
2001 Scott Searles,

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Judy Jager, Clerk
1999 Julia Pantoga,
1999 Rebecca Golden-Trist,
1999 Marti Matthews,
1999 Heather Woods,
1999 Jesse Davison,
1999 Roger Conant,
2000 David Finke,
2000 Stephen Domanik,
2000 Diane Saper,
2000 Jerry Nurenberg,
2000 Tom Jager,
2001 Judy Jager,
2001 Ken Ives,
2001 Bob Wixom,
2001 Marie White,
2001 Carol Zimmerman,

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Katherine Trezevant, Kai Parry Immler, Co-Clerks

1999 Katherine Trezevant,
1999 Julia Pantoga,
1999 Lydia Robbins,
1999 Katharine Jager,
2000 Kai Parry Immler,
2000 Mark Robinson,
2000 Becky Westling,
2000 Sandy White,

2000	Alicia Holmes,
2000	Robyn Holmes,
2000	Michael Kerr,
2001	Heather Woods,
2001	David Westling,
2001	Ann Eckert,
2001	Brent Eckert,
2001	Jerry Nurenberg,

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION: 4 Representatives

1999 Donald Mertic,
1999 Dawn Rubbert
2000 David Davis,

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS:

1999 no appointment

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

1999 Bob Wixom,

FRIENDS COMMITTEE IN UNITY WITH NATURE: 1 or 2 representatives

1999 Bob Wixom,

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION: 6 Representatives

1999 Lorena Jean Tinker, 2
1999 Don MacCrimmon,
1999 Julie Shadinger,

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

1999 Roger Hansen,

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE: 4 Representatives

1999 Cathy Garra,
1999 Tom Paxson,
2000 Ken Ives,
2000 Dorothy Day,

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISON

Scattergood School:

Joe Davison,

Olney Friends School:

Grayce Haworth,

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION: 4 Representatives

1999 Judy Jager,
1999 Elizabeth Mertic,
2000 David Finke,
2000 Becky Westling,

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE:

1999 Sue Styer,

YOUNG FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA

1999 no appointment

COMMITTEES OF CONCERN

RELEASED FRIEND/COORDINATING CLERK OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Ex-Officio: YM Clerks, Treasurer, Clerks of Standing Committees, Trustees

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE IYM LEGAL INCORPORATION
Clerk: Pat Lucas (will gather committee)
Pat Lucas,

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

1998 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:
Pat Wixom, David & Kip Westling, Robyn Holmes, Carol Zimmerman, Lydia Robbins

1998 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:
Don MacCrimmon, Scott Searles, Kai Parry Immler, Alissa Rowan

1999 Yearly Meeting RESPONSIBILITIES:
Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Blue River
Food & Adult Program: Chicago-North
Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago-South

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:
Jinny Laughlin,

AMONG FRIENDS ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Ken Laughlin,

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:
Brent Eckert,

TRAVEL POLICY

Friends are not to be hindered from traveling on IYM business as official representatives or committee members due to lack of funds. However, in view of the limited amount of funds available in the budget for this purpose, the Travel Fund should be used according to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on \$.25/automobile mile or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration dues may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation travel will be handled from its own fund.

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

BINr	Bob Broad,
ChrWG	Edith Hedges,
CICr	Grayce Haworth,
Colm	Robert Wixom,
	Kip Westling,
Dctr	Carolyn S. Treadway,
DKlb	*Dan Griffiths,
DwG	Sue Styer,
	Dave Moorman,
Dunl	Roxy Jacobs,
Evan	Jinny Laughlin,
57th	Fernando Freire,
FrptWG	Judy Corrie,
HStWG	Ann & Brent Eckert,
HtLWG	Roy&Carolyn Treadway,
LkFo	Don Mertic,
McWG	Eugene Mathes,
McH	*Bill Howenstine,
Milw	Julia Pantoga,
NSde	Alissa Rowan,
OakP	*Rosalind Larsen,
OshK	*Tom Barlow,
PeGa	*Elizabeth Henderson,
RkVa	Doris Peters,
Rola	Alex Primm,
StLo	Margaret Katranides,
SBen	Jerry Nurenberg,
Soll	Lisa Zee,
SpWG	Peg Kruger,
THWG	Frank & Julie Young,
ThCr	Carol Prombo,
UrCh	Oolan Zimmer,

Ex Officio:

Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Clerk-Cordinator, Treasurer
 Clerks of Yearly Meeting Committees
 Trustees of the Yearly Meeting
 Clerks of Quarterly Meetings
 IYM Planning Group Coordinators

*Clerk or Contact name and address; representative not appointed.

This committee coordinates and oversees the activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends. It speaks officially for the Yearly Meeting between sessions.

The Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting is the Clerk of the Continuing Committee and presides at its meetings.

The Continuing Committee meets several times each year. One meeting is normally held the third or fourth Saturday of October (not to conflict with FGC Central Committee). A second is normally held the first Saturday of March. Other meetings of the committee are held during the Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting.