

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

2005 Sessions will be held from 7/27/05 to 7/31/05
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

130th Annual Session
July 28 – August 1, 2004

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2004–2005

Presiding Clerk: Maurine Pyle	Recording Clerk: Beth Schobernd	Reading Clerk: Jeanette Baker	Assistant Clerk: Sue Davison
Asst. Rec. Clerk: Margie Haworth	Treasurer Roger Laughlin	Field Secretary: Roxy Jacobs	Admin. Coord.: Sharon Haworth

Teen Friends Co-Clerks:

Trevor Munroe,
Meg Nelson,
Alethea Tschetterwood,

Teen Friends Recording Clerk:

Ashlee Miller-Berry,

Trustees:

Richard Ashdown,
Carol Bartles,

Meetinghouse Phone: 815-882-2214

IYM Website: www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2004

Blue River Quarterly

B-N	CC	Co	De	P-G	St.L	SoI	U-C	
								Members & Attendance
								Average Attendance
1	15	19	3	4	55	8	18	Adults
0	4	1	0	0	10	6	4	Under 18 years old
								Membership Statistics
13	26	15	2	5	61	6	26	Resident Adult Members
0	0	0	0	0	10	9	5	Resident Young Friends
4	34	31	10	2	64	4	21	Non-Resident Adults
1	0	0	1	0	8	0	6	Non-Resident Young Friends
18	60	46	13	7	143	19	58	TOTAL
17	60	46	12	7	125	10	47	Total Adult Members
1	0	0	1	0	18	9	11	Total Young Friends
								NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	By Birth or Adoption
0	2	0	0	0	4	1	3	By Request
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	By Certificate of Transfer
0	2	0	0	0	5	1	3	TOTAL
								LOSSES
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	Deceased
0	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	Released or Withdrawn
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	Transferred
0	4	3	0	0	2	0	5	TOTAL

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	364
Metropolitan Chicago	676
Wisconsin	<u>98</u>
TOTAL	1138

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

	DK	Metropolitan Chicago										Wisconsin		TOTALS
		DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NoS	OaP	RoV	SB	UFV	Mil**	Osh**	
ers Statistics														
ndance:														
	6	33	8	60	24	36	33	22	7	15	10	90	7	474
	6	4	1	12	1	20	4	4	0	5	2	25	0	109
CS														
bers	6	50	12	58	19	71	35	10	12	24	15	59	4	529
nds	5	18	3	17	2	7	4	0	1	16	2	1	0	100
Members	3	57	1	44	58	64	10	0	0	5	5	34	0	444
g Friends	0	2	2	43	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
L	14	120	18	162	79	143	50	10	13	45	22	94	4	1138
s	9	100	13	102	77	135	45	10	12	29	20	93	4	973
s	5	20	5	60	2	8	5	0	1	16	2	1	0	165
BERS														
n	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	0	1	0	4	2	5	0	1	0	2	4	4	0	33
nsfer	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	7
L	0	1	0	4	3	5	3	3	0	3	4	6	0	43
S														
	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
wn	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
L	0	3	1	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	32

* These Meetings are affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) as well as IYM.

** Milwaukee and Oshkosh Meetings have dual affiliation with Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference).

Please Note: We are no longer reporting half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the entire membership of IYM.

Northside numbers are from 2003.

DeKalb numbers are from 1993.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY REQUEST:

Rebecca Morris (Clear Creek) 11/03
 Kristine Simon (Clear Creek) 6/04
 Diana Malon (Downers Grove)
 Elizabeth Bassett (Evanston) 9/03
 John Payton (Evanston) 11/03
 Eleanor Jo Rodger (Evanston) 10/03
 Kristin Brown (Evanston) 10/03
 Susan George (57th Street) 2/04
 Mark Mattaini (57th Street) 10/03
 Joyce Schladweiler (Lake Forest) 10/03
 Elizabeth Warren (Lake Forest) 10/03
 Michael Terrien (Lake Forest) 12/03
 Jason Stacy (Lake Forest) 3/04
 Michelle LaCognata (Lake Forest) 3/04
 Jo-Walter Spear (Milwaukee) 9/03
 Cullen Carns-Hilliker (Milwaukee) 4/04
 Cheryl Ray (Milwaukee) 4/04
 George Wortz (Milwaukee) 4/04
 Geoff Plank (Oak Park) 3/04
 Larry Duane (St. Louis) 12/03
 Carol Stephenson Wray (St. Louis) 1/04
 Ricardo Wray (St. Louis) 1/04
 Court Singrey (St. Louis) 6/04

Bob Godsey (South Bend) 10/03
 Madeline Bernauer (South Bend) 3/04
 Dawn Amos (Southern Illinois) 10/03
 Arianne Albright (Upper Fox Valley) 12/03
 Angie Reeks (Upper Fox Valley) 12/03
 Mark McGinnis (Upper Fox Valley) 8/03
 Alia Hammerstone (Upper Fox Valley) 3/04
 Cynthia, Kory & Connor Ching
 (Urbana-Champaign) 2/04

BY TRANSFER:

To: 57th Street:
 Cherie Dupuis, from Columbia
 To Milwaukee:
 Barbara & Dan Griffiths,
 from Dekalb, 1/04
 To: Oak Park:
 Wm. Michael Lawrence,
 from Northside, 5/04
 Anna Poplawska, from Northside, 5/04
 To: St. Louis:
 Alissa Rowan, from Northside, 5/04
 To: South Bend:
 Elaine Meyer-Lee, from New Haven

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Ed Mills (Clear Creek) 11/1/03
 Andrew "Bud" Wolf (Clear Creek)
 10/8/03
 Louis & Mary Ruth Jones
 (Downers Grove)
 Mary Gray Legg (57th Street) 2004
 Timothy Reinke (Oshkosh) 9/9/03
 Gardiner Stillwell
 (Urbana-Champaign) 3/16/04

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Jim & Carol Ray (Clear Creek) 5/04
 Michael Murray (Columbia) 6/04
 Diane Barounis (Evanston) 9/03
 Patsy Holmes (Evanston) 7/04
 John Rowe (Evanston) 7/04
 Gene Doty (St. Louis) 6/03
 Patrick Genna (St. Louis) 6/04
 Richard Strehlow (Urbana-Champaign)
 12/03
 Linnea Strehlow (Urbana-Champaign)
 12/03

BY TRANSFER:

From Columbia:
 Cherie Dupuis, to 57th Street, 10/03
 Pearl John, to Southampton &
 Portsmouth, England, 2/04
 From Downers Grove:
 John Michaelis, to University Mtg,
 Seattle
 From Duneland:
 Sandy Bowles, to Greensboro, NC, 4/04
 From 57th Street:
 Paul Buckley, to Clear Creek Mtg,
 Ohio Valley YM, 1/03
 Fernando Freire, to Duneland, 1/03
 From Lake Forest:
 Ann Galloway, to Burlington, VT, 12/03
 Burgess Ekman, to Falls, PA, 6/04
 From Urbana-Champaign:
 Ian Hansen, to Vancouver, BC, 2/04

IYM 2004 Schedule

Theme: *Building Communities of Peace*

WEDNESDAY:

Noon - 6:00. Registration
 2:00-3:30 Opening Session: Worship & Business Meeting
 3:30-6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
 6:45 Teens & parents/sponsors meet w/YO
 7:30-9:00 Service Project for Kids
 7:30-8:45 Keynote Address by Mary Lord
 9:00 New attendees Meeting (Registration table)
 9:00 - 9:30 Registration desk open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

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THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:00 - 7 am Birdwalk, nature appreciation & Walking Worship (Thurs)
 6:30 - 7 am Early Meeting for Worship
 6:45 - 7:45 Breakfast
 7:30 New Attenders Meeting on Saturday
 8:00 - 8:45 Meeting for Worship
 9:00 - 12:00 Meeting for Business / FUN Program for children
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:30 - 4:00 Craft Tent / Recreation for children
 1:30 - 2:15 Workshop Sharing Groups
 2:30 - 3:45 Workshops
 3:00 - 3:30 Snacks for children
 3:45 - 6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 5:00 - 6:00 Registration desk open
 5:30 - 6:00 Singing on front porch
 Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

7:30 - 8:45 Address by David Westling & David Zarembka
 7:30 - 9:00 Campfire & Hayrack ride
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00-5:30 Bike Trip (led by Environmental Concerns committee)
 3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for worship, business and discussion (worship sharing on "Discernment as a Tool for Growing our Support Systems.")
 7:30 - 8:00 Registration desk open
 7:45 - 10 Dancing on front lawn
 9:00 - 9:45 Watermelon served outside during dancing

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00 Area Planning Groups meet
 4:30 - 5:30 Variety Show
 7:30 - 9:00 Young Friends movies
 7:30 - 8:45 Address by Christopher Sammons
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

SUNDAY

6:30 - 7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
 9:15 - 9:45 Registration desk open
 10:00 - 11:00 Plummer Lecture: Janet Means Underhill
 11:30 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting
130th Annual Session
July 28 – August 1, 2004
McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION: Wednesday, July 28, 2004¹

Minute 1 The 130th annual session of Illinois Yearly Meeting opened with silent worship.

Minute 2 We greeted Paul Buckley, representative from Earlham School of Religion and *Friends Journal*.

Minute 3 We welcomed first-time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 4 Clerk Maurine Pyle announced that since a Reading Clerk has not yet been named, epistles from other yearly meetings will not be read but are available in a binder at the registration desk.

Minute 5 The Clerk asked that we consider appointing an *ad hoc* nominating committee to identify and bring forward names of Friends to attend special events and serve on short-term committees. Among these events and committees are the Friends General Conference Clerks' retreat, Youth Quake, representatives to World Gathering of Young Friends, Committee of Care for IYM sessions, Epistle Committee, and Exercises Committee. The *ad hoc* committee would be composed of a representative from Nominating committee, a representative from Ministry & Advancement, and two IYM representatives to FWCC. Friends approved this suggestion.

Minute 6 The Clerk reviewed the agenda as printed in the Advance Documents.

Minute 7 We closed with silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION: Thursday, July 29, 2004¹

Minute 8 We welcomed additional visitors from Quaker organizations:
Josh Medlin, FWCC intern
Penelope Wright, appointed Yearly Meeting visitor from FGC
Michael Wajda, FGC Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation
Mary Lord, AFSC Assistant General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Bonnie Nicholson, formerly of AFSC, visiting from Indiana Yearly Meeting

Minute 9 Bill Howenstine, Clerk of the *Ad Hoc* Site Envisioning and Building Committee, referred Friends to his written report in the Advance Documents. The conceptual designs for a proposed new building are posted on the front porch of the Meeting House for Friends' perusal. Bill reviewed the history of site planning at McNabb and of the current committee. Friends were reminded that in 2001, the goal of the committee was to ascertain what Friends think of IYM and what their hopes are for the future. The second year of the committee's work involved assessments by consultants. The third, and current year, the committee was authorized to hire an

architect and bring schematic drawings to the Yearly Meeting. These are the drawings posted on the porch. The architectural firm based its work on the program statement SEB brought to the Yearly Meeting in 2003, and from considerable input from both the committee and the wider IYM community.

Bill then took questions and comments from the Yearly Meeting.

- Friends were concerned that the dining hall and dormitory as designed were not large enough to meet future needs.
- Would it not be less costly and more practical to rehabilitate the existing dormitory?
- Alternative energy sources should be explored.
- There should be a range of housing and dining options to provide diversity and flexibility for our varying needs.
- We should recognize the many Friends who have given of themselves to maintain our existing buildings and perhaps try to adapt the dormitory and Junior Yearly Meeting House, thus treasuring Friends' contributions while allowing flexibility.

Are we developing a vision that is in keeping with Friends' emphasis on unpaid ministry and peace work, and the economic consequences that emphasis has for many Friends?

Friends were invited to direct further questions to members of Site Envisioning and Building. We will consider their recommendations during Saturday's session.

Minute 10 Chuck Hutchcraft reported for the *ad hoc* Program Committee. This *ad hoc* committee was formed to work with the Site Envisioning and Building committee, going beyond the actual building to explore with Friends ways in which our IYM facilities might be used. The committee posed the query, "How can this new building strengthen the life of your monthly meeting, of Illinois Yearly Meeting, of our wider Quaker/interfaith/kindred spirit relationships?" If the committee is approved for work in the coming year, they will be visiting monthly meetings to consider this query. We will further consider this committee and its work on Saturday.

Minute 11 The Clerk announced that Ann Eckert, Clerk of the Nominating committee, has stepped down. Thanks were expressed for Ann's previous work with the committee. The preliminary Nominating Committee report was delivered by Janice Domanik. The report will be posted in the session notebooks near the registration desk. Nominating asked that the Yearly Meeting approve the creation of a position for an assistant recording clerk. The rationale behind this request is that it would be helpful for an incoming recording clerk to be able to grow into the position with assistance from the preceding recording clerk. The term of assistant recording clerk would be one year. We approved this new position.

Minute 12 Roger Laughlin presented the Treasurer's report. Friends were referred to the full report in the Advance Documents. Roger pointed out that our expenses in the past year were greater than in previous years. One of the larger increases was in the cost of insurance, brought about by our decision to purchase more appropriate coverage. We also have less money to start with this year than we have had in recent years. We accepted the report with thanks.

Minute 13 The Friends World Committee for Consultation report was presented by Elizabeth Mertic. She directed Friends to several reports in the Advance Documents from the IYM FWCC delegates. Our representatives to FWCC (Dawn Amos, Nancy Wallace and Liz Oldham) asked the Yearly Meeting to consider the importance of FWCC to global Quakerism and posed the query, “How might we, liberal Friends in the wealthiest country in the world, accept our full responsibility to support FWCC?” Friends addressed this query out of the silence.

Minute 14 Tom Paxson, Clerk of the Committee on *Faith and Practice*, reported for that committee. A new section on Decision Making is being presented to the Yearly Meeting for consideration. The section is included in the Advance Documents and appeared in the summer 2004 issue of *Among Friends*. Tom handed out an additional sentence to be added at the end. *Faith and Practice* is asking that this section be given approval for a five year trial period, much as we have approved previous sections. We will return to this issue on Friday for a decision.

Minute 15 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee has identified in recent minute books changes in committees that should be incorporated into the Handbook. We approved these revisions. Copies of changes to the Handbook will be distributed at the fall 2004 Continuing Committee.

Minute 16 Carol Bartles, a member of the American Friends Service Committee board, reported on that group’s activity. AFSC has been undergoing a self-evaluation. As a result of this evaluation, they have identified two areas of needed service: peace building and human migration. The regional Emergency Material Assistance Program located in Richmond, Indiana, is closing due to a lack of regionally-generated funds. AFSC continues to provide the EMAP around the United States. Two programs serving African-American communities are closing in St. Louis and Chicago. AFSC intends to replace them with two new programs. Some of the more successful initiatives this year include: Eyes Wide Open, a new campaign which uses empty boots and spent shell casings to signify the number of U.S. soldiers and Iraqi civilians killed in Iraq; and a listening project which asks, “What does real security mean?”

Minute 17 Dawn Amos brought the report of the *ad hoc* Electronic Communications Working Group, which currently oversees the IYM website. Publications Committee joins them in bringing the following recommendations, which we approved:

- That the Electronic Communications Working Group not be continued as an *ad hoc* committee.
- That the functions of electronic publication be placed under the care of the Publications Committee.
- That the person filling the role of the “webservant” be named to the Publications Committee on an *ex-officio* basis.
- That ways be found to do more with electronic publications within the Yearly Meeting.

Minute 18 We approved the minutes from Wednesday’s session.

Minute 19 We closed with silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION: Friday, July 30, 2004²

Minute 20 Presiding Clerk Maurine Pyle opened the meeting with silence and followed by reading a passage about the origins of Illinois Yearly Meeting from *The Prophet of Blue River, A Sketch of the Life of Elwood Trueblood*, 1914.

Minute 21 We welcomed first-time attenders. We welcomed additional visitors from the wider Quaker world: Jim Kenney and Ginger Kenney, the Midwest Field Representatives from Friends Committee on National Legislation; Christopher Sammond, who will be giving our plenary on Saturday night; and Elaine Emily, traveling as an elder with Christopher Sammond.

Minute 22 Substitute Recording Clerk Pam Kuhn read traveling minutes for Christopher Sammond from Twin Cities Friends Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota; Elaine Emily from Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, Berkeley, California; and Penelope Wright from FGC's Traveling Ministries Program.

Minute 23 The Meeting approved Thursday's minutes with corrections.

Minute 24 The Epistle Committee is David Wixom, Tom Paxson and Dawn Amos. The Exercise Committee is Pam Melick, Brad Laird and Ted Kuhn.

Minute 25 Janice Domanik reported for the Nominating Committee. Several names have been added to and subtracted from the list posted yesterday. There are still a few vacancies to be filled including a representative to Scattergood School, a representative to FWCC, and the Assistant Treasurer position. These will be completed at the fall Continuing Committee meeting. We will lay the report over and consider it tomorrow morning.

Minute 26 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Naming Committee. Other members of the committee are Margaret Katranides and David Shiner. Three Friends will be continuing on the Nominating Committee: Jon Wixom (2005), Marlou Carlson (2006), Janice Domanik (2006). Two new members are Margie Haworth (2007) and one other person to be named at the fall Continuing Committee meeting. Janice Domanik will be the clerk of the Nominating Committee. Approved.

Minute 27 Tom Paxson reported for the *Faith and Practice* Committee. Friends were asked to consider the new section on Decision Making brought to the meeting yesterday. Friends approved the section for a five year trial period as with other sections of the *Illinois Faith and Practice*. This section as amended appears in committee reports.

Minute 28 Margaret Katranides reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. M&A recommends the following guidelines for pastoral counselor and chaplaincy endorsements (which are required by outside agencies).

A candidate for endorsement by the Yearly Meeting should:

1. be a member of an Illinois Yearly Meeting monthly meeting;
2. be worshipping regularly with Friends (Quakers);
3. meet several times a year with a named group for spiritual guidance and support;

4. send a letter to the Ministry and Advancement Committee requesting the initial endorsement, and an annual letter before the Yearly Meeting sessions reporting on their work and requesting continued endorsement;
5. ask their guidance and support committee also to send an annual letter before the Yearly Meeting sessions, reporting on their work with the chaplain or pastoral counselor, indicating the person's strengths, areas of growth, and any areas that may call for special attention or assistance.

The Meeting approved the recommendation. The Meeting also approved the endorsement of three Friends, Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, continuing as pastoral counselor, Beth Burbank, continuing as a chaplain, and Sebrina Tingley, with a new endorsement as a chaplain.

Minute 29 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee. This year the committee has:

- worked on a long-term plan based on work that Maintenance and Planning has indicated will need to be done.
- filed for and received incorporation in the State of Illinois on April 29, 2004. A statement is listed elsewhere in the Minute book.
- increased the insurance of the buildings and grounds to a more appropriate amount. The insurance is with Church Mutual Insurance Company.
- laid down the Trustee fund. The Site Fund will now cover expenses for mowing and utilities. The Operating Fund will cover the costs for insurance.

The committee recommends a transfer of \$725 from the Bob Bell Memorial in the Special Gifts Fund to the Property Improvement Fund for termite damage repair.

The committee recommends a \$20 increase in our recommended per resident adult member donation from each monthly meeting. From this increase, \$10 will be put into the Site Fund. The other \$10 will be added to the General Fund to be used for such costs as increased insurance coverage and Field Secretary traveling expenses.

The budget was presented. Several Friends raised concerns. Friends with concerns were encouraged to attend a consultation on the budget at 1:30 pm.

The budget and other recommendations will be laid over until Saturday's session. The Meeting thanks the Finance Committee for their work on this difficult task.

Minute 30 Brent Eckert reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. See a complete report in the committee reports. The committee thanked everyone who worked into the night yesterday to locate and replace a faulty pump on the sewer drainage system and for cleaning the dining room.

Minute 31 Carol Bartles reported for the Committee of Five. The Committee of Five is a group of people within the Maintenance and Planning Committee including Carol Bartles, Brent Eckert, Bill Howenstine, Tim Narkiewicz, and Chip Rorem. They will be supervising the restoration work as listed in the Maintenance and Planning Committee report starting Monday, August 2, 2004. The estimate for the first phase of the work is \$75,000. However, a more complete estimate will not be available until the work begins and a fuller assessment of termite damage can be made. The second phase of work will begin in May 2005 and is estimated to be up to an additional \$75,000.

Minute 32 Dawn Amos introduced Josh Medlin, a member of Lynn Friends, Indiana Yearly Meeting, a student at Earlham College, and a student assistant of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Midwest Office. He has been traveling to Yearly Meetings to talk with and listen to Young Friends (age 18 – 35) about activities such as the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF). WGYF is independent of all other Quaker organizations including FWCC, although FWCC and others support it. The gathering will take place August 16-24, 2005, at Lancaster University, Lancaster, England and will be a unique opportunity to meet Friends from different traditions around the world. Each Yearly Meeting is asked to nominate two representatives (one male and one female). IYM's Nominating Committee will nominate two Friends at the fall Continuing Committee. Meeting approves receiving contributions to Illinois Yearly Meeting earmarked for support of the WGYF.

Concern was raised that Young Friends from Africa and South America will not be able to attend because of financial restraints and visa problems. An idea was brought forward to perhaps sister with an African Meeting to help bring representatives to various events. This idea will be explored further by a working group consisting of Dawn Amos, David Finke, Josh Medlin, Elizabeth Mertic, Nancy Wallace, Becky Westling, David Westling, and David Zarembka. They will report to the fall Continuing Committee.

Minute 33 The Session closed with silence.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION: Saturday, July 31, 2004²

Minute 34 The session opened with silence followed by a reading from Isaiah, Chapter 35, by Presiding Clerk Maurine Pyle.

Minute 35 We welcomed new attenders to IYM.

Minute 36 The minutes from the Third Session were approved with corrections.

Minute 37 The High School Friends read their epistle to the Meeting. It will appear in the Minute book and will be sent to other Yearly Meetings.

Minute 38 Bill Howenstine reported for the Site Envisioning and Building Committee (SEB). He reviewed the history of the committee and talked about the vision of the community, "the Peace House on the Prairie." Bill introduced members of the Troyer Group, the architectural firm chosen to do schematic drawings of the proposed new buildings and the site, who answered questions about the concepts of the buildings and the site. There were many questions about the use of environmentally-responsible construction techniques as well as installing sustainable energy sources for the building. There were also questions about how the site would be used for programs.

Minute 39 The meeting approves, as a beginning, the vision of two new buildings at the Yearly Meeting site in McNabb as presented during this session, with one Friend objecting.

Minute 40 The meeting approves continuation of the *Ad Hoc* Site Envisioning and Building Committee, to pursue its vision of a more vital Illinois Yearly Meeting, rooted in the prairie land at McNabb.

Minute 41 The Meeting approves continuation of the *Ad Hoc* Program Committee, with which the Site Envisioning and Building committee has had a complementary relationship, to work with monthly meetings to determine their potential uses of the new buildings and their programmatic relationships with IYM.

Minute 42 The meeting approves giving the Site Envisioning and Building committee authorization to continue our relationship with The Troyer Group for final design documents when funding permits start of construction.

Minute 43 Cathy Garra reported for the Development Committee. The committee began planning the fund-raising process this year and has already raised money for the Property Improvement Fund. Money raised is described in the Treasurer's report.

The meeting has one third of the money in various funds for the building restoration work and will need to raise funds of \$100,000 or more. The Development Committee would like to identify Friends, including those who have moved away, who might be interested in discussing the needs of our site. The Committee would also like to know of Friends who would like to be a part of the development process.

Minute 44 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee. The budget was reviewed. Because of unexpected expenses in the past year, there is not as much money to be spent this coming year. Yesterday, the Finance Committee received pledges from several anonymous Friends for about \$4000 to be added to the unrestricted Special Gifts Fund. Although the Committee is not in the habit of taking funds from the Special Gifts Fund and putting them into the Operating Budget, in this case the Meeting approved the action.

Minute 45 The meeting approved the Finance Committee's recommendation that the recommended donation from each Monthly Meeting be increased by \$20. The total recommended contribution per adult resident member will be \$165.

Minute 46 The meeting approved the Nominating Slate as presented.

Minute 47 Elizabeth Sprague reported for the Peace Resources Committee. They have found that they are often working in coalition with other faith-based groups on similar peace projects. They requested a committee to review and support them in coalition-building. The IYM Presiding Clerk will appoint this committee. Approved.

Minute 48 We closed in worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION: Sunday, August 1, 2004 ²

Minute 49 The meeting began with silence. The Presiding Clerk then read from Isaiah 35.

Minute 50 Maurine Pyle read the names of each monthly meeting, after which those attending from that meeting stood up. We thanked the many people who gave service to Illinois Yearly Meeting, both over the past year and during these sessions.

Minute 51 The Epistle Committee read the epistle. Friends approved. It will be sent to other Yearly Meetings.

Minute 52 The Exercises Committee read their summary of the events at these sessions. It will be mailed to *Friends Journal*.

Minute 53 A group of Adult Young Friends came before the meeting with a mission statement for the formation of a specific-aged sub-community within IYM. (See "Other Documents from Business Sessions.") They thanked Ann Eckert for helping bring the group together. The meeting expressed deep appreciation of the work of this committee and approved their requests of acknowledgement as a group, an AYF check box on the registration form, and space in the advance registration form for contact information of one of their members.

Minute 54 Nancy Wallace and Dawn Amos, two of IYM's representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation, reviewed the importance of FWCC and its upcoming programs. They articulated the current financial crisis within FWCC and encouraged individuals to contribute.

Minute 55 Friends age three to five read their epistle.

Minute 56 Friends age six to ten read their epistle.

Minute 57 Friends in the Junior High age group read their epistle. We expressed our appreciation to all of the Young Friends for their epistles, which will appear in the Minute Book and will be sent to other Yearly Meetings.

Minute 58 In the interest of having enough time for the Plummer Lecture, the clerk requested that the reading of Saturday's minutes be dispensed with. Approved.

Minute 59 The meeting closed with silence as we prepared to hear the Plummer Lecture by Janet Means Underhill.

Continuing Committee will meet on October 30th at Lake Forest Meeting.

Illinois Yearly Meeting 2005 will be at McNabb July 27-31, 2005.

¹ Beth Schobernd, Recording Clerk

² Pamela Kuhn, Substitute Recording Clerk

EXERCISES

Friends gathered for the 2004 Illinois Yearly Meeting to explore the theme of Building Communities of Peace.

Our clerk, Maurine Pyle, skillfully, steadily, and lovingly guided Friends through several complex discussions and explorations. Friends labored with various financial issues, including the annual budget, decreasing contributions to wider Quaker organizations, and the cost of Meeting House maintenance and restoration, the ongoing discussion about building a new dormitory and dining hall, and nominations to fill position vacancies. Friends passionately talked about the need to increase the level of financial support to some wider Quaker organizations, such as FWCC and FGC. Friends were given direction on how money can be donated to various organizations.

Meetinghouse maintenance became a critical concern when the lift pump failed Thursday evening and part of the dining hall flooded. Friends give grateful thanks for the late-night visit from a local plumber and to several sleep-deprived souls who stayed until the problem was resolved.

The evening addresses asked us to look deeply into ourselves as to how and with whom we create peace communities. Mary Lord gave the opening keynote address. She talked about building communities of peace. The foundation of a community of peace is the love of God. Peaceful communities have conflict, and Friends need to learn to deal with this conflict. Finally, a peaceful community has a prophetic role to play in the world.

David Westling and David Zarembka spoke about their journeys in becoming peacemakers. David Westling talked about his experiences restoring houses in Burundi and Rwanda. He also spoke about his first experience with AVP (Alternatives to Violence Program) in the most needed circumstances – Burundi – and helping to introduce AVP to people in Nairobi, Kenya. David Zarembka spoke about his experiences working in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. He challenged the Yearly Meeting to partner with an Africa Yearly Meeting, a challenge which Friends continued to discuss.

Christopher Sammond gave the Saturday evening address. He told us that spirituality and the love of God must be the center of how we approach everything, including building communities of peace. One of the obstacles to building communities of peace is fear, which is the result of woundedness. He spoke of his own woundedness so that we could look at our own wounds and how we have the potential to hurt others when we act out of our own wounds. He related this to his observations and experience with racism. A deep silence and Friends' reflection on their own racism followed.

Our annual Plummer Lecture was given by Janet Means Underhill. Her talk was entitled "The Mystery of It All – I Give Thanks".

High School Friends also explored building communities of peace. Michael Terrien introduced them to various cooperative games used in the Play for Peace program on Wednesday night. Scott Searles and David Westling introduced them to an abbreviated version of AVP on Thursday. High School Friends served dinner and cleaned up Thursday night. They enjoyed the experience so much that they plan to make it an annual event. High School Friends discussed whether to hold their own

Quake this year or to attend regional Quakes. Some High School Friends attended adult workshops.

Our workshops furthered our exploration of building communities of peace. They included: "Telling Our Stories about Gifts and Leadings," "When Peacework Brings Division: the Prophet and the Mediator," "Labyrinth as Contemplative Spiritual Discipline: Way Opens To Center," "When to Say Yes and When to Say No: Discerning Our Capacity Of Working Your Faith In The World," "William Penn & the Redefinition Of Quakerism," "Israel/Palestine with the Christian Peacemaker Team," "Nuclear Power – Nuclear Waste (Worship Sharing on Earthcare Circles)," "Beyond War," "Resource Information For Meeting Treasurer, Finance Committee Members and Others," "Partnering with African Quakers and the African Great Lakes Region," and "Quakers in America."

Several social activities were organized to balance the serious contemplations of the week. Friends participated in a 26-mile bike ride on Friday afternoon to explore the area surrounding the Meeting House, including restored wetlands on the Illinois River. Friends saw blue herons and a red-tailed hawk. Friends found a 1002nd use for duct tape: it can be used to repair temporarily a high pressure tire with an aneurism. Young and older Friends danced with joy at the annual Friday evening folk dance.

We were blessed with beautiful, cool weather and gentle, cooling breezes throughout the entire gathering – a miracle and welcomed relief for most from the sweltering temperatures we usually experience in late July. We were also blessed with a full, blue moon during the last days of the gathering.

EPISTLES

2004 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We write to you with a sense of yearning. Our 2004 Illinois Yearly Meeting has left us longing to reach out and support you as you grow with God, while also asking that you pray for us. We have been called in many directions. The theme of our session was “Building Communities of Peace.” God is calling us to develop a “Peace House on the Prairie” to support peacebuilding in our own region. Yet God also calls us to support Friends and other peacemakers across the Earth: for example, African friends rebuilding homes and trust amid war, young adult Friends growing their Quaker faith, and wealthy Friends struggling to recognize their own role in economic injustice and racism.

Amid these calls, “peace” becomes such a small word for a great tapestry of solutions. Peace begins with imagining a dream. A just peace is not passivity, but a dynamic form of life in which people flourish in community. Peace is recognizing the “life cycle” of violence and intervening early in the tension stage, such as in Kenya today. Peace is seeing that disagreements can provide a wellspring of creative energy, if they are addressed with expertise, love, recognition of all gifts, and mutual respect. The foundation of a community of peace is the love of God. Are we willing to accept God’s love, to be directed by the living God, and to find our deepest fulfillment in growing toward God?

All around us, Friends and other peacemakers are developing wonderful ways of peacebuilding that are easy to learn. Deep, active listening from an open heart. Telling over and over our stories of peacemaking, conflict resolution, and community building, which are also the Story of God’s Work. Openness to alternatives. Remembering that the atrocities of our wars will perpetuate unless we engage in formal reconciliation programs; the United States civil war 140 years ago lingers in the form of racism, and such scars will persist in today’s war zones unless we bring Alternatives to Violence and Trauma Healing programs to those communities.

Dearest Friends, we rejoice to tell you that in worship following a divinely inspired message, God blessed our community with a conviction. We had been made tender by our days sharing Spirit together, and had been reminded to surrender self-will to an innocent trust of God. Twice we were invited to end our worship session, and twice we were unable to rise. Our message from this experience is that “Communities of Peace,” the communion of Spirit, begin to grow only when we can share our pain and hear our neighbor’s pain with an open heart. The pain of our own racism is guilt, fear and shame. Asking for help from the meeting and from God, we can hear, validate, and then begin to heal the wounds in our humanity. We all must ask for repentance.

In the midst of joyful music, we finally rose. We thank everyone for sharing their gifts at our gathering. The quality common to all Friends is that we are active spiritual seekers. Friends, we hope we can hear your pain and your gifts with trusting, tender hearts.

God’s blessings on you,

The Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends

High School Friends Epistle

Dear Friends,

We have enjoyed this year's IYM experience. For a change the majority of our group arrived on Wednesday, but the newcomers later in the week were no less delightful. During our first workshop we explored non-violent solutions to conflicts and shared our stories about personal experiences with non-violence as a resolution. This sharing brought us closer together as a community of new and old members.

Throughout the week our community grew as we bowled, played games, and ate together. The High School Friends are exceedingly grateful for the generous adults who watched over us, supported us, helped us grow and provided us with snacks. We enjoyed returning the favor by volunteering as the dinner crew Thursday night. Abandoning tradition, we went bowling instead of to the water park Friday afternoon. Thank you to our wonderful drivers. On Saturday we enjoyed hearing about Steven Walsh's experiences with the Eskimos. We look forward to advancing our peaceful relationships with each other through Quakes in the coming year.

P.S. We are not responsible for the problem with the drains.

Junior High Friends Epistle

Dear Yearly Meeting Friends:

We are members of the McNabb, Illinois yearly meeting group, sending this epistle. While we were here in McNabb for the weekend, we did many activities. Our meetings started Thursday with a guest speaker named Alice Howenstine, who spoke about her journey and how she discovered Quakerism. Then, after her story, we repainted a mural for the shed that we kids hang out in. We named this shed the "Penn House." Lastly, that day we dug up Daylilies by the meeting house because termites were eating away at the foundation which needed work.

Next came Friday. It started off as an early morning at 9:00 when meeting with guest speakers named Grayce and Neil Mesner, who also talked about Quakerism. Then, we started a new activity of origami and continued the same activities as yesterday. Around 2:30, some Junior High students then went swimming at an indoor pool in Hennepin, Illinois.

- Saturday, we played a name game to get to know each other. We all said our name and said an animal that started with the same letter as the beginning of our first name. For example: Alyssa, Ape or Bart, Bear. Then, we played with a Frisbee called Beamo after our worship of silence. Lastly, are some further activities that we engaged in:
- Several in our group participated in the First Annual IYM 26 mile bike ride. We biked through cornfields, soy fields and visited a marsh on the Illinois River. Then, one of our members had a bad tire that we patched with duct tape, which held for 20 miles!
- During the night, several of us were awakened by a baby crying in pain from an ear infection. Even though we were awakened by her crying, we still cared for her as we are all part of a community.
- We enjoyed watching the beautiful, joyful babies playing in their playing area.
- Some of us experienced a need to sleep and care for ourselves and to not go to bed late and wake up tired.

- On Friday night, we enjoyed the tradition of dancing on the lawn, followed by watermelon. Several of us with hands sticky from juice enjoyed shaking hands with those that had clean hands. Some of us ate so much watermelon, we got stomach aches! We all had a great time and look forward to meeting again next year. We wish you all a peaceful year!

6 – 10 Year Old Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The theme for Illinois Yearly Meeting this year is “Building Communities of Peace.”

We started by making toys for animals in shelters. After we heard the story of the Good Shepherd we did activities like weaving and journal-making. We liked being able to put down our feelings in places where only we could understand. It felt good to finish our weaving. It felt good when we got to the very last stitch in the weaving.

We liked to talk together and sing songs. We popped big bubbles and played together. We caught the giant frisbee ten times in a row. We are glad when each new child joins us.

We heard the story of the Good Samaritan. People who help you are your neighbors. If you need help and don’t get it, then the person who didn’t help is not your neighbor.

We heard the story of the “Fierce Feathers.” We liked this story because nobody had to fight. The Quakers welcomed the warriors into the meeting house with friendly faces. Young Dinah wanted a feather so she could tickle her brother.

We wish yearly meeting did not have to end.

Peace be with you,
The Six-Ten Year Olds of
Illinois Yearly Meeting 2004
Sylvia, Delia, Nathan, Gabriel,
Billy, Laure, Claire, Aaron

3 - 5 Year Old Friends Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

On Thursday we read books and did art projects on how each of us is special, and the different feelings we have.

On Friday we talked about helping each other and how there is room for everyone. We talked about how God makes enough for everyone if we share it with each other. We read a book about being kind to small creatures. It was called *Please Don’t Step On Me!*

On Saturday we read *The Rainbow Fish* and learned that sharing can bring peace. We made beautiful rainbow fish out of paper bags and glitter. Then, Helen played the flute for us and we sang songs.

And every day, we had fun playing with play dough.

- Kajetan, Marlana, Phoebe, Pam, Jeff and Helen

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 7/1/03 to 6/30/04

GENERAL FUND

BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-03 (FOR BUDGETING '03-'04)		\$24,410.47
INCOME		
Contributions – Meetings		\$24,722.00
Contributions – Individuals		1733.00
Interest – Friends Meetinghouse Fund		400.00
Interest – First State Bank Ck. Account		748.82
Interest – First State Bank CD		144.57
Book Sales – '03 Session		34.88
Total Income		\$27,783.27
EXPENSES – Operating	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Publications	\$4500.00	\$3962.20
Committees	200.00	25.90
Religious Education	600.00	600.00
Travel – IYM Representatives	4500.00	4602.23
FWCC Triennial	1000.00	1000.00
Office	1300.00	908.81
Trustees	2500.00	2500.00
Staff Travel	3500.00	5181.56
Peace Resources Transfer	100.00	100.00
Insurance	0	4137.00
IYM '03 Session Deficit	0	761.62
Miscellaneous	30.47	0
Transfer to Trustee's Fund	0	295.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$17,930.47	\$24,074.32
EXPENSES – Contributions	BUDGET AND ACTUAL	
Friends General Conference (FGC)		\$3200.00
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)		400.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)		400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)		400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Midwest		130.00
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)		300.00
Assoc. Comm. Of Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)		250.00
Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (FLGC)		50.00
Chicago Fellowship of Friends Scholarship Fund		100.00
Pro-NICA		100.00
Olney Friends School		100.00
Scattergood Friends School		200.00
Earlham College		200.00
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)		100.00
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)		50.00
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN)		150.00
Friends Peace Teams		150.00
Project Lakota		200.00
Total Contributions Expenses		\$6480.00
Total Expenses (Operating and Contributions)		\$30,554.32
BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-04 (FOR BUDGETING '04-'05)		\$21,639.42

Special Funds: Income and Expenses 2003—2004

SITE FUND		ENVIRONMENTAL WKND – no activity	
BALANCE 6-30-03	\$21,593.81	Balance 6-30-04	\$367.92
INCOME		SUFFERINGS FUND	
Contributions – Meetings	10,308.00	BALANCE 6-30-03	\$25.00
Contributions – Individuals	930.00	INCOME—Contribution	75.00
EXPENSES —Repairs & Maint.	12,381.45	Balance 6-30-04	\$100.00
Balance 6-30-04	\$20,450.36	TRUSTEES FUND	
YOUTH FUND		BALANCE 6-30-03	-295.00
Balance 6-30-03	\$5414.99	Transfer from General Fund	295.00
INCOME		Balance 6-30-04	\$0
Contributions – Meetings	2061.00	MEN'S WEEKEND—No Activity	
Contributions – Individuals	342.00	Balance 6-30-04	\$0.00
Registration—Easter Quake	60.00	PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
EXPENSES		BALANCE 6-30-03	\$272.58
Travel	2667.08	INCOME	
Food Etc. - Easter Quake	204.57	Contribution	50.00
Balance 6-30-04	\$5006.34	Transfer from General Fund	100.00
STAFF FUND		Reg. Training Sess.—GI Rights	610.00
Balance 6-30-03	\$18,663.68	EXPENSES —Training Session	606.62
INCOME		Balance 6-30-04	\$425.96
Contributions – Meetings	22,241.50	BOB BELL MEMORIAL FUND	
Contributions – Individuals	540.00	INCOME —Contributions	\$725.00
EXPENSES		Balance 6-30-04	\$725.00
Salary	24,700.00	PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND	
Total Expenses	9732.27	INCOME	
Balance 6-30-03	\$16,745.18	Contributions—Meetings	25660.00
SPECIAL GIFTS		Contributions—Individuals	10389.19
Balance 6-30-03	\$20,345.62	Contributions—Foundation	1000.00
EXPENSES		Sale of Calendars/Cards	1965.00
Inspection, assessment,		TOTAL INCOME	\$39,014.19
Consultations, recommendations	1693.80	EXPENSES	
Balance 6-30-04	\$18,651.82	Architect & Consult. Fees	3222.25
FWCC TRIENNIAL		Supplies/calendars/cards	635.55
Balance 6-30-03	\$990.00	Conference Calls	480.96
INCOME		TOTAL EXPENSES	4338.76
Transfer from General Fund	1000.00	Balance 6-30-04	\$34,675.43
Contribution	285.00	'03 SESSION	
EXPENSES —Travel	1891.77	INCOME —Registration	10706.00
Balance 6-30-04	\$383.23	EXPENSES	
WOMEN'S WEEKEND		Prepaid	2683.53
Balance 6-30-03	\$254.22	'03 Session	8784.09
INCOME —Registration	745.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	11467.62
EXPENSES —Food & Program	735.72	Balance 6-30-04 (Deficit)	-\$761.62
Balance 6-30-04	\$263.50	(shown as expense in General Fund)	
COUPLES WEEKEND—No Activity			
BALANCE 6-30-04	\$64.11		

Monthly Meeting Contributions

Meeting	Total	General Fund	Site Fund	Youth Fund	Staff
Bloomington-Normal	320.00	120.00	80.00	10.00	110.00
Clear Creek	3770.00	1560.00	650.00	130.00	1430.00
Columbia	3045.00	1260.00	525.00	105.00	1155.00
Decatur	580.00	240.00	100.00	20.00	220.00
DeKalb	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Downers Grove	3625.00	1500.00	600.00	130.00	1395.00
Duneland	1305.00	540.00	225.00	45.00	495.00
Evanston	8650.00	3638.00	1517.00	301.00	3194.00
57 th Street	1232.50	508.00	210.00	40.00	474.50
Lake Forest	9425.00	3900.00	1625.00	325.00	3575.00
Upper Fox Valley	1375.00	660.00	275.00	55.00	385.00
Milwaukee	3000.00	1241.00	517.00	104.00	1138.00
Northside	2500.00	1035.00	431.00	86.00	948.00
Oak Park	1160.00	480.00	200.00	40.00	440.00
Oshkosh	200.00	82.00	34.00	8.00	76.00
Peoria Galesburg	580.00	240.00	100.00	20.00	220.00
Rock Valley	1015.00	420.00	175.00	35.00	385.00
St. Louis	11065.00	4575.00	1910.00	380.00	4200.00
South Bend	2660.00	1140.00	475.00	95.00	950.00
Southern Illinois	200.00	83.00	34.00	7.00	76.00
Urbana-Champaign	3625.00	1500.00	625.00	125.00	1375.00
Totals	59332.50	24722.00	10308.00	2061.00	22241.50

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

FUND BALANCES		CASH IN BANKS	
General	\$21639.42	First State Bank Ck. Acct.	96161.97
Site	20450.36	First State Bank CD	11296.92
Youth	5006.34	Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10000.00
Staff	16745.18	Accounts Total	\$117,458.89
Special Gifts	18651.82		
FWCC Triennial	383.23		
Women's Weekend	263.50	Respectfully Submitted,	
Couples Weekend	64.11	Roger Laughlin, Treasurer	
Environmental Weekend	367.92		
Sufferings	100.00		
Trustees	0		
Peace Resources Comm.	425.96		
Bob Bell Memorial	725.00		
Property Improvement	34675.43		
Prepd. Expenses for '04 session	-2039.38		
Total Fund Balance	\$117,458.89		

2004-2005 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENSES

Publishing	4,900.00
Committees	200.00
Religious Education	600.00
Travel—IYM Representatives	4,500.00
FWCC Triennial	1,000.00
Office	1,000.00
Insurance	4,200.00
Staff Travel	<u>3,500.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$19,900.00

CONTRIBUTIONS

Friends General Conference	3,200.00
American Friends Service Committee	400.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Midwest	130.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00
Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs	250.00
Friends for Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns	50.00
Chicago Fellowship of Friends Scholarship Fund	100.00
Pro-NICA	100.00
Olney Friends School	100.00
Scattergood Friends School	200.00
Earlham College	200.00
Earlham School of Religion	100.00
Quaker United Nations Office	50.00
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	150.00
Friends Peace Teams	150.00
Project Lakota	<u>200.00</u>
Total Contributions	6,480.00

TOTAL BUDGET

\$26,380.00

Balance Available

21,639.42

Transfer from Special Gifts Fund

4,740.58

Donations Pledged

4,000.00

Net Reduction in Special Gifts Fund

740.58

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 43)

We faced the challenge of a big job as a brand new committee, meeting together in November, January and June, with additional e-mail check-ins. We held conference calls for technical assistance with Michael Wadja, Associate Secretary for Interpretation of Friends General Conference and with Henry Freeman, Quaker fundraising consultant (gratis).

A first activity was to get the word out, in general, that IYM welcomes gifts from individuals. Together with the Finance Committee, we provided a letter of introduction to the monthly meetings last fall and distributed a general “How to Give to Illinois Yearly Meeting” brochure at spring Continuing Committee for monthly meeting literature racks.

We began the work of making lists of prospective donors and prospective volunteers for the Campaign, with some private talks. This work will grow in intensity in the coming year. We will pursue a small grant from the Charleston Fund of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for termite repair work.

A major job in fundraising is articulating the vision for the project. Experts tell us that this is why people contribute to a project. With building projects, the building is a means to this end—the difference it will make for Friends and meetings within IYM. This insight also returned us to the advancement aspect of development work, which can get lost in the technicalities of setting up fund raising. We have great potential for renewing advancement as relationship building within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Some work on the activities that the new building will make possible has been undertaken by the Program Advisory Group to the Site Envisioning and Building Committee and an envisioning process is being developed to work with monthly meetings in the coming year. Articulating these insights will be absolutely critical both to the development process and to the work of our architects.

Much of our efforts this year were to try to find a suitable campaign consultant—getting leads on prospective candidates after assessing our own limited technical base on fundraising within the yearly meeting. We want someone who has experience with major campaigns, has some familiarity or willingness to learn Quaker quirks and values, and is available and interested in helping us. We are pursuing leads from Friends’ circles and locally-based fund raisers. This work has gone much more slowly than we anticipated. However, we became increasingly convinced that the right match is critical to ensure that our money is well spent. Recent developments in our search have been more positive and we will be working together on resolving this at our committee meetings during IYM.

We may wish to have an additional campaign organizer staff person to do things like compile lists, set up meetings, encourage deadlines and ride herd on volunteers that would be very costly if provided by the consultant. Additional clerical work hours will be needed for mailings and data base work. We have been advised that overhead costs, including consulting help, typically run 10% and more likely 15% of the goal of a campaign of our size, and should be considered as an investment in the campaign.

We have discussed options for the structure of a 3-5 year campaign and exploring these will be one of our first tasks with the consultant. Typically there is a "Campaign Committee" that is geographically organized and works with trained volunteers to explain the project and solicit contributions. In our case, this may be the logical evolution of the Site Envisioning Committee. Since we have no central office, our administrative logistics will be especially important to resolve. A Case Statement will be prepared by Development Committee with the assistance of our consultant. It will convey our vision for the Yearly Meeting and the year-round role that better facilities will enable us to fulfill.

Henry Freeman has advised us that it would probably not be cost-effective to have a consultant do a feasibility study for the campaign, since we know what our project is and that our donors will come from the greater IYM family. It will be important to have a sense of the range of our key donors' capabilities, to be sure that we can reasonably achieve our goal and not to be stuck half way.

We will be asking the Yearly Meeting business session to approve certain items. We welcome questions and visitors to our meetings.

- Cathy Garra

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (See Minute 17)

We were again unable to convene this year. The work we had hoped to do was to develop a privacy policy in the service of publishing photographs on the web site, and to pave the way for publishing additional materials. In reality, we do not currently have the volunteer resources to do more with the web site than is being done now. We are able to publish electronically the Among Friends journal, most of the Minute Book, Plummer Lectures, IYM events, and committee documents. For the time being, this appears to serve our minimum needs.

- We recommend that the Electronic Communications Working Group not be continued as an ad hoc committee.
- We recommend that the functions of electronic publication be placed under the care of the Publications Committee.
- We recommend that the person filling the role of the "webservant" be named to the Publications Committee. This could be on an ex-officio basis. The goal is to have a venue in which the publishers of IYM's paper and electronic materials cooperate closely together. (In reality, this is exactly how we are working today.) Dawn Amos is willing to continue as webservant.

Much more could be done with IYM's electronic publications, but not without additional volunteer time. Perhaps webservants from the Monthly Meetings could one day work together to improve the IYM web site.

Publications committee joins in this recommendation, and would welcome the additional energy, and the larger view of what publishing has become.

- Dawn Amos, David Finke & Pat Wixom

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (ECC)

For our Fall 2003, the IYM Environmental Concerns Committee met at Dixon Mounds State Historical Museum, south of Peoria, Illinois, just a short distance from Illinois Highway #24. We camped Friday and Saturday nights a few miles north at

Rice Lake Conservation Area with campfire activities. Morning greeted us with nearby flights of ducks, geese and smaller birds. We spent most of Saturday at the wonderful museum of the State Historical Society with excellent exhibits, dioramas, movies, tools, cultural artifacts and music of the earlier Native Americans in the Illinois River valley; the spiritual beliefs are included. Many school groups visit this educational museum during the week. We would like to suggest that nearby Friends Meetings visit the Museum with their children as a Meeting all-day outing for cultural understanding, religious practices and a community life close to the land.

After Silent Worship by a lake teeming with birdlife, we drove south to Havana, crossed the Illinois River and continued to Chataqua National Wildlife Refuge on the bluffs above the Illinois River. On our hike there, we passed wildflowers in bloom, handsome trees and a variety of waterfowls; however, the peak experience was observing 60 pelicans in flight north to Canada! Those with near sightedness counted easily 30 pelicans. Their gentle wing flapping and their teamwork as a flying flock reminded us to relax and to work together in God's beautiful world- our message to share with IYM Friends.

As mentioned elsewhere by Alice Howenstine, our present IYM Representative to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN), FCUN has a new Mission/Action statement and a new name, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). QEW had its recent spring meeting on the campus of North Park University, Chicago, May 20-23, 2004. Being nearby for us, IYM-ECC met with QEW on this beautiful campus that was doused with excess rain and surrounded by high creek water levels. The rush, the roar of this stream that flowed through the middle of campus reminded us of the power of rushing water (a natural phenomenon), but compounded by human planning (many square miles of impervious streets and black-topped parking lots). Please refer to Alice's QEW report.

Our IYM-ECC members participated in the many committee meetings and the plenary sessions that are described in the report of QEW to IYM. We gained insights from the larger group of Friends, made friends with QEW members from all across the country and worked on plans for the first cross-country bicycle ride at IYM (July 30, 2004). Many of us responded to the invitation of Alice and Bill Howenstine to visit their Pioneer Tree Farm on Sunday and Monday, May 23-24; we enjoyed the beauty of their trees, the care needed for growing trees and the warm Howenstine hospitality. We, our committee, encourages all Friends to plant one or more trees to enjoy, to remove carbon dioxide and to utilize the coming global warming.

- By Robert L. Wixom

FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE REPORT (See Minute 14)

At the 2003 session of Illinois Yearly Meeting, the Faith and Practice Committee presented two background documents requested by the Continuing Committee: "Rationale for the Illinois Yearly Meeting Effort to Write a Faith and Practice" and "Thumbnail History of IYM Experience with Books of Discipline." These were included in the Advance Documents for 2003 and copies will be available at the 2004 session, as they help to provide background for the work of the Committee. The principal foci of the Faith and Practice this year were four: (1) Collecting comments and suggestions on the two sections approved provisionally at the 2003 session of Illinois Yearly Meeting, (2) Completing work on a section on "Friends' Manner of

Decision-Making,” (3) Collecting queries for inclusion in the book of Faith and Practice, and (4) Working on a section on the structure of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, at its 2003 session, approved on a five year provisional basis two sections of a new Faith and Practice, the Introduction and a section on membership. The Yearly Meeting approved these sections with the understanding that they would be revisited and revised as needed at the end of five years. The Committee has begun to collect comments and suggestions for future revision and urges Friends to continue during the coming year to forward additional comments and suggestions on these two sections to the clerk of the Faith and Practice Committee. They are posted on the Illinois Yearly Meeting web site, www.ilym.org. The Committee encourages Friends to labor with the issues regarding membership of young Friends raised at last year’s yearly meeting session.

The Committee submits a third section of a new book of faith and practice to the Yearly Meeting for its consideration. This section is titled, “Friends’ Manner of Decision-Making.” Drafts of earlier versions of this material were shared with Illinois Yearly Meeting in previous years and were revised in light of comments and suggestions received. The text was sent to monthly meetings, was posted on the Illinois Yearly Meeting web site, and was printed in the Summer 2004 issue of *Among Friends*.

The Committee asks that Illinois Yearly Meeting again proceed by approving that the section be instituted provisionally for five years, after which it would be reconsidered and revised as necessary. This will give Friends a chance to use the section on a trial basis, for it is its use that will best test its soundness or deficiency for Illinois Yearly Meeting.

A start has been made to collecting authentically ILYM queries. Queries have been gleaned from Illinois Yearly Meeting minutes and records and from monthly meeting workshops, forums, and newsletters. However, there is no intent to restrict consideration to native Illinois queries. We have received, gratefully, suggested queries gleaned from other yearly meetings as well. Please continue to send the Committee queries that you think are especially helpful. Please also submit quotations that you would like to see in the book of faith and practice.

Much time has been devoted by the Committee on a section of the projected Faith and Practice describing the structure of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Brief discussions of the nature of worship groups, and allowed, preparative, monthly, quarterly meetings, and the yearly meeting have been drafted. We were grateful to receive the “Statement of Purpose for Incorporation” for Illinois Yearly Meeting to assist us in our thinking. Questionnaires were sent out to all worship groups, preparative meetings, and monthly meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting to give us a better sense how Illinois Friends understand these different entities and the relations that are seen to hold among them and those that Friends think should hold among them, ideally. At the time of our June meeting, responses had been received from two worship groups and a member of a former worship group, seven monthly meetings, and the yearly meeting’s sole preparative meeting. We would welcome additional responses. The Committee does not yet have a draft of this section to share with the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee asks for your prayerful support of its labors on your behalf.

- Report Approved by the Committee 19 June 2004

FAITH & PRACTICE APPROVED SECTION (See Minute 27)

FRIENDS' MANNER OF DECISION-MAKING

A QUAKER MEETING FOR BUSINESS

As many Friends as are able gather together to make the decisions that affect the meeting community. We begin by centering down in silent worship. If the business is difficult, or if the group feels keenly its need to be brought together in the Spirit, this silence may go on for a long time.

The clerk of the meeting introduces the items of business, one at a time. Some are small matters, while others are large; some appear mundane, while others deal directly with matters of faithful commitment. Each piece of business, regardless of its nature, is raised into the waiting, seeking silence.

Participants, when they feel led to speak to the issue under consideration, seek recognition from the clerk, and address the clerk or the meeting at large. All try to listen deeply to each speaker, trying to hear the guidance of God: the still, small voice which may find expression through any one of us, or (more often) find partial expression in several Friends' contributions. The clerk keeps a slow, reflective pace and an atmosphere hospitable to many different perspectives. Sometimes quite opposite views are expressed; elements from such diverse perspectives may reappear later, in unexpected combinations.

Slowly, or sometimes quickly, an agreement emerges: Friends find unity in a particular course of action which seems right for the meeting. Often, this course of action differs significantly from any idea present when the issue was introduced. The clerk or others try to put this agreement into words, as they recognize its emergence. Before the item of business is done, the clerk or recording clerk will voice this "sense of the meeting" very explicitly, to check her or his understanding with the meeting; often, the minute recording the decision is composed on the spot and read back "in the face of the meeting." The actual decision takes place when this clearly formulated understanding is accepted by the assembled group. No vote is ever taken.

When the decision has been formulated to the meeting's satisfaction, the group settles into more silence before the next item of business—which is introduced, and handled, in the same way.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Friends' approach to decision-making differs fundamentally from the decision-making processes in the world around us, whether in government, business, academia, volunteer organizations, or other religious groups. Our decisions are not based on the desires of the majority. Neither do they rest on compromises that seek to placate groups or individuals by granting some of their wishes. The sense of the meeting sought by Friends is that course of action recognized by the group as a leading for the group as a whole. While we prefer our decisions to be unanimous, unanimity is not the goal of this process, and it is no guarantee of finding the will of God for the meeting.

In the Society of Friends, decisions about matters of business are the responsibility of the entire meeting. Our decisions are not made by an administrator or a council of representatives. Any of us may have some divine guidance on any matter; without

each Friend's care the meeting community risks missing the full picture of what it is being called by God to do.

Meeting for business is based on deep, open, prayerful listening. We listen for guidance directly, and we also listen carefully and prayerfully to each other, expecting to find guidance from the same deep source in one another's words. This is the same sort of waiting and listening, the same openness to the leadings of the Spirit, that characterizes our meetings for worship. We wait together to be led as a body, just as we wait in meeting for worship for a leading to speak in ministry.

The spiritual growth of the meeting and of its people is the most important outcome of any piece of business. As a consequence, even routine business needs to be conducted in the Light. The processes that are used for small things will be the ones that come naturally when a more demanding issue arises. Our love and respect for each other, and our faith that deep springs of guidance and inspiration are always available, empower us to trust that a faithful path forward can be found. Meeting for business, like meeting for worship, can lead to the experience of a "gathered" meeting, which can be profoundly transformative for both the group and for the individuals involved.

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A SENSE OF THE MEETING

Some Advices on Participation in Meeting for Business

Hold the meeting prayerfully in the Light; hold each speaker and the clerks in the Light.

Pay attention to the process, as well as to the issues. Quaker practice in meeting for business is best learned by first-hand observation and participation.

Seek the good of the meeting as a whole, the will of God, the mind of Christ; be prepared to let go your personal preferences and individual comfort.

Stay centered, or return if you find you have strayed

Give your full attention to the person speaking, and to the Spirit within. This kind of attention is incompatible with formulating your own responses while someone else is speaking.

Allow others to complete what they are saying, and then allow some silence for reflection before you begin to speak.

If another has already made your point, forgo speaking.

Seek the clerk's recognition before speaking; address the clerk or the meeting as a whole, not individual Friends.

Speak in the hope of serving the meeting's search for Truth. Your personal opinion, or your feelings on an issue, are relevant only insofar as they help in that search.

Share the part of the Truth that is given you. The meeting needs the Light given to each person, in order to find the path that is right for it.

Speak to the item of business being discussed. Stay close to the essentials that can help the meeting reach a decision. Stop when you are done, so others can hold your statement, and the business at hand, in the Light.

In some larger meetings, it is a helpful custom for each person to speak only once to an item of business; in smaller meetings, especially when part of the work is gathering information, this is not always either practical or helpful.

Let your speech be plain, simple, and clear. Argumentation, rhetoric, and swaying by appeal to emotion are all out of place in meeting for business. This is more

than a matter of group style: such simplicity supports an attitude of seeking, of listening for divine guidance.

Support the clerks in prayer as they formulate the minute.

After a matter is concluded, return to silence and center again in preparation for the next item of business.

The Roles of the Clerks in Meeting for Business

The job of the clerk is to discern the will of God as it comes into focus through the meeting's common search for it. Where there is a recording clerk or assistant clerk, he or she shares this responsibility with the clerk. These roles are at most superficially analogous to those of the secretary and chair of a secular organization, and clerks with such experience will find that it does not always serve them well. Those clerking a Quaker meeting need to learn this job: by talking with other clerks and watching them at meetings for business, by attending to supportive feedback from their own meeting, and by reading or attending workshops.

Good organization provides a groundwork for good clerking. A meeting calendar, with dates that certain actions must be initiated in order to produce the outcomes the meeting expects, is invaluable. Preparing an agenda is important: identifying what items of business are to come before the meeting, choosing an order. It is prudent to make sure that committee clerks or others presenting business are prepared. The clerk should be aware of the history of past decisions related to present items of business. Preparing the agenda also involves considering beforehand which items of business could wait until a future meeting for business, if a decision proves unexpectedly complex or difficult, or if the Spirit moves in unforeseen ways. The agenda is never considered more than tentative; actual consideration of business should be left to the guidance of the Spirit. Reading a query at the beginning of meeting is often used to help settle Friends in readiness for business.

While preparation of items of business is an important part of the clerk's work, so too is the spiritual preparation of becoming centered for the meeting.

The clerk's task is to help the meeting community hear and recognize the will of God for that community. This task should come before the clerk's personal preferences, or even deep convictions; the meeting's trust that the clerk is seeking to assist that corporate discernment should not be abused. Quaker clerks stay out of the discussion and avoid contributing their own perspectives to the business at hand. On rare occasions when the call to speak seems imperative, the clerk will make it clear she or he is speaking, for a moment, as an individual member of the meeting, and then go back to impartial clerking. The clerks try to encourage an open, seeking atmosphere in which divergent perspectives can be voiced.

Discussions should be kept focused on the current item of business; a meandering discussion with little focus will not generally come to closure. The clerk may have to intervene to help Friends focus, interrupting digressions or personal sharing which is not relevant to the issue at hand. A secure trust that the clerk is not trying to influence the meeting's deliberations may make these interventions easier.

Moments may arise when worshipful spirit is lost. The clerk or others who recognize this may ask for silence, to try to regain this spirit.

Composing and reading back the sense of the meeting immediately after it is reached is very helpful, especially with difficult decisions. "Minuting in the face of

the meeting,” as this practice is called, was the standard when minutes were written longhand in record books; the practice is frequently used today and has been found to be helpful. Clerks need not feel embarrassed by the time it takes to compose a minute, or to let the meeting reflect on it. They may ask for quiet while they write, reminding the meeting that this is an opportunity to return to the center. Clerks may also ask to be held in the Light while attempting to capture the sense of the meeting, especially on a difficult issue. Reading back the minute provides a helpful check on everyone’s understanding of the decision. Friends are generally clearer about the decision and more ready to implement it, when the meeting has paused to see and feel and savor the unity that has been reached.

Process for Items of Business

Meeting affairs are sometimes delegated to committees or to individual Friends. At other times, a concern comes to the meeting for business from a committee or from an individual. Considerable preparation may be necessary to present the matter clearly; this preparation should be done beforehand. This may involve finding out the facts, doing the calculations, thinking things through, giving the matter careful and prayerful consideration.

Consider before coming to the meeting for business whether you are (or your committee is) providing information, or requesting seasoning, or recommending a decision. If your business requires a decision from the meeting, make your presentation clearly and completely, then step back. The clerk of the meeting calls for consideration of the matter. The meeting may need some time to come to the clarity that you have already reached—and then may find itself led in a different direction. Trying to control the decision is an impediment to corporate discernment. The meeting should take the time to be clear about the responsibilities of its committees, especially what it expects them to decide at the committee level. Trust the work of meeting committees; the meeting should not expect, during meeting for business, to go over every fact and every consideration behind a recommendation.

In response to a committee’s report the meeting minutes an action. Possibilities include acknowledging receipt of the report, accepting recommendations from the report, and/or referring the matter for further consideration.

CHALLENGES

The primary goal of the meeting’s decision process is to come into unity in God. The meeting and those participating in a meeting for business are urged to not allow the matter at hand to eclipse this fundamental goal. Thus the meeting should cultivate an openness to receive a truth that may be missing from the perspectives most frequently expressed, to be open to alternatives to preconceived ideas. The clerk should see to it that this process is not rushed; returning to silent worship can often help a meeting’s ability truly to listen to the variety of perspectives within it. If unity in the sense of the meeting cannot be found with respect to the matter at hand, the issue is left for further seasoning. The old policy remains unchanged, or the new business not acted upon; the subject is set aside until another meeting for business to allow for more prayer, reflection, and conversation. The ultimate solution, and the group that takes the time to come to unity about it, are generally both the better for waiting.

Trying to hurry an item of business, either because the meeting has tired of it, or because the meeting for business is held in a strictly limited time period, often causes problems, and should be avoided. A meeting may search for a long time before it finds the course of action right for it. Other times, it is there early in the process, but it is long before the meeting is able to recognize its rightness. Friends' really creative or radical insights have often taken a very long time to reach full meeting support.

Occasionally, an agreement reached by the meeting reflects something quite other than the will of God. Friends may happen to agree for different, conflicting, reasons; when all are eager to act, everyone can have what they want by ignoring these differences. Major differences may become evident at a later step, however, making united action very difficult. Other times, unanimity is reached because people have dropped out of the process, feeling unheard or unheeded. A unanimous decision, in cases like this, is unlikely to reflect any deep leading for the meeting, and is often better laid aside for a time.

Sometimes a sense of the meeting is seen to emerge, though a Friend present remains unclear that the course of action in question represents a faithful response by the meeting to the divine guidance it has received. When a Friend is not united in the emerging sense of the meeting, it may be because of personal factors or circumstances that intrude on her or his prayerful consideration of the issue; it may be because he or she discerns that the course of action toward which the meeting appears to be heading is not sufficiently faithful to the leadings of the Spirit; or it may be because he or she is simply unable to discern God's will on this particular matter. If a Friend not drawn into the unity of the emerging sense of the meeting, believes her or his disunity is not so grounded as to warrant the meeting's further attention, the Friend may ask to "stand aside" so as not to impede the meeting's work. A Friend who has a clear leading, or "stop," that a proposed action is not appropriate should clearly communicate this concern. It is a responsibility to do so even if it is uncomfortable for the individual or for the meeting. Typically a meeting will not proceed if even a single individual is not in unity. This is not to say that an individual Friend has the prerogative to block a decision. But the meeting should be extremely cautious in accepting a course of action where one or more Friends present have expressed contrary leadings. It should weigh heavily whether moving ahead with the matter at hand is not less important than the loving fellowship of the meeting. Our practice should reflect faithfulness to the expectation that divine guidance will lead the meeting into unity when all humbly submit themselves to the divine will.

- *Faith and Practice Committee, 24 January 2004*

- Approved by Illinois Yearly Meeting, 30 July 2004 on a trial 5-year basis."

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minutes 29 & 44)

In 2003 the Finance Committee was asked to prepare a Long-Term plan and budget for work to be done on the Meeting House and other structures. To this end the Maintenance and Planning Committee submitted a report to the Finance Committee. It was very helpful and we will continue to work with them around projected costs of work over this coming year.

Also, we were asked to file for incorporation for the Yearly Meeting. This has been accomplished. On April 29, 2004, in Cook County, Illinois, The Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was recorded as an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation. The wording of the Statement of Purpose for Incorporation is included below. Now the committee is working to update and make change in the Yearly Meeting's titles and business papers.

We have completed the work on moving to modern insurance coverage. Until this year we had replacement insurance of only \$130,000 for the Meeting House. Now the buildings are covered to \$595,000 and our officers and volunteers are protected with liability insurance. The cost of the annual premium has risen by \$2,800.

The Trustees Fund will be laid down in the next few months. Beginning this year the mowing and utilities costs will be paid from the Site Fund; insurance will come from the Operating Fund.

The Finance Committee recommends inter-fund transfers for the costs of termite repair work as follows: \$725 from the Bob Bell Memorial Fund, and \$10,000 from the Site Fund, both to the Property Improvement Fund.

The Finance Committee recommends increases in the contribution per member from monthly meetings as follows:

\$10 per member for the Site Fund, due to termite repair planned,

\$10 per member for the General Fund, due to increases in insurance and continued outreach to and support of meetings.

The last increase in these two funds was in 2002. This will bring the total contribution per member to \$165.00.

Finally, the Finance Committee this year has been unable to adhere to the Yearly Meeting's longstanding policy of budgeting to spend only what is already on hand in the General Fund. We propose spending a total of \$26,380.00 in 2004-2005. This amount exceeds the balance remaining from the previous year by \$4,740.58. In order to assure that we can meet expenses we ask that \$4,740.58 be transferred from the Special Gifts Fund to the General Fund. We are thankful that anonymous donors have made pledges and that \$4,000 of this transfer will be replenished. However, we will still see a reduction in the Special Gifts Fund of \$740.58. We will seek input from committees and individuals on how and whether the Yearly Meeting might alter its method of budgeting, including the creation of a reserve fund. We will bring a report to Continuing Committee on these discussions.

We recommend the following budget: (See Budget p. 22)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR INCORPORATION ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

PURPOSE

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has been a regional church since it was organized in 1875. The purposes of this corporation, Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, shall be to perpetuate the principles, religious and cultural beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends by conducting an annual worship and business session and serving the spiritual needs of our constituent monthly meetings.

BACKGROUND

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is a regional church with well-established roots. The Religious Society of Friends, commonly called “Quakers,” was founded in the 1650’s as a protestant sect in England, shortly thereafter coming to North America. Our church government structure of local monthly meetings and geographically extended yearly meetings was established by the 1670’s. A yearly meeting is the largest integral unit in the church government of the Religious Society of Friends; there are presently more than 50 of them around the world. Our yearly meeting membership consists of all of those individuals who are members of our constituent monthly meeting church congregations. In addition to holding regular worship services, monthly meetings within Illinois Yearly Meeting conduct their own business affairs, accept persons into membership in the Religious Society of Friends, conduct marriages and hold title to any property they may own.

Illinois Yearly Meeting was organized in 1875 as a trust under 1872 Illinois enabling legislation and has continued with orderly operations since that time, as described in our Handbook. Annual worship and business sessions have been held in Putnam County, Illinois, at our meetinghouse near McNabb, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We also conduct many other activities that serve local monthly meetings and individuals through the work of our committees. Each year Illinois Yearly Meeting publishes a minute book of our annual business session (most recent copy enclosed), an attenders’ address list, a twice-yearly magazine *Among Friends*, and copies of lectures. Our official archives are maintained at the University of Illinois. At present our constituent monthly meetings are located throughout Illinois and in portions of Missouri, Indiana and Wisconsin.

HANDBOOK (See Minute 15)

The Illinois Yearly Meeting Handbook is a compilation of the current policies, procedures, practices, and organization of Illinois Yearly Meeting. It is descriptive rather than prescriptive. Changes in the Handbook are made by the Handbook Committee based on relevant decisions by Illinois Yearly Meeting in Annual Session as recorded in the Minutes or by reflecting changes in practice by the Yearly Meeting. Changes are brought to the meeting at annual session for consideration and approval.

The Handbook Committee will be bringing several pages of changes to the meeting this year. Almost all of those adjustments are from Minutes approved at annual sessions for the past five years. The bulk of the changes include descriptions of the new position of Administrative Coordinator and descriptions of new committees: Peace Resources, Site Envisioning, and the Development Committee. Other changes include small additions or subtractions from other committee descriptions.

MAINTENANCE & PLANNING (See Minute 30)

Maintenance & Planning Committee has had a busy year. The Committee met four times during the year, in September, November, February, and May, in conjunction with Memorial Day work weekend. Much telephoning and e-mailing has occurred also in between the meetings.

The Committee has dealt with four main areas of work this year: health department related improvements, Meetinghouse repair/restoration work, the future of the dormitory and Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse, as well as general maintenance issues.

We are continuing to make good progress on the improvements and modifications to the kitchen and dining room as mandated by the health dept. Over three weekends early this spring a group of volunteers emptied the kitchen, installed new vinyl composite floor tiles, and finally reinstalled all the equipment. We also took this opportunity to replace the old three-bay dishwashing sink with a new 4-bay sink and a new hand washing sink. (The hand washing sink is required by the health code and the three-bay sink would have needed modification to meet the code.) In the dining room all of the light fixtures were cleaned, sanded, and re-painted and protective plastic tubes were installed over the fluorescent bulbs. A new freezer was also purchased this spring because the old one quit working. The Committee will also be working with the food coordinator during yearly meeting session to ensure that proper food handling procedures are followed. Three Committee members are now certified in Illinois in food service sanitation (and another is certified in Missouri). The Putnam County Health Dept. performed an inspection just prior to the yearly meeting session and again issued us a permit for the yearly meeting session. They were very pleased with our progress on improving the facilities and correcting health code violations. The major improvements still needed to be done are: installing an exhaust hood (that meets fire code requirements) over the stove/oven, eliminating the well pit, and installing a ceiling in the dining room.

The Committee has discussed what to do with the dormitory building and the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse. Renovating the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse into sleeping space was discussed. Having the dormitory inspected by a fire professional was discussed. (The purpose of this would have been to find out exactly what it would take to bring the building up to code.) Architectural drawings have been made, in the hopes that they could be shown to professionals in order to get advice. Unfortunately we have not yet reached unity on a decision about the future of either of these buildings.

We feel that we are ready and need to move forward with the Meetinghouse repair/restoration work as soon as possible, and, thus, we have scheduled the first phase to begin immediately after yearly meeting in August 2004. We have decided to hire Rick Collins and his company, Old Blue Construction, to perform the work. He specializes in timber frame construction and repair. (The Meetinghouse is a timber frame building.) Rick and his company are well known and respected in the construction trade for this specialization and they travel throughout the country doing this type of work. Rick is based relatively close by in Knoxville, Ill. and is ready to start the work in August. Michael Lambert, the architect with whom we have been working on planning this repair/renovation, unfortunately will not be able to continue on this project. We have hired a very good, new architect, Gary Anderson & Associates, of Rockford. We have been pleased with his ideas and find him very easy to work with.

Here is an overview of the work that will be done in the first phase of this project in August 2004. The trusses in the attic space will be stabilized with cables and turn-buckles. Wiring in the attic will be replaced with metal shielded cables because mice have been chewing off the casing of the current wires. Some of the floor will be removed to access the crawl space under the building. The foundation will be repaired and tuck-pointed as needed. A "termite shield" will be installed between the foundation and the sill. Rotted and termite-damaged sills and joists and other wood will be replaced or repaired. The crawl space will be excavated somewhat in order to make it more easily accessible for inspections in the future. Better ventilation for the crawl

space will be installed. As much as possible, all of the flooring and interior finishes will be returned to their current appearance after the work is complete, although new flooring covering will probably be needed in the west half of the Meetinghouse. Throughout this project the building and its various components will not be disturbed any more than absolutely necessary.

The re-grading around the Meetinghouse that was planned to happen last fall, has not happened yet, for various reasons. The Committee recognizes that this work is essential to getting moisture away from the building and controlling the termite problem. Therefore, we are planning to have the re-grading work done as soon as possible after Rick Collins finishes this first phase of renovation. In preparation for re-grading plants have been moved away from the Meetinghouse and the bushes in front of the front porch will have to be removed. Plants and shrubs close to a building hold in moisture and this moisture must be eliminated.

The next phase of repair/renovation of the Meetinghouse will likely include the following types of work. In the basement area modifications to the cement block walls will be necessary in order to eliminate hiding places for termites and to improve the moisture problem. The roof over the kitchen is leaking and needs to be replaced, with special consideration to the area where the roof and walls join. The ceiling of the front porch will be removed because there are indications of a moisture problem there also. (This will also unblock the windows on the porch, allowing more light and better ventilation into the Meetinghouse.) The cement steps will be replaced with wooden steps that run the entire length of the porch. The cement steps also hold in moisture and wooden steps will restore the porch closer to its historical appearance. We may make the porch railing across the front removable, if technically feasible.

The original contract for termite extermination with Orkin was found during the past year, among former trustee Bud Wolf's papers. Unfortunately, the contract does not include any liability on Orkin's part for paying to repair termite damage. That coverage was an optional clause that IYM chose not to include.

The annual Memorial Day work weekend took place again this year. There was a low turn out of participants. The main work that was accomplished included cleaning and re-painting the light fixtures in the dining room, investigation and modification of a gutter downspout, transplanting flowers away from the Meetinghouse, installation of new smoke detectors, repair of kitchen exterior door, and tree and shrub trimming.

Two memorial trees were planted this year. A hackberry tree was planted in the northwest area of the campground in memory of Bob Bell of Rock Valley Meeting (Rockford). This tree was transplanted from his home in Rockford. Bob was a camper, and like the hackberry, he was not showy but solid and practical. A shadbush tree (also known as, serviceberry) was planted near the split-rail fence on the east side of the Meetinghouse in memory of Ed Wood of St. Louis Meeting. Ed loved flowering trees in the springtime. The Committee has discussed how best to designate memorial trees on our property. We are moving towards the idea of creating a diagram of the property with all of the memorial trees marked and described, rather than plaques or markers outdoors by the trees.

The Committee has been working well together this year. We have very skilled and dedicated Friends on this committee who have spent countless hours doing committee work. We all care very much about these facilities and the future of the yearly

meeting. We always attempt to make the best decisions regarding the stewardship of our property and we hope that we are succeeding.

- Brent Eckert, co-clerk

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 28)

Ministry and Advancement Committee has had another deeply satisfying and somewhat frustrating year. The work has been satisfying because it engages us in the growth and well-being of our Yearly Meeting, giving us the opportunity to accompany our members and Meetings as they confront the challenges of Spirit-led living in community. Love and Light accompany us in this work. The work has also been frustrating, as we seem better able to see needs than to meet them; we often seem to be short of people and time, and we must step back, reflect, and choose among the tasks that arise—a discipline that needs to be frequently applied.

Our work falls into three categories: support of the spiritual well-being of the Yearly Meeting and its committees; support of the constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups; and support and oversight of the Field Secretary, Roxy Jacobs.

The M&A Committee supports the Field Secretary by devoting a good portion of our time, three times a year, to hearing from the Field Secretary on the progress of her work, as well as by mail, e-mail and phone consulting throughout the year. We have a concern for the workload and the expenses, knowing that a competent and caring person in this position may easily become committed well beyond the budgeted 500 hours per year. We also try to support the Field Secretary, when possible, by having the M&A member delegated to visit a given local Meeting accompany Roxy when she visits that Meeting. More often than not, we did not manage to do this during this past year.

At last summer's Yearly Meeting, we had a formal feedback session to hear from Friends their thoughts and feelings about the Field Secretary program. We invite you to continue to let us know how this program is affecting your Meeting, and what suggestions you have for greater effectiveness.

Having heard the Field Secretary's report, the M&A Committee is united that Roxy continues to fill the demands of this position in a loving and helpful way, to the benefit of the Yearly Meeting community.

Support for Meetings and Worship Groups. During 2003-04, M&A members have made formal visits to thirteen Meetings and attended meeting for worship at two others, without making a formal visit. We are concerned that seven Meetings and Worship Groups received no visit this year from M&A or the Field Secretary. It seems that every year we try to strengthen our committee, but every year some of the members are unable to make their visits, and Meetings go unvisited. We remain convinced that such face-to-face meetings are invaluable, not only for the support of our smaller Meetings and Worship Groups, but also for cross-fertilization and spiritual growth in our larger, more stable Meetings. We hope in the coming year to find a new approach to meeting the need for intervisitation within the Yearly Meeting.

Besides visiting, M&A members, consulting via e-mail and telephone, helped two Meetings negotiate difficult situations. One happy result of this was the re-establishment of twice-monthly worship at DeKalb Meeting; we intend to continue supporting this very small group of Friends, as the young couple who spurred their revival are moving out of state. We were also pleased to see 57th Street Meeting

strengthening their interactions with Western Yearly Meeting, and discovering increased vitality as they dealt productively with some of the challenges of dual affiliation.

Support of the Yearly Meeting Community. M&A is available throughout the year to consult with IYM committees, clerks and members, and we have been called on.

At the request of the Yearly Meeting Clerk, we have been working on developing a procedure for initial and continuing endorsement of Yearly Meeting members who are called to work as pastoral counselors and chaplains. For many years the Yearly Meeting has provided endorsement to two pastoral counselors, without setting up any criteria or any support structure. It seems well-ordered that we should provide more care to these Friends who minister to the world at large. We therefore recommend the following to the Yearly Meeting for approval:

A candidate for endorsement by the Yearly Meeting should:

1. be a member of an Illinois Yearly Meeting monthly meeting;
2. be worshiping regularly with Friends;
3. meet several times a year with a named group for spiritual guidance and support;
4. send a letter to the Ministry and Advancement Committee, requesting the initial endorsement, and an annual letter before the Yearly Meeting sessions reporting on their work and requesting continued endorsement;
5. ask their guidance and support committee also to send an annual letter before the Yearly Meeting sessions, reporting on their work with the chaplain or pastoral counselor, indicating the person's strengths, areas of growth, and any areas that may call for special attention or assistance.

In addition, we bring before you at this time our recommendation:

that the endorsement of our pastoral counselors, Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, be continued, and that a new endorsement be given to Sebrina Tingley, for her chaplaincy. Beth is sojourning at Tacoma (WA) Monthly Meeting, and working in the training of U.S. Army chaplains, and reports that she is learning a lot; she plans to get further training in post-combat stress syndrome treatment, so that she can better prepare the chaplains for helping personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Carolyn continues in private practice in Normal, Illinois. Sebrina has been working in a youth correctional facility, providing religious education and spiritual counseling.

During the Yearly Meeting sessions, we meet daily, continuing the work described above. We also provide orientation for newcomers, and offer support through the Committee of Care for personal and spiritual problems that may arise. Throughout, we are holding the Yearly Meeting in prayer—business sessions, committee meetings, learning and play times, and meeting for worship. In this last endeavor, we invite you to join us.

- Margaret Katranides, Acting Clerk - Jinny Laughlin, Clerk

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 47)

Our 18-Month "To Do" List

IYM's Peace Resources Committee has prayerfully and organically surfaced a set of goals for the next 18 months which further express our original objectives. (See: Minute 33 of IYM 2002 sessions, and listed on page 59 of the Minute Book.)

1. **Interact with the Monthly Meetings** throughout IYM by, among other things, providing resources to facilitate informed choices and actions for peace;
2. **Facilitate thoughtful, prayerful** discussions between Quaker veterans and Quaker COs wherein vets and COs respond with each other to queries about war and peace;
3. **Document resources** for counseling those with concerns about registration, military discharge, and documenting CO status;
4. **Organize or participate with a speakers bureau** on CO issues, registration, and alternatives to military service;
5. **Facilitate examination about ways to make peace personal** by organizing opportunities for discussion, prayer, thought, and commitment; and
6. **Propagate information and education about counter-recruitment** in co-operation with AFSC's efforts this year, by inviting use of the opt-out materials now posted on our web page on the IYM site, and by seeking out Young Friends for whom registration issues and military recruitment are part of their daily experience.

Having articulated these goals, we acknowledged that these activities reiterate our desire to continue as an activist committee.

We recognize that, in order to fulfill these goals and in order for the committee to remain sustainable, each member must have the time, willingness, desire, enthusiasm, and commitment to actively, consistently, and fully participate.

To that end we welcome our new members to service this year and deeply thank those whose service is complete.

2004 Activities

PRC has continued to meet throughout the year, exchanging many an email and sitting in on conference calls and as a gathered committee in person.

We have welcomed new members Andrew Bartles (Clear Creek), Ted Kuhn (Lake Forest), and Mark Mattaini (57th Street).

Trainings. PRC has organized or been co-sponsor for volunteer trainings for the GI Rights Hotline and for draft counselors. In the last four months, particularly, there has been a marked increase in requests for both training and information.

Collaboration With Other Organizations. PRC continues to enjoy a close collaborative relationship with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Chicago and St. Louis for the draft counseling training workshops.

Ways have opened for collaboration in Chicago with Military Families Speak Out, North Suburban Neighbors for Peace, and CCCO. Our relationship with the Center on Conscience & War (CCW) has been deepened further since our Clerk joined their staff as CCW's Field Outreach Coordinator.

We are aware that we are sometimes challenged to be able to participate as a full and recognized partner in some meetings, events, and trainings because we lack the committee-level authority to collaborate with affinity organizations as co-sponsors. We hope to bring a minute for consideration this year which will enable us to engage as sponsors with affinity organizations as we express our faith in the Quaker community and the community at large.

Monthly Meetings Resource Materials About Peace. We have identified and purchased on behalf of IYM sets of print brochures and pamphlets about the development and extension of peace and non-violence and are providing library sets at IYM Gathering this year.

Invitation

PRC welcomes all who would like to join us for discussion, exchange of ideas, and concerns to look for us during Gathering at a time and place to be announced at McNabb. We especially welcome responses to our 18-month goals.

- In Peace, IYM Peace Resources Committee

PEACE TAX FUND

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”

The fund's current status is as follows:

Balance as of 6/30/04: \$6,480.66

Place of deposit: ShoreBank, Chicago, a socially responsible institution

Interest earned in 2003 available for distribution to groups whose work furthers Friends' life-affirming principles: \$53

Amount deposited in 2003: \$167.36

Number of depositors: 6

Activity in 2003: Interest rates have depressed earnings, even though the principal amount is at an all-time high. Clerk is polling depositors and committee members to designate recipients.

- Marcia Nelson, Clerk

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS

(Report to IYM Continuing Committee in St. Louis, 3/6/04)

The QVSTWC of Illinois Yearly Meeting met in Richmond, IN, Feb. 14th, 2004, and in St. Louis on Dec. 20th, 2003. We have been dealing with two large concerns: a financial situation affecting Project Lakota and the health of the national steering committee of Quaker Volunteer Service & Witness Network (QVSWN.) We spent Dec. 20th addressing the concern of Project Lakota, and in February we came to a clear response to that immediate concern. In February we also came to clearness regarding QVSWN.

We traveled to Richmond in order to meet with the two Friends whose service Earlham had given to QVSWN: Dortha Meredith and Sue Kern of the Newlin Center for Quaker Thought and Practice. Representing the QVSWN steering committee were David Finke, clerk, and Judy Jager, plus Dortha Meredith. Three other steering committee members had sent their thoughts or regards.

We reviewed the development and problems of QVSWN, which was formed quickly at the end of the Burlington Conference in 1997. The steering committee was not solidly established as representing yearly meetings, and had been stalemated over divided loyalties towards A.F.S.C. There was no external accountability or oversight of the committee members and tasks were often not done, opportunities were

passed by. Because our IYM committee has had spiritual oversight of the Network, when we realized they had become moribund, we asked for a meeting with them, to see how we might help.

We reviewed the founding of American Friends Service Committee by Rufus Jones and early 20th century Friends; we felt inspired again with our QVSTWC vision of large numbers of Quakers “in the trenches,” so to speak, responding to the suffering in the world in the quiet, tender, and competent dedication of Friends to go where God sends us and do what love can do. We acknowledged that QVSWN efforts have been affected by the Sept. 11th world tragedy, which has focused many Friends on political issues, the draft, anti-war work, issues of war and peace. But over time the poor are always with us and QVSTWC still feels a concern to strengthen volunteer programs for Friends to work directly with the poor and suffering, in whatever large and small things we can do.

We acknowledged that both QVSTWC and QVSWN are small in numbers and composed of people serving other committees. We lack anyone with enough time to coordinate QVSWN, to lead forward with the ideas and opportunities that exist.

In the joint meeting of these two bodies, we began to see clearly though reluctantly that it is proper order at this time to lay down the national QVSWN steering committee. Within this very clearness, though, we realized that this could be a constructive act, that conclusively laying down an unsuccessful structure clears the field for newness to arise. The vision of IYM’s QVSTWC which gave rise to the national conference in Burlington, NJ, was given temporarily to a national entity which is now laid down and this vision is returned to Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Now, besides Project Lakota, there are two projects that this committee sees as possible realistic projects for the near future:

1. One would be publication of an updated national directory of volunteer opportunities with Quaker oversight. Perhaps next fall we could work on this.
2. A second possibility is a sense of calling felt by Marti Matthews to travel in the ministry around the U.S. researching first hand Quaker volunteer opportunities and what support they might benefit from, as well as publicizing them through write-ups for Quaker publications. Researching also the structures of oversight in Quaker projects would be another part of this. The committee is enthusiastic about this possibility and encourages Marti to begin seeking clearness on this calling and developing a plan which the committee could support and oversee.

Having reached clearness that we do not have the energy or calling as a committee to keep the national steering committee going, when we gathered to consider the request of Project Lakota we also reached clearness quickly. The concern has been a request from Candy Boyd regarding possible reimbursement to her for a large donation she made to hire workers to quickly finish the house of Gerald One Feather, a respected elder in very bad health. Our clearness came from seeing:

1. That our purpose is to promote volunteer work;
2. We did not take on oversight of Project Lakota expecting that we ourselves would do significant fund raising for it.
3. We have seen the limits of our time and energy.

It was readily clear to us that we must say No to Candy’s request.

Candy Boyd and Greg Woods are now feeling called to expand their mission statement. They originally felt called to raise funds for building supplies and work scholarships for volunteers for the summer workcamp, mid-July to Mid-August, un-

der Mike Grey (AFSC/InterMountain Yearly Meeting Joint Service Project.) They now would like to expand to all-year work and raising funds for building in general, not just through volunteers, and funds for emergency needs of the Pine Ridge residents. Our committee asked them to begin clearness work soon on the appropriateness of this new sense.

QVSTWC is still sharing care for Project Lakota with Candy's support committee of St. Louis Monthly Meeting and the financial set-up through Columbia Monthly Meeting's treasurer and the original clearness committee of Columbia Meeting. (Columbia Meeting approved laying down oversight role for Project Lakota as of its Meeting for Business 7/11/04, as requested by that committee. -David Finke, 7/13/04). We are all still unclear about this last overlap of oversight. But we do believe any changing of the mission statement of Project Lakota should begin with seeking concurrence of those with whom Candy and Greg first met to seek support.

February 14 was a day with difficult decisions for QVSTWC. Yet at the same time there is peace in the clearness we felt. There is hope for the future because we have been honest about what cannot be. We feel we are being faithful to the Divine Spirit and that whatever this committee's original calling, we either have done the work we were called to do, or a new work can emerge for us out of the clear acceptance of what is ended.

- For the committee, Marti Matthews, clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE committee met in October 2003 and in March 2004 in the home of Grayce and Neil Mesner in Lacon, IL to discuss topics and concerns regarding RE in meetings in IYM.

To promote Adult RE in meetings the committee distributed a copy of the Earlham historian Thomas D. Hamm's *Quakers in America* (Columbia University Press, 2003) that presents a social and an historical portrait with analysis of the major groups of Friends and traditions in the United States. We believe that this book will promote understanding and discussion of significant features of Quaker past and recent practices for individuals and study groups.

- Chris Jocius

SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE (See Minute 9)

In its 2003 Annual Session, Illinois Yearly Meeting (IYM) authorized the Site Envisioning and Building Committee (SEB) "to interview and hire an architect to complete a schematic design of a new building or buildings to be presented at our 2004 annual session. The architect could help us investigate ecologically sound materials and methods and help educate people working on the project of our desire for protecting the environment." Funding for the project was approved up to \$20,000.

In the following months SEB publicized a request for résumés from interested architects, reviewed responses from 15 firms, and interviewed 4 of them. Ultimately the committee selected The Troyer Group from Mishawaka, Indiana, to develop a schematic design for a contractual price of \$11,500, plus reimbursable expenses.

Meanwhile, the committee devoted attention to the programmatic side of its site vision, and approved a statement prepared with help from other IYM Friends, that pictured "a peace house on the prairie." This vision, printed in the Fall 2003 issue of

Among Friends, calls for a deepened sense of place and of Quaker history. It is “a place of retreat that would offer nurture and sustenance to peacemakers. A place to which we could invite fellow peacemakers to help us as we seek and explore new paths to peace, a place where we, in turn, could show others these paths to peace. A place that also would acknowledge and honor the land from which we came and the space to which we return time and again for spiritual sustenance, a place where we would study how to better live in peace with this land and space.”

In April 2004, three members of The Troyer Group, Randy Seitz, Bill Barnard, and Darla Alred, led an open “all-day” workshop at McNabb for SEB members and other interested Friends of IYM. Over 20 Friends present (including members of Clear Creek Meeting) were divided into small groups, to interact with each other in creating design concepts. Then each of these was discussed in the group as a whole.

The Troyer architects used these proposals in developing two alternative schemes—one for a single building and one for two adjacent buildings—which were presented to SEB in May. The committee selected the proposal for two separate, but adjoining buildings and suggested a number of modifications. Working with these suggestions, the architects presented a revised proposal in June, and further deliberations led to the design that is being presented to IYM’s 2004 session.

Some major features of the proposed design include:

- The placement of dining, kitchen, and Clear Creek Meeting spaces in a building separate from the sleeping spaces, in order to help control noise and to permit more than one function to occur simultaneously on site.
- The provision of a covered walkway between these two buildings, for the comfort of people passing between the buildings in inclement weather.
- Space for 100 diners indoors and an additional 50 outdoors on the covered porch; and all-weather sleeping space for 36 persons.
- The presence of a “living room space” with minimal kitchen facilities within the sleeping building, thus providing a programmatic amenity and greater flexibility in total site use.
- A site location and a design pattern for the sleeping facility that would allow an addition to it at some future time.
- The location of the Clear Creek Meeting facilities where those attending meeting would have views of the IYM Meetinghouse from both their large meeting room and the adjacent dining room.
- Placement of the new buildings on the IYM campus, such that they are close to the historic Meetinghouse, but set back sufficiently, to complement rather than compete with the Meetinghouse.

Throughout this planning process SEB has kept in mind three guiding premises – spirituality, simplicity, and sustainability. Furthermore, the name of our committee underscores the charge that we must be mindful of the entire site plan, not just the building design. With this perspective we have approved the architects’ site plan for the new buildings, as well as the designs of the buildings, themselves.

To accomplish the complementary relationship of the new buildings to the historic Meetinghouse, referred to above, our committee believes the existing Dormitory and Junior Yearly Meetinghouse should be removed. This might be accomplished in one of two ways – by moving all or portions intact (e.g., the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse to the campground area across the road) – or by dismantling the structures so that various building materials could be utilized in future building projects.

In summary, SEB recommends that the Illinois Yearly Meeting approve the following:

1. The schematic design and site location for the two new buildings, as presented.
2. The removal of the existing Dormitory and Junior Yearly Meetinghouse to provide space for the new buildings.
3. Authorization to continue our relationship with The Troyer Group for final design documents when funding permits start of construction.
4. Continuation of the Ad Hoc Site Envisioning and Building Committee, to pursue its vision of a more vital Illinois Yearly Meeting, rooted in the prairie land at McNabb.
5. Continuation of the Ad Hoc Program Committee, with which SEB has had a complementary relationship, to work with monthly meetings to determine their potential uses of the new buildings and their programmatic relationships with IYM.

YOUTH OVERSIGHT

This has been a year of transition for the Youth Oversight Committee co-clerks Marti Matthews and Katherine Trezevant. Although Katherine has been active on the committee for many years, she did not even attend IYM the past two years. Marti is new to the committee in addition to being a new co-clerk. Thus we needed to make decisions about the current program as well as become acquainted with it. The support and help from past and current High School Friends in addition to past and current members of the YO Committee and IYM attenders have been appreciated.

YouthQuake, a national conference for Quaker youth from all Quaker traditions held every three years, occurred this year, and we were well represented. Our IYM representative to YouthQuake, Dorothy Day, led a group of seven to the event which was in Colorado this time. It is a challenging and important event since it brings together the full diversity of the Religious Society of Friends.

Our IYM Quake was held at McNabb over the Easter Weekend. Drea Pedisich led the group of six in a workshop. On Friday evening Jill S. was the leader of games. During the business meeting the IYM program was discussed and planned.

Marti's and Katherine's concern is the number of outstanding opportunities available to our youth throughout the year: the Young Quakes Conference (FGC) over Columbus Day Weekend, the Quake that Rocks the Midwest in Evanston over Martin Luther King Day weekend, and an FWCC sponsored Quake in early March which began this year. This is all in addition to our own Quake. How much can a busy high school student do and the committee support?

Meanwhile, we have met as a committee several times to listen to and ponder present concerns and put together an appropriate program for this year's IYM. However, since four active participants of the committee are leaving the area, we now need more contributing members.

Please consider if you are led to join us in this work.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

In recent years, AFSC has been looking very closely at how it is serving needs as an organization. Also, AFSC has been evaluating how to operate in a more effective, more meaningful way. As a result of this self evaluation, AFSC has identified two major area of service we are focusing upon: goals of peace building and migration. Any new programs or additional activities will be in this direction.

Within the two AFSC Regions operating in IYM, we have had some significant changes. The EMAP program headed out of Richmond, Indiana is closing. The EMAP program for several decades had been an all-volunteer effort led by Jay Beede. Three years ago the region opened an office in Richmond, with a part-time staff person, to generate emergency kits and peace education programs. At this point, the region can no longer subsidize EMAP. The program closed due to lack of regionally generated funds.

Any Monthly Meeting wishing to participate in the EMAP program can do so through the National Office by calling 215-241-7000 and asking for the EMAP program or looking on the AFSC web site at AFSC.org

AFSC closed two mentorship programs in the African American community, one in Chicago and one in St. Louis. AFSC hopes to implement a new program serving similar needs in each of these communities. Anyone seeking additional details about these programs and the reason for their termination should call or email Carol Bartles, a Clear Creek Friend serving on AFSC Board of Directors.

Some of the most successful programs AFSC has had this year include:

- The Eyes Wide Open Exhibit which had 800 pairs of army boots on a lawn area signifying the 800 plus soldiers who have died in the Iraq invasion. Much media attention has focused on this traveling exhibit with positive results.
- AFSC received a grant to conduct a Listening Project to find out from under-represented communities what real security means to them.
- The Chicago AFSC office has started a Peace Calendar. To receive the Chicago Peace Calendar as a weekly email digest, subscribe online at <http://list.afsc.org/mailman/listinfo/chicago-chi>.

Anyone hoping to learn more about AFSC is invited to visit the web page at AFSC.org

AFSC is growing and moving to be a more meaningful and viable organization serving humanity through Quaker testimonies.

- Carol Bartles

ASSOCIATED COMM. OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (ACFIA)

ACFIA made the decision to have only preschool/kindergarten at the MOWA Choctaw Center in Alabama for the 2004-2005 school year. They will still collect Campbell Soup labels, Box Tops for Education, and they can always use money for scholarships. Norm & Jane Snell will be leaving in August 2005, so they are looking for a new director.

Quivering Arrow Camp is a one week program for 11-15 year old Native Americans, held in Oklahoma in June. The camp had 44 campers (from OK, IA & Canada) last year but could have as many as 70. This camp is Christ-oriented and hopes that

campers, when they return home, will continue to have the faith to live good lives in what can often be a poor home environment. In March Brad Wood reported he had \$4,000 earmarked for the camp. Some would go for new mattresses and some would be used to work on a bath house. All he needed was man power to fix it.

The camp and ALL the centers always need volunteers for many purposes. They always ask for prayers and they can always use financial help.

Council House Friends Meeting is self-supporting and as of May they were looking for a new pastor after the resignation of their part-time pastor. Wyandotte Friends have asked that their property be turned over to Evangelical Friends - Mid America YM, so though ACFIA will continue to be supportive, they will no longer have direct supervision.

At Kickapoo Friends Center, the adults from the community are taking up more responsibility, including leading Bible studies in several towns. Brad and Christine Wood work with the youth on Wed. nights. Christine has been helping in the local public schools as tutor and translator for children who speak Kickapoo. Her influence there has drawn children to their church activities.

Both Kickapoo and Mesquakie Centers have had difficulties caused by problems of the casinos in their areas. Both centers also need a building large enough to house visiting work teams. At Mesquakie as at Kickapoo, there is more participation by adults from the community. They have 5 teachers for the different age levels who come to the Kids Club on Wed. night. Now Victor and Brenda can concentrate more on the adult mid-week worship and their Sunday morning responsibilities.

Hominy Friends Meeting is basically self-supporting, but there is occasionally a monetary need for extra things such as fences, Vacation Bible School and more building space. At the annual meeting, David Nagle reported that one of their young people had a heart transplant in St. Louis, and Nancy Duncan, was a great help in ministering to the family.

People and Meetings are encouraged to ask for speakers, link up the meeting website with theirs: www.acfiaquaker.org, donate duplicate Quaker books to MOWA Center so they can build up their library, sponsor money making activities to benefit ACFIA, put news articles about these activities in your local papers, and encourage members to volunteer at a center.

To volunteer in any way, to learn more about each center or to contribute financially, contact ACFIA, P.O. Box 2326, Richmond, IN 47375-2326.

- Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

Friends General Conference is an organization established over a hundred years ago to permit Friends in the unprogrammed tradition to pool efforts across yearly meeting lines to address common concerns more effectively. Fourteen yearly meetings (counting the Piedmont Friends Fellowship) and a few monthly meetings outside these yearly meetings are affiliated with Friends General Conference. It is the organization that holds the annual summer Gathering.

Friends General Conference has expanded its activities significantly during the last seven years, including its Traveling Ministries Program and the Committee for Ministry on Racism. The former seeks to feed the spiritual hunger of monthly and yearly meetings in part by facilitating and helping to coordinate ministry being car-

2004 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11:00am Call for location
Business: varies

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Quaker Lane, McNabb IL 61335
11am 815-882-2214
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:30 a.m.

MACOMB WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
Contact: Nora Vera-Godwin,

DECATUR WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
10am in homes (call)
Mail to Contact: Cindy & Gary Reynolds,

FRIENDS MEETING OF SPRINGFIELD

First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
Clerk: Peg Kruger,

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO
573-474-1827
10:30am (9:30 2nd First Day)
Business: Second First Day, 10:30am

DEKALB MONTHLY MEETING

Gurler House, 2nd and Pine Sts in Dekalb
10:30 am 2nd and 4th Sundays

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove IL 60516
10:30am 630-968-3861
Mail to Clerk: Joe Davison,
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

813 George St., Valparaiso IN 46385
10am
Clerk: Noel Pavlovic,
Mail to: Marlou Carlson,
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 every other month
(call ahead or email clerk)

EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
10am 847-864-8511
Mail to Clerk: Jeanette Baker,
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

FIFTY-SEVENTH ST. MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637
10:30am 773-288-3066
Mail to Clerk: David Rutschman,
Business: 3rd First Day, 1:00pm

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old Elm Road (West Old Elm and Ridge Rds), Lake Forest IL 60045
10:30am First Day 847-234-8410
8:00 am Thursday
Mail to: PO Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045
Clerk: Janice Domanik,
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEETING

3224 N. Gordon Pl, Milwaukee WI 53212
10:15 am 414-263-2111
Mail to Clerk: George Owen,

Business: 2nd First Day, noon

IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640 10:00am
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
773-784-2155

Clerk: Kevin Brubaker,
Business: 1st First Day after worship

OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave.,
Oak Park IL 10am
Mail to: P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL 60303-3245
Or to Clerk: Helen Dickinson,
Business: 2nd First Day after worship

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
4:00 pm 920-232-1460
Mail to: PO Box 403, Oshkosh WI 54903
Business: 2nd First Day

PEORIA-GALESBURG FRIENDS MEETING

10 am In homes
Contact: Bill & Jackie Urban,
Call for information

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

326 N. Avon St, Rockford IL 61101
11am
Mail to Clerk: Ann Eckert,
Business: 2nd First Day after worship

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
10:30am 314-588-1122
Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
Clerk: Nancy Duncan,
Business: 2nd First Day, 12:15 pm

Friends Meeting of ROLLA (Preparative)
(under the care of St. Louis Mtg.)
Wesley Foundation, 1106 N. Pine St.,
Rolla, MO
10:30am 573-341-2464
Mail to Clerk: Alex Primm,
Business: 3rd First Day, after worship

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
10:30 a.m. 574-255-5781
Mail to: Mary Nurenberg
Clerk: Jerry Nurenberg,
Business: 2nd First Day, 9:00 a.m.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
Carbondale IL 62901 10am
Clerk: Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd.
Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726
Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

4614 N. Pioneer Rd., McHenry, IL 60050
10:00 am 815-385-8512
Mail to: Howenstines,
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
11am 217-328-5853
Mail to: 1904 E. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61802
Clerk: Mariellen Gilpin,
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:30pm

INDEPENDENT WORSHIP GROUPS

THORN CREEK WORSHIP GROUP

Call for information
Contact: Virginia Parker,

ried out by individuals within FGC. Monthly or yearly meetings are encouraged to contact the Traveling Ministries Program if they want help identifying resource persons who might lead workshops or help them work through issues with which they are wrestling. The Committee for Ministry on Racism works to create a community among FGC Friends free of racism by helping us address the deep woundedness present as a result of racism and helping us learn how to build communities of mutual trust, openness, and appreciation. The Committee has been “lighting Spirit-centered fires of anti-racism and diversity work in many yearly and monthly meetings.” Meetings are invited to contact the Committee for Ministry and Racism for help in this sort of work.

FGC has embarked on its second four-year plan. The plan continues the four general goals of the first plan to support worship experiences and the spiritual growth of individuals (e.g. through the Traveling Ministries Program, conferences and workshops, publications, the bookstore, etc.), to nurture meetings and worship groups, to build community among Friends, and to articulate and model core experiences. Examples of how FGC addresses the first goal were given, but the other goals also are addressed in many different ways.

During the first four-year plan work in religious education was expanded, FGC publications increased, the bookstore went on-line and became a full-service bookstore, and <www.QuakerFinder.org> was launched to help people find Quaker meetings throughout the country. One of the initiatives in the new four-year plan is to reach out to the three independent Western yearly meetings. In 2006 the annual Gathering will for the first time be held in a Western state; it will be held at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington and will be hosted by North Pacific Yearly Meeting, one of the three independent Western yearly meetings.

As part of the expanded efforts in religious education, “Illuminating our Divine Connections,” a conference for Quaker parents and educators, focusing on spiritual nurture and growth across the life span, will be held Aug. 19-22 at Camp Asbury in Silver Lake, NY. Illinois Yearly Meeting’s own Marlou Carlson will be one of two plenary speakers.

- Tom Paxson

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER CONCERNS

One hundred twenty-five Friends met at the Burlington New Jersey Meeting-house and Conference Center for the February 2004 Midwinter Gathering of FLGBTQC. Under the theme of “Inward Work/Outward Mission” Friends participated in rich worship, corporate discernment, bible study and workshops while experiencing the loving fellowship that is so much a part of this gathering.

Tracye Peterson, in her keynote address, spoke to the oppression that many in the group continue to experience and urged us to use our awareness of our oppressions to take note of that of others. In so doing we become open to use our creative imaginations to accept God’s invitation to participate in the creation of a more just and merciful world.

Friends continue to be concerned with the divisiveness of racism and gathered for an evening worship with attention to racial healing. Our work to end racism requires both inward work and outward mission.

After lengthy discernment and prayerful consideration, FLGBTQC committed to be involved in the Pendle Hill Peace Network as a founding member.

The next Midwinter gathering will be held at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico from February 18-21, 2005.

- Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC) QUERY (See Minute 13)

Many of us here this week are considering all the varieties of Quakers with the help of Thomas Hamm. The premier organization connecting all of us is FWCC. We, your reps to FWCC, want you to take time to consider the future of our connections. The Advance Documents include materials from the Triennial in New Zealand, the Section Annual Meeting in Ottawa and the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. We have tried to address why we think FWCC is important to us. We would like to leave this yearly meeting in unity regarding our support of FWCC. How might we, liberal Friends in the wealthiest country in the world, accept our full responsibility to support FWCC?

FWCC QUAKER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

As a delegate from IYM to FWCC I elected to become a member of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage committee. I chose this particular committee because, being a traveler from my youth, I believe that the exposure to other cultures and ways of life is of great value; especially to the young before their assumptions and insularity take hold.

In 2003 I went to Greensboro for a meeting with my other committee members. We stayed at Gwen Erickson's house for three hardworking days. Gwen and her husband (and their soccer-playing dog Buddy) were kindness itself and did us the extra kindness of driving us to Meeting and to places of historical interest. We were planning for the QYP of 2004 which will take place this summer. Fourteen Quakers, between the ages of 16 and 18, together with two leaders, will join 14 European young Quakers and their two leaders and visit Quakerly places in England, the Netherlands and Germany. The pilgrimage takes place every two years because the arrangements are so complicated. We decided on the application forms, the requirements to be met, the itinerary, how to find two good leaders, the various logistics etc. We were helped by Margaret Fraser of FWCC head office and Peggy Baxter of Jamestown Meeting.

After this initial meeting we kept in touch by mail and e-mail and met again in Canada in March of this year. This time our main task was to sift through the applications and decide who should go. The delegation from the Americas is supposedly just that, but we had only one application from south of the border (from Puerto Rico) and that was sent in too late. We had several applications from Canada and eventually 3 were chosen. The selection process was not easy because our goal was to balance the pilgrims equally between boys and girls, but the boys, in general, were much less mature than the girls and the dilemma turned on whether we should take a less-qualified boy over a better qualified girl. We did end up with more girls than boys but we felt we had been as fair as possible. Another difficulty was that one Canadian candidate was profoundly deaf. At first it seemed possible that we could pay for an interpreter to go with her but in the end it proved too difficult and we had to drop her and take one of the people on the waiting list. We were all sworn to se-

crecy because several people at the Conference were relatives of the prospective pilgrims and we didn't want to be under pressure of any sort (although it might have been fun if an attempt at bribery had been tried.) So, on the last day we posted a list of the successful applicants as a *fait accompli* and this worked well. The Leaders were easy to choose: Pat and Ken Thames from Texas were the obvious choice, being very well qualified and our choice was unanimous. As it turned out the choice of the pilgrims was fairly easy. We all seemed to agree on who would be best. I personally found myself rather influenced by the style of the youth's handwriting. Feeling wary of miniscule writing or those (usually girls) who dotted their "I's" with a circle, or worse still, a heart. Luckily, for other reasons my fellow committee members agreed they would not be suitable.

The next QYP meeting is in September and I'm looking forward to reading the Communal Diary the children keep and hearing directly from the Thames' who, I am sure, will survive the experience. Ex-Leaders have told us what a wonderful adventure it was and that the difficulties experienced were outweighed by the fun and learning everyone had.

Peace, Liz Oldham

FWCC, SECTION OF THE AMERICAS, ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 2004

We were warmly welcomed to Ottawa by Canadian Friends who had been eagerly planning for more than a year to host this meeting. Among the members of the Ottawa Meeting is a member of the city government of Ottawa who either bicycles or ice skates to his office from his Ottawa home, which he told us is one of the benefits of living in city which places high value in livability. Other local Friends sing in a gospel choir which we got to hear on Saturday evening. I felt very happy that we were able to meet in Ottawa while snow was still on the ground yet not be hindered by weather.

Among the matters which were considered in our business sessions was the campaign to increase support for the work of FWCC, both in this Section of the Americas and in the rest of the world, and hearing from the Committee of Latin-American Friends (COAL) committee about current activities in Latin America. One of the visitors present, Joe Haughton of Ireland Yearly Meeting, brought greetings from Irish Quakers who held their 350th yearly meeting this past April. Another visitor was Nancy Irving who is the new General Secretary in the World Office of FWCC. She lived in Olympia Washington for many years; we were glad that she was present with us to get acquainted with Friends currently serving as representatives to our Section, and to talk about the plans for how she and Joseph Andugu, Africa Section, incoming Associate Secretary, will be working to implement in the next several years.

- Elizabeth Mertic

FWCC TRIENNIAL, NEW ZEALAND, JANUARY 2004

Three hundred Friends gathered at King's College to meet, worship, conduct business and get to know all the various branches of the Society of Friends. We were asked to come committed to openness and to learning from Friends of other traditions of worship, theology, language and culture. In this setting it would have been very

hard to not be open. It was a very moving experience. I look at the pictures that I and other took and see many smiley people. I had to leave immediately after the conference whereas Elizabeth Mertic, Clerk of the Section of the Americas and member of Lake Forest Monthly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting, stayed on for Interim Committee meeting. Two weeks later when she arrived back at our Monthly Meeting (Lake Forest) I could see the New Zealand Triennial glow still on her, the same glow I felt when I returned.

“One World, One People”: As one of the participants in my worship sharing group said, “Now I really get it.” Worshiping with people from Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America as well as others from North America changes how one sees others. I learned some deeply spiritual things as well as some practical things. A practical thing was that by speaking more slowly, even American speakers, those born in the USA, speaking American English, are easier to understand. The deeply spiritual things I learned are much harder to convey. I am rarely a procrastinator but the daunting task of putting the spiritual things into words has foiled me. I am no John Woolman with his diary. I find it hard to reconstruct the spiritual stories in a way that translate back into the language of Unprogrammed Friends.

Each of us who went agreed to take on a different task. My task as an official representative is to present the financial situation that FWCC finds itself in today (not good). We here in Illinois and in other places throughout the world need to address this issue. Do we want the work of FWCC to continue and if so, are we willing to contribute the resources necessary to have it happen? Others will be addressing the things that FWCC provides more effectively than I can. I can state the problem and ask for us to work out a solution.

Should we help FWCC to survive? Why is it important for FWCC to survive? Before going to the Triennial I had serious concerns about the cost of travel to New Zealand. It seemed exorbitant to me, as I know it did to others. What difference could it possibly make to waste so many resources? What I learned is that there are things gained by gathering together that cannot be accomplished otherwise. One cannot replicate the experience of a Worship Group without meeting in person. There were many wonderful workshops, interest groups and business meetings at the Triennial but the Worship Groups were the foundational setting. Gathered meetings daily. A depth of sharing that I had never experienced before. The cross-cultural Quaker exchange opened my eyes and heart to God in ways that I hadn’t considered previously.

But this is not all that FWCC does. Particularly for Unprogrammed socially active Friends the important aspect of FWCC’s charter is to provide the basis for Friends presence at the UN and the World Council of Churches (WCC). Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in Geneva and New York only exist because there is an international umbrella organization for the Society of Friends. The UN charter only allows non-governmental organizations that are international in scope to have a presence there. The only Quaker organization that fits this restriction is FWCC. The WCC also restricts membership to international churches.

FWCC also provides cross-visitation not only between the various sections of FWCC—Africa, Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe. It also provides the framework for cross-visitation between yearly meetings within each of the sections. Quakers have branched along many different paths in the last couple of hundred years. Yet when I meet with Friends from different traditions it is apparent that we do share

many values from the early Friends. No branch of the Society of Friends has maintained the whole of what George Fox and the Valiant 60 preached. All of us together have it, and each branch has its own piece that it has carried on. We have much to learn from each other.

If we cannot meet with others who do share so much of our tradition then we are not really going to be capable of bridging the gaps between those who are even more different than ourselves.

So, if we are going to help, how do we go about doing so? It might be helpful for those of us in Illinois to understand how others around the world fund their support to FWCC.

- In Europe and Asia each Yearly Meeting is assessed a per member charge, similar to how IYM assesses its member fees. FWCC is a membership organization. Perhaps we in IYM could assess such a charge upon ourselves as well?
- African Friends don't contribute but would like to. They would like the opportunity to sell their crafts. Can we think of any way to help them with this? A percentage would go to help FWCC.

I would like IYM to address whether or not we are willing to support FWCC with a more realistic funding ratio. If we are not, perhaps we should question whether we want to belong. But before we make this sort of decision I ask each of us to consider what I see as one of the most startling observations that I made while at the Triennial. It took time to notice but as the week progressed I began to notice a particular pattern. Westerners (a group in which I would include Europeans, North Americans and Australia/New Zealanders) seem to see issues within a framework of scarcity. For example, economic concerns are always framed with the assumption that there isn't enough. It is assumed that we cannot meet the needs of all so we, the Western world, should make do with less. This isn't so that those in the developing world will have much more. The model assumes that there just isn't any more. But perhaps scarcity isn't the way. Perhaps we can think of new ways of looking at the world that will open up all the things and comforts that the western world obviously isn't willing to give up and the developing world obviously wants. Perhaps we will be led in ways to find sustainable methods to allow all to have some form of an automobile, to have washing machines, dishwashers and the other conveniences of western life. Perhaps we can improve the technology so that these may be provided to all. It appears to me that we approach everything with this same sense of scarcity. We don't have enough resources to help IYM and (fill in the blank). What I heard from those Friends in other parts of the world was very different. They support what fits their beliefs and goals and presume that God will provide. Perhaps we can take a page from their orientation to see that God will also help us find the way to fund the work of FWCC—for FWCC is in financial trouble—as well as achieving our other goals.

I have not written very much about the Triennial itself. I am appending the report of my husband, David Shiner, who was an official Observer at the event.

- Nancy Wallace

FWCC TRIENNIAL – AUCKLAND, JANUARY 2004

A triennial gathering of Quakers from around the world took place in Auckland, New Zealand (or, to use the traditional Maori name, Aotearoa) on January 16-25, 2004. Some 300 Friends gathered from countries of the East and those of the West,

countries with thousands of Quakers and those with only a mere handful, countries at peace and others at war. We came to share perspectives, to learn from each other, and to gather together under God.

The gathering was so moving that I have found it hard to write much. As with a “gathered” meeting, perhaps all one can ultimately say about its power is, “You had to be there.” That said, I will try to describe some of the more memorable aspects of the Triennial and trust in the Spirit to convey that which words cannot.

On the first day of the gathering, all the representatives and observers who had arrived by then were greeted in the traditional ceremony of the indigenous people of the land, the Maori. The complex ceremony seemed to me to be intended to symbolize the threat of violence turning to friendship. Afterward I found myself talking with the only representative from Indonesia Yearly Meeting, a young man by the name of Abineri Gulo, who cheerfully encouraged the rest of us to call him Abi. Abi asked me how our indigenous people, the so-called Native Americans, welcome us in the USA. When I looked puzzled by the question, he explained that Indonesian Independence Day (August 17) features indigenous groups welcoming the rest of the nation in a public ceremony. I told him that we had no such event. Maybe someday.

Meeting for Worship was held twice every morning, with a brief meeting for early risers and a longer one later on. At one of the meetings on the second day, a South American Friend gave lengthy and memorable vocal ministry. After speaking of the need for peace, he transitioned into a statement of concern about the effects of a very high divorce rate on his country’s children. He concluded by asking us to pray for the people of his country. Later in that same session, a Friend with a British accent compared the gathering of worldwide Quakers to a braided river. Each of us and our meetings, countries, and cultures, he testified, were different streams flowing into a single river, which he saw as leading to God. Vocal ministries such as these were to be a vital part of the Triennial.

Each afternoon we met with an assigned group for an hour and a half. These Worship and Sharing groups, as they were called, each comprised about a dozen Quakers and were set up to represent the entire range of worldwide Friends. Our individual introductions on my group’s first day together, in which each of us stated what we treasured about being Quakers, ranged from “freedom from dogma” to “love of Jesus” (not that these need to be mutually exclusive).

Participation in my Worship and Sharing group proved to be the most powerful part of my experience at the Triennial. On the second day, for example, we responded to the query, “What is the source of our power and meaning?” Everyone spoke out of the silence in a simple yet compelling way. At least one of those present wept, the first of several times that would occur during our time together.

Jean Zaru, Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, gave the keynote talk of the Triennial on the third day. Despite the problems she and her fellow worshippers have experienced during the long occupation of her native land, she observed, “we need to wait upon the Holy Spirit, not to rush, which would produce the work of our egos instead, for God does not say everything that we say.” Her hope is that justice will be brought to all, “to Palestinians, but not to the exclusion of Israelis; women, but not to the exclusion of men,” and so on. She concluded by exhorting us to “pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit” to empower all people as instruments of God and peace.

Interest groups of various sorts were held most evenings, all of them optional. Some were very good. Others, unfortunately, were not. After emerging from a par-

ticularly ill-prepared and unproductive one, I observed to Elizabeth Mertic, Clerk of the FWCC Section of the Americas, that interest group proposals did not seem to have been properly vetted. She responded, with commendable Quaker simplicity, "They weren't." Consideration of this matter will hopefully be taken up prior to the next Triennial, which is scheduled for Dublin in the summer of 2007.

One of the evenings late in the Triennial featured a Project Fair devoted to presentations on Quaker witness by various individuals and organizations. I had known about very few of them before that time. For example, some New Zealand Friends have been working for several years with Indonesian police on nonviolent approaches, with some concrete if intermittent success. Other Quaker peace initiatives were equally ambitious and impressive.

Midway through the conference, most of the African Friends arrived. They had been lamentably detained for visa reasons, but at last were able to join us, except for some who had arrived on time and others who were unable to come at all. The Quakers from India Yearly Meeting were unable to attend, also for reasons concerning their travel visas. This led many of us to try to envision a world where travel delays due to visa restrictions were no longer necessary, or even possible.

I was quite taken by the Friends from Africa whom I met and/or heard speak. Their faith that God will provide is remarkably strong, a fact that is all the more notable given the war-ravaged conditions under which many of them live. This led some of us Westerners to wonder about our assumptions concerning matters like finances and environmental concerns. We tend to operate out of scarcity mode, finding ourselves continually fighting rearguard actions against hostile forces. While there is good reason for this, there might be other approaches which are worth considering. For example, when we were asked to consider how to go about helping FWCC cope with its financial shortfall, several African Quakers responded, "Pray." Of course, their complete responses were longer and more conventionally pragmatic than that, but they tended to be far more religious than those of most of us Westerners.

Midway through the Triennial the only official Minister of Peace in any national government in the world, Marian Hobbs of the host country, addressed us. She spoke movingly about the need for peace. Peace, she told us, begins with the desire to avoid conflict, which she believes most people yearn for. If we work to nurture that desire, she believes, we can move toward a more peaceful world. She opined that peace begins with dialogue between members of "an informed and communicating community." Other speakers at that day's session addressed the need for peace from the perspectives of their own countries and experiences.

One day my Worship and Sharing group discussed a Scriptural passage depicting Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman. The session highlighted differences between various types of Quakers and their cultural backgrounds. Americans and Brits tended to see the text as open to multiple interpretations, while the African Friends tended to see it as offering a very specific message. Despite this relative difference in orientation, or perhaps because of it, we had a very fruitful discussion.

On our last day together, when almost all of us were in tears over our impending departure, one of the Kenyan Friends, a woman by the name of Zipporah, calmly reminded us that even though we will be separated physically we will all be together in spirit. I've held that sentiment in my heart for many months now, and it comforts me in dark times. It was echoed in the pre-meeting prayer the following day, which concluded with the following words: "We are united, and we are blessed."

The significance of the FWCC Triennials, and even of FWCC itself, is debated, even among members of FWCC. Some might think that a gathering of only 300-350 Quakers is too small to be sufficiently representative of the wider Quaker world. I suggest an alternative interpretation. There are currently some 338,000 Quakers worldwide. That means that about one in a thousand was present at this Triennial. If we were to gather the same proportion of people for the world as a whole, we would be bringing together more than six million human beings from all corners of the earth. It might not be asking too much to expect that those millions of people, nurtured by the depth of their sharing during their time together, could create a ripple effect among the rest. And the world would be far better for it.

- David Shiner

OLNEY FRIENDS SCHOOL

Richard Sidwell, Head of School, reports a very good school year “in almost every way one could describe a learning community.” He attributes this to the place - special and peaceful, but also the many people - wise experienced staff as well as young astute faculty who saw an opportunity to put their ideals and knowledge into practice. There will be very little turnover in “the team” in the coming year.

Of course, the students contribute to the good school year as well. They get the message right away that this is a supportive community. Students embrace learning that is both fun and challenging. This spring on 3-14-04 they had a “pi day”, logical date for a fun-filled focus on 3.14159!! A few students memorized over 80 digits of that number!

In June eighteen seniors graduated. Next year of 72 students, 25% will be from alumni families and about 40% will come from Quaker families.

In reading through “The Olney Current” one is amazed at all that the students do, besides regular classes. Self-Gov, compete in Ohio’s Envirothon, participate in Echothon, backpack, canoe, trip to Laurel Caverns, go to Outdoor Education in Gettysburg, PA, plant potatoes, participate in soccer, including a trip to play against the Scattergood School team (with a sleepover at McNabb), and presentations by Spanish classes.

On May 12, the juniors hosted their Junior Social at Malaga Lake (15 miles south of Barnesville). The theme was a combination of The Matrix, Star Wars, Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter. The afternoon included a rope swing into the lake, free time and games. The seniors were making plans for Senior Social Saturday and their end-of-year trip.

For more information you can contact the school at: alumni@olneyfriends.org or: mainoffice@olneyfriends.org. Mail to: Olney Friends School, Barnesville, OH 43713. Phone: 740-425-3655

- Grayce Mesner

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

The group known to many of you as Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN) changed its name during this past year to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), a name we felt more clearly described our role in Quakerdom. The group has continued to be active in Monthly and Yearly Meetings where and whenever we are invited

to explain the important responsibility Quakers have in caring for the earth and all its creatures. This is a faith responsibility as well as an environmental responsibility.

Our current project to help meet those ends is the recently published *Earthcare for Friends, a Study Guide for Individual and Faith Communities*. It and many of our other publications are on display at the QEW table here at Illinois Yearly Meeting.

QEW membership and steering committee members are from all parts of the United States (and one from Costa Rica). IYM should feel proud of the large percentage of IYM members that have in the past held and are at present holding, steering committee positions. One of the earliest was Bob Wixom. The list also includes Bill and Alice Howenstine, John Hackman, and Sarah and Noel Pavlovic. Sarah now serves as treasurer for the organization.

The group holds two meetings a year, spring and fall, in various parts of the U.S. This past spring a group of about thirty folks met at North Park College in Chicago for 4 days. Thirteen of the group elected to stay in the area for 1 or 2 more days and spent the time in fun and work at Alice and Bill's Pioneer Tree Farm 50 miles north of Chicago. October 7-10 we will have our annual meeting in Burlington, New Jersey.

QEW continues to support and to work with the Ann Kriebel/San Luis project in Costa Rica, a project of community development which provides land and fair trade possibilities to landless farmers while working in harmony with the natural environment.

- Alice Howenstine

SCATTERGOOD

May 30 saw 15 seniors graduating after another exciting year at Scattergood. There were 54 students, including the seniors, at the end of the school year. The staff was enthusiastic and optimistic, and the school committee was pleased with their resilience and professionalism.

As you may recall, we started the year with a new Director and we were looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship. Unfortunately, it didn't work out as we had hoped. The culture shock was more than any of us anticipated—you can imagine there's some difference between being an assistant principal living in Chicago and being head of a Friends school and living in a small town. For personal and professional reasons, Sean left Scattergood on March 26, 2004 and returned to his home in Chicago.

The School Committee named long-time business manager, Jan Luchini, as Acting Director for the remainder of the year. At our May 15 meeting we accepted the recommendation of the Interim Director Search Committee and asked Jan to continue in the position of Director for the coming year. She has done a wonderful job leading the Scattergood community through what could have been a disastrous time. The period of transition went relatively smoothly for which we have been very thankful. We should also recognize the hard work and stability all the staff members provide to Scattergood. They are a very dedicated and caring group of people.

A new search committee is in the process of finding a Director to be in place for the beginning of the 2005-06 school year. Fortunately, or not, the process is still fresh in our minds and we are optimistic for the future of Scattergood. We already have more applications than last time, including some from people who had considered it last time but never applied.

Fiscally, the school ended the year with a very small surplus, due to hard work in keeping expenses down, and generous support during the Annual Giving.

Once again, the June Family weekend, where interested families and their children spent an overnight on campus with staff and some students, getting to know the school and having fun, was a rousing success. It is enthusiastically received by the families who attend, and we hope it will assist in attracting more local Quaker students. I strongly recommend it to families with preteens who might be interested in the school. If you need more information, consult the schools web site (see below) or contact me.

Remember the formative role Quaker schools play, not only educating students about academic subjects, but also shaping students' understanding of the interdependence of the individual and the community. Living in a community governed by Quaker principles, with each student a vital part of making it work, is a transforming experience. It is important to support Quaker education, particularly by sending our children—the benefits are mutual.

After 7 years as IYM representative to the Scattergood School Committee, I'm moving on. I hope IYM's Scattergood Representative will find the job as satisfying as I have.

Scattergood homepage: <http://www.scattergood.org>. Questions or comments are welcome, either directly or via email: joda@ieee.org.

- Joe Davison

YOUTHQUAKE

I have been the IYM representative to YouthQuake for the past three years. A representative to the YouthQuake Planning Committee has to meet about twice a year for three years leading up to the YouthQuake triennial conference. There is a final evaluation session after each YouthQuake that writes the purpose statement and invites yearly meetings to participate in the next YouthQuake. YouthQuake will happen again in Estes Park, Colorado, in 2006.

The YouthQuake Planning Committee includes representatives from a variety of yearly meetings. Yearly meetings are not generally allowed to change representatives in the middle of a planning term. This is due to the bonds of trust that are formed during the planning process. These bonds help the committee hold each other in love while discussing very painful and deep issues.

My experience indicates that each representative brings much to the table and each representative gives up much at the table. This is a job for somebody who has deep convictions that working together across the Quaker spectrum is important. It is amazing what things we think we hold most dear must be set aside and offered to God in order to just work together, and our Quaker Friends of other persuasions must work with us, too.

For teens YouthQuake is a powerful religious experience that I have given much to make happen. I hope Illinois can find a person who has the skills and gifts of finding common cause while giving our youth a safe space to also be themselves.

Duties during YouthQuake include running our yearly meeting group and doing a variety of tasks that the Planning committee needs to do. The representative must attend YouthQuake.

It is important to prepare our youth to attend YouthQuake. Philadelphia YM and New York YM can give suggestions about what kinds of programs they use to prepare their teens for this experience. Young Quakes Conference run by FGC each October is set up to prepare teens for the triennial conference.

Each young person submits an essay as part of the application process. It is the representative's responsibility during the three years to help prepare the youth for this cross cultural experience. The representative needs to be someone who has time to hang out with the youth during the three years.

- Dorothy Day

REPORT OF INDIVIDUALS TO IYM SESSIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

This year has been much smoother for me in the position of Administrative Coordinator of IYM! Nathan is older and healthier, and the tasks of the position become clearer with time and experience.

I greatly appreciate the comments and suggestions people give me on ways that IYM can run more smoothly. I encourage everyone to fill out the evaluation forms at the end of IYM and to be brutally honest about the things you would like to see change. The Planning Group Coordinators of the future rely on the comments from the past to help them know what has and hasn't worked in previous years.

I would like to remind committee clerks to send me the dates and locations of any committee meetings you have planned. This is helpful so that too many meetings don't happen at the same time and cause committee members to have conflicts. I can also forward your meeting times and locations to Dawn Amos who can post them on the website calendar. It is especially important to let me know if you plan to meet on the IYM grounds. Meetings and events taking place here need to be cleared with me (as keeper of the calendar) and with Clear Creek meeting.

Thank you all for your encouragement and support as I continue to learn the intricacies of the job of Administrative Coordinator.

- Sharon Haworth

FIELD SECRETARY REPORT

Last year, the Ministry and Advancement Committee held an open meeting to evaluate the position of Field Secretary. The meeting was well attended and based on input received, the Ministry and Advancement Committee recommended that the position be continued and the Yearly Meeting approved. In the days that followed, while still here attending the 2003 sessions, many Friends from several monthly meetings approached me with requests and ideas for workshops/retreats for their monthly meetings. This has continued through the year. More and more meetings are seeing ways that the Field Secretary can serve them.

This year I have made 37 visits to 10 IYM meetings and worship groups. Many of these visits were in the nature of pastoral care, either working at the request of a meeting or in conjunction with the work of a committee of elders. Over a period of several months, Maurine Pyle and I worked with Friends from Western Yearly Meeting and a dually affiliated IYM meeting that were deeply divided on important is-

sues. Western and IYM Friends were seeking to open lines of communication and clarify previous misunderstandings. They also began the ongoing work of strengthening the historical bonds that had united them.

In addition to facilitating discussions for several meetings, I have prepared and presented 5 workshops/retreats, one with co-leader Marlou Carlson and another with Maurine Pyle. I've traveled to three memorial services, attended threshing sessions, and a meeting with architects and Clear Creek Friends. David Finke and I continue to be available to IYM, monthly meetings and individuals who seek help from the M&A Subcommittee on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct.

My favorite tasks are attending to correspondence with Friends; email, telephoning, writing letters and sending cards. I've continued to use photography as a way of bringing Friends together. The M&A Committee continues oversight and support of the Field Secretary position. I've attended both the winter and spring M&A retreats. I've also attended and reported to the fall and spring meetings of Continuing Committee.

This year I've enjoyed being a participant in a workshop focused on healing led by John Calvi, a workshop on clerking led by David Finke, and a QPCC conference in Richmond, IN on the subject of resiliency in the aftermath of trauma. I've appreciated the support of the Yearly Meeting in being able to use these opportunities for personal growth and enhancement of my work.

- Roxy Jacobs

PASTORAL COUNSELORS (See Minute 51)

Dear Friends:

As in previous years, I am writing to update Illinois Yearly Meeting about my pastoral counseling ministry which is under the ongoing endorsement of Illinois Yearly Meeting. As always, I will need a letter from the Clerk of IYM documenting this continuing endorsement and quoting the 2004 business meeting minute which notes this endorsement. I would be glad to present my report in person on Saturday morning, or to have this letter suffice if you would prefer to address my request earlier in the week.

Connections Counseling and Resource Center, my private practice of pastoral counseling, continues to thrive and to keep me as busy as ever. I continue to feel great integrity and freedom in being able to be "pastoral" as I am led, out of my spiritual beliefs and forty four years of counseling experience. Yes, forty four years! I am getting ancient...

My practice of personal life coaching, GraceFull Life Coaching, continues to grow and to assist persons in making their lives more simple, serene, and sustainable. I have completed the class work of the Coaches Training Institute. I continue to be very excited about coaching, the spirituality of coaching, and the way it helps persons create the lives they truly want to live, and offer to the world the gifts they are led to give!

Last year I mentioned becoming a certified leader of Circles of Ten: Women for World Peace. I have continued that, and have also developed my own somewhat similar program: EarthCare Circles. I will offer an EarthCare Circle to IYM during worship-sharing time on Saturday afternoon.

For those of you interested in QPCC, Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling, please see me for further information. Once again, as so many times before, I am part of the planning committee for next year's conference, this time as "historian." (Yes, I am getting ancient!) Dates, theme, and speakers are still being worked out. QPCC is in a time of great transition at present, since the founding leader, Bill Ratliff, former pastoral care and counseling faculty member of ESR, has retired. Hopefully, new leadership is emerging.

As a pastoral counselor in private practice, my community and accountability to my denomination through IYM continue to be essential in maintaining my pastoral identity. In my counseling and in my life, I seek to follow the leading of the Spirit. Your ongoing endorsement of my pastoral counseling continues to make my ministry possible, as it has since 1978 when I was the first person in the country to set up an endorsement process with a Quaker Yearly Meeting. As ever, thank you so very much!

Sincerely,
Carolyn W. Treadway, LCSW
Pastoral Counselor, Personal Life Coach

Dear Friends,

We have passed our second anniversary in Port Orchard, Washington. Life is still not as settled as we thought it would be at this point in time. I had been preparing to transfer my membership to Tacoma Friends Meeting from Northside, but have hesitated as my husband has been approached by his former company to possibly return to employment in the Chicago metropolitan area. We do not know at this point where this will lead us. Tacoma Friends have agreed to endorse me as a chaplain and supervisor. As I am uncertain as to where we will be as the year unfolds, I would like to ask for your continued support, as well.

My work has been professionally challenging in ways that I never imagined. Working as a Quaker chaplain supervisor in an army hospital in the middle of a war has not been easy. I have learned a great deal about our military and soldiers' concerns. The army chaplains are concerned with how to minister to young men who are suffering the effects of war, physically, psychologically and within their family relationships. What I find most challenging are the issues, concerns and beliefs that seem to have no middle ground for discussion. These tend to be interfaith concerns, theological differences within Christianity, and with a generally conservative worldview that does not blend well with dynamic exploration of the soul because of normative faith structures. The biggest political divisions on the post seem to be over whether we picked the right war and whether it has been waged competently. My greatest personal struggle has been with the hierarchical nature of the army. It really is more efficient to go up the chain to accomplish things rather than communicate with peers laterally, at least at first until you establish a relationship or precedent for cooperation.

Tacoma Friends have been supportive of my process, reflecting the concerns that I have shared above. They have offered me the opportunity to present to them the story theology method that I developed at Rush. I currently serve as Recording Clerk of the meeting. Kyran is one of a handful of young Friends who attend irregularly. Once again he had a wonderful week at the Gathering which has kept him grounded

in his Quaker identity. Friends here are beginning to plan for when the Gathering comes to Tacoma in 2006.

My thoughts are with you as you reflect upon the needs and concerns of IYM. And once again, we are in the traveling directory and would love to see you if you're out this way.

- Peace and love, Beth Burbank

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS MISSION STATEMENT (See Minute 53)

We are a specific-aged sub community of the greater IYM community known as AYF. We are a bridge betwixt Friends in the High School program and the Older Adult Friends.

We were called to start this group to provide sufficient incentive to Friends who have finished the High School program to return to the IYM community. Therefore, we would like your blessing and acknowledgement as a group. By acknowledging us as a group, we request an AYF check box on the registration form and space in the advance registration form for contact information of one of our members.

We are also requesting \$40,000 each in cash, to fund our secret crime lab.

- William Alsup, Casey Kashnig, Ruth Raffensperger,
Charles Howard-McKinney, Ken Nurenberg

MEMORIALS

LOUIS E. JONES

1908-2004

Louis was born on 12/21/1908 in Gibara, Cuba. He was the youngest of three sons of May and Sylvester Jones, who introduced Quakerism to Cuba and lived there as missionaries for 27 years. Louis and his brothers learned English as a second language.

On St. Valentine's Day of 1927, while a student at Earlham College, Louis met his future wife, Mary Ruth Brown. They were married in 1932 and settled in an apartment near 57th Street Meeting in Hyde Park. Louis earned degrees in business and engineering from the University of Chicago and MIT.

After the Jones family moved to Lombard, Illinois, they helped to establish Downers Grove Friends Meeting (DGFM). Louis served the meeting in many ways, and participated in both Illinois and Western Yearly Meetings, since DGFM followed the pattern of 57th Street Friends in uniting with both groups.

Louis was active in quarterly/area meetings of Friends in Metropolitan Chicago. He participated in AFSC and FCNL and belonged to several genealogical societies. In pursuit of the latter avocation, Louis investigated his and Mary Ruth's families and developed a chart of ancestors reaching back to 1066 AD.

At home in Lombard, Louis designed and nurtured a spectacular rose garden. He was a skilled calligrapher, whose marriage and friendship certificates are still prized by those who have them as mementoes of having heard Louis Jones' regular messages during worship at DGFM.

The Joneses moved to Friends Fellowship Community in 1987. Using Richmond, Indiana, as their base, they continued to travel until well into their eighties. While they worshipped at both Clear Creek Friends Meeting and West Richmond Meeting, Louis retained membership at DGFM. A frequent auditor of classes taught by John Punshon, Louis staunchly maintained during class discussion that DGFM was the best among the many meetings he had attended around the world.

Louis' failing eyesight challenged him to try a variety of assistive devices to continue reading, up until the time he suffered a stroke. Confined to a wheelchair after that, he spoke only Spanish, and only rarely. He was always ready with a smile, and never lost his sense of humor, nor the loving presence of his wife of 71 years, with whom he shared a room in the nursing wing of Friends Fellowship Community.

MARY RUTH BROWN JONES

1908-2004

Mary Ruth was born 7/12/1908 in Greenfield, Indiana, the oldest of four daughters of Orville A. Brown and Harriet White Brown. She attended Earlham College but left to begin her married life with Louis Jones. After the birth of their three children, Mary Ruth continued her education at Rosary College's Department of Library Science. She retired from the position as Reference Librarian at the Plum Memorial library in Lombard, Illinois.

Mary Ruth was a quiet but faithful and invariably helpful presence at Downers Grove Friends Meeting. In addition to serving on DGFM standing committees, she

frequently was invited to be on clearness and marriage committees. Her hospitality at the Jones' big tree-shaded house in Lombard was noted for carol sings and watch night parties and welcoming and farewell parties for DGFM members.

Mary Ruth's capacity for friendship extended around the world to include people she and Louis met in trips to Japan, Honduras, England, Ireland and Scotland. They visited friends and family all over the US. Family and Friends frequently dropped by their villa at Friends Fellowship Community, which was furnished with a few of the familiar objects from their Lombard home and many, many books and souvenirs of their travels.

Mary Ruth loved to serve a proper British tea, which delighted her visitors. Some, who dropped in on Joneses while visiting offspring at Earlham, kept coming back just for Mary Ruth's tea parties and her boundless interest in what was going on at DGFM and its two yearly meetings. She appreciated the opportunities to worship with Clear Creek and West Richmond Friends, but told her Illinois family and friends that Downers Grove would always be her spiritual home. Mary Ruth and Louis represented DGFM at Western Yearly Meeting through the 1980s.

Family visits were the delight of her latter years. Mary Ruth kept track of every one of her ten grandchildren and four great-grands, scattered from Maine to California. She saw them together for the last time at Louis' memorial service in February 2004.

Mary Ruth was in frail health the last several years of her life. She invariably rallied, however. It was clear that Louis depended on her and she did not fail him in their 71 year partnership. They died just nine weeks apart. The last words Mary Ruth was heard to speak were, "I'm going to join Louis today."

ED MILLS

Ed Mills died very suddenly on November 1, 2003, at the age of 64. He was born August 23, 1939, to Harold and Maurine Rehn Mills. He married Sue Seimers in 1960 and later married Kay Hall Mertins in 1968.

Ed Mills' grandfather, Ernest Mills, and Helen Jean Nelson's father, J. Turner Mills, were brothers. He was a descendent of Joseph Mills, who was a member of the first Mills family to live on Quaker Lane. Ed was the 6th generation of Mills to live on Quaker Lane. Until his recent move to Granville he lived there all his life. He took over farming the family farm after graduating from high school, when his father, who had been stricken with polio, died at an early age.

He was a grain and dairy farmer. At times he was in the egg producing business in the building west of the meetinghouse. After he stopped producing eggs, he raised silver foxes on a large scale. Many who attended yearly meeting thought there were skunks nearby! He also worked for Griffith Seed Co. and sold advertisement for the Don Nelson Specialty Co.

He and his wife, Kay, both joined Clear Creek Meeting by application in July 1984. He is survived by Kay and her children, Mike and Sheli, and his children, Jim and Valerie.

Prior to his declining health, he had been the one to frequently turn on the heat at the meetinghouse and trim weeds. It was always a treat to see him walk into Meeting on Sunday morning. Ed is now back home at the end of Quaker Lane, which he loved.

TIMOTHY MARK REINKE

Timothy Mark Reinke, age 54, died unexpectedly Thursday, October 9, 2003. He was the son of Alvan Roy Reinke and Carol Bernice Zaumeyer-Reinke. He was born August 23, 1949, in Neenah, Wisconsin, at Theda Clark hospital. He was born into a family of 5 boys and was baptized into the Lutheran Church of Winneconne, WI. He attended that church until 1974.

Tim attended a one-room school house near his home in Butte de Morts, Wisconsin. At the closure of the school, Tim then finished his education at Winneconne High in 1968. Tim married Mary Suesan Miller of Menasha, Wisconsin in August of 1970. A son, Mathew Andrew Reinke was born. A second son, Richard Reinke, was born of his second marriage to Rita.

Tim started attending the Oshkosh Meeting in 1974 and became a member of the Society in October of that year. He attended various Friends gatherings. He was our representative to Northern Yearly Meeting two years ago. He attended IYM at least 5 times and had been our representative there. He recently worked on the youth project at IYM.

He was a man of great heart and will be sorely missed by Oshkosh Friends.

GARDINER STILLWELL

July 24, 1915 – March 16, 2004

We grieve the passing of Gardiner Stillwell, a member of the Urbana-Champaign meeting, Illinois, since 1965. He taught medieval English literature at Iowa State University and the University of Illinois. He loved to quote *Cloud of Unknowing*, *Piers Plowman*, and other early English mystics. He and Max Skinner edited *That Thy Candles May Always Be Burning: Nine Pastoral Sermons of George Fox*. (New Foundation Publications, 2001.)

Gardiner was passionate: he loved his family and sought Truth with equal fervor. As a teenager in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, he plagued his Sunday School teacher with the question, "Yes, but how do we *know* that?" He continued to search all his life, trying on many ideas to see if they fit. While he remained Christian, no one church was big enough for his religious concern; Methodists, Quakers, and New Covenant Fellowship all were part of his life.

He loved music, and we have many happy memories of singing around the piano while he played "Balm in Gilead," "In the Garden," and other favorites. His foot-stomping version of "George Fox" helped raise several generations of Friends in our meeting. The last few years of his life he lost his ability to hear the piano, but he continued to read the scores of Bach cantatas, because he could still hear the music in his imagination.

When he had pneumonia a few years ago, Gardiner used centering prayer to help him breathe. We were so impressed that in such straits, he would have had the presence of mind to engage in something so organized as centering prayer. He sometimes experienced God's presence, reporting that the sense of the Presence once waxed and waned, but remained with him for over two hours. We asked what God's presence was like. He said, "There is a sense of great power, and peace, and of course love."

Gardiner remained active in the spoken ministry to the end of his life. In his last public ministry, he quoted Epictetus's saying that life presents us with many difficulties and challenges, but we can relish the joys that always remain. As his body failed he continued to find joy in the loving care of his daughter, Susan Stillwell, her husband John MacDonald, his daughter-in-law Sally Stillwell, and his grandsons Jeremy, David and Nicholas Stillwell. In his last days he enjoyed frequent visits from Friends and continued to work to heal the rifts in our meeting. We miss Gardiner; we often quote him to one another.

ANDREW W. WOLF

Andrew "Bud" Wolf passed away Oct. 8 at the age of 81, just 3 days after our homecoming where he, along with Helen Jean Nelson and Jim Bumgarner, recorded his childhood experiences in a Quaker community – in school, in the home, and at meeting activities.

Bud was born on Nov. 19, 1921, to Andrew J. Wolf and Edna Wilson Wolf. Bud's mother's father's father's father's father, Stephen Wilson, brought his Certificate of Membership to Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, New Jersey in 1682. Bud Wolf became a member of Clear Creek by application in 1939.

Bud married Betty Mueller on Sept. 22, 1946. During World War II, Bud stayed home and farmed the family place with his father. Bud farmed this land his whole life; this land of his mother's father's father.

Bud was a living example of a quiet Friend. He was not a Friend who spoke during worship but one quick to share a warm smile and a firm handshake with a twinkle in his eye as soon as worship closed.

The Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse stands today because of the loving care Bud Wolf gave. He fired up the heating stove, drained the water line, hired contractors, paid bills, fixed leaks and turned water back on in the spring. As a quiet Friend he lived his life by example.

He was trustee of both Clear Creek Meeting and also of IYM (since 1948). He retired from being an IYM trustee in 2002 after having served over 50 years. He was a valuable member of Clear Creek.

Bud is survived by his wife, Betty, and two children, Bill of Maryland, and Janice, who lives in the original home of pioneer Amos Wilson directly south of the meetinghouse.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

We have had a down year, but are eternal optimists and in the process of rejuvenating (there is a pony in here somewhere).

CLEAR CREEK

I suppose Change would accurately describe the force behind the wave that is our latest Spiritual teacher. When we ride the wave of changes to the building that shelters our Meeting, some of us cannot help feeling in our bones every creak and groan of its moving parts. Then we remind ourselves that our true Meeting lives within the silence of our gathering – wherever we gather.

If Change is the force then losses and gains are its age-old instruments, both in our personal lives and in our growing gatherings. The need to grieve and the reasons to rejoice live very closely with us now. Painful letting go and stretching, being open to new paths are our exercises. In and around these exercises is the feeling of commitment to one another. If we are bobbing in a sea of unexpected change, we are not alone.

We will get through this year's changes and those of years to come. Our strength is hidden within our flexible spiritual limbs. We are surprised and rejoice to see our new branches and buds. Who knew that at this age we still had it in us to bloom?

COLUMBIA

The following reflections emerged from several sessions wherein the whole Meeting could attend to queries, our 3rd year of doing so. However, our process during 2004 of composing this report for 2003 was delayed and abbreviated by considerations of entering a Sabbath Year, on which we shall report next year. The seeds of such a process, though, were sown during 2003 in examining committee life, our size, and difficulties in filling positions.

In looking at high points and major events for the year, we can see them falling into two general realms: our inner life as a meeting, and our role in the outward world.

I. Meetings for worship and for business were held regularly, with nearly constant attendance and a sense that work is shared among a group somewhat smaller than in earlier years. There was significant turnover in our leadership, but Friends seemed to come forth and adapt with generosity and good grace. We officially added 2 adults as members, Jeff Brotemarkle and Pearl John. This reminded us how much we've been enriched by the committed participation of younger adults, as we experience a general "greying" in our Meeting demographics. Unfortunately, our location in an academic community often means we soon miss these newer Friends as jobs or education take them elsewhere.

However, our welcomings and leavetakings have provided opportunities for parties. The social life of the Meeting community has also included workdays, a revived Women's Group, outings and picnics, and monthly Friday Fun Nights. Whether in celebrations or in sharing of life's crises, the Meeting treasures a sense of our being knit together as a Beloved Community. We hear desires expressed to know each

other better “in the things that are Eternal,” to go to the deep places in our lives, beyond the merely intellectual.

The work of Ministry and Counsel in giving oversight to pastoral care of Friends was enhanced by several days’ presence of our IYM M&A visitor, Margaret Katranides, who helped us look at ourselves and our mission. This reminded us of how richly we benefit when we are in touch with — both giving to and getting from — other Quaker organizations.

During the year we created a Financial Assistance committee and clarified its policies. We continued to value and strengthen our newsletter, which has become timely, attractive, and lively. Incorporating electronic distribution of news resulted from our approving policies on such communication, the work of an ad hoc committee’s labors.

The Meeting gave serious consideration to issues of our property, and received and prioritized a list of improvements and ideas for beautification, using input from an Environmental Design class.

Midway through the year, somewhat in response to the role of oil resources in international conflict (“the seeds of war”), an ad hoc committee began looking at our patterns of energy consumption. Results of their efforts included a map of members/attenders to facilitate carpooling, moving some of our activities to more central locations, and asking each committee to adopt a statement on environmental considerations in their work.

However, as we deliberated on these issues, including a called Meeting to consider our response to war, we became aware that for some of us the meetinghouse’s remote location seemed both to require a wasteful use of fuel and also comprised an obstacle to effective outreach. We realized that going forward on meetinghouse improvements should await a later decision on whether we would commit to or plan to leave our present location — certainly a major topic for discernment.

Therefore, M&C was asked to design a careful process by which we could examine our space needs, the stewardship of our resources, and our visibility/accessibility to the larger world. What was planned (and came about during 2004) was a well-attended worship-sharing, with clear guidelines, in which we looked beyond property issues to the underlying questions of “who we are and what God calls us to be and do as a community.” We were guided to “seek God’s leading in applying spiritual principles to specific situations and to discern appropriate actions, thereby growing spiritually as individuals and as a group...” The preparation for this process helped us deepen our life together. Any decisions about the meetinghouse are still under consideration.

II. Relating to the outward world was in the context of our country’s going to war against Iraq. A well-attended Peace and Justice committee coordinated our corporate responses of public witness: demonstrating on a “Day of Resistance,” buying regular newspaper ads with classic Quaker quotations, and generally increasing the visibility of the Peace Testimony. FCNL yard signs were provided for free, AFSC infant-care kits were prepared, and a firm sense of our calling as peacemakers emerged. The Meeting was given a tribute by Mid-Missouri PeaceWorks for its historic leadership on peace and justice issues, though we struggled with how to accept this by pointing to our peace witness and not to ourselves.

Other local expression of our social concerns included emergency help to Catholic Workers (who had been unfairly de-funded), working in Alternatives to Violence Project, receiving draft counseling training from IYM's Peace Resources Committee and then offering it and military counter-recruitment in high schools, maintaining a weekly vigil for peace (over 20 years), cooperating through Interfaith Peace Alliance and Columbia Peace Coalition, giving food to local hunger relief.

Early in the year two of our members participated in the FWCC-sponsored peace conference at Guilford College. This immediately led to David Westling's sensing he was called to work in reconciliation and reconstruction among genocide survivors in central Africa. Readily accepting the recommendation of his clearness committee, Meeting helped fund him for what was to be a 3-week workcamp. However, David stayed for several more months — rebuilding homes and schools, teaching English and AVP, and building relationships with African Friends of evangelical heritage. His reports have helped us knowledgeably support the African Great Lakes Initiative, which has subsequently affected our whole Yearly Meeting. We also gladly continue to support Greg Woods's housing-relief initiatives among the Lakota people, and continue as fiscal agent for that project.

The ongoing opportunities for balancing our concerns — inward and outward, material and spiritual, local and international — lead us again to our Center, seeking God's presence to guide our lives as Friends of the Truth.

DECATUR

It is with a heavy heart that this state of the meeting is written. We have come to the difficult and painful decision to "lay down" Decatur Monthly Meeting due to our dwindling numbers. For almost 40 years, Decatur Monthly Meeting has been a viable meeting serving needs of the community and the needs of families who have become part of Decatur Monthly Meeting. Although the meeting has always been small, members and attenders have had a large impact on many lives and found subsistence and support within the meeting.

Although we have made the decision to lay our meeting down, we have also made our decision to continue as Decatur Worship Group, to increase our participation with Springfield Worship Group, and to ask to be under the care of Clear Creek Meeting. We look forward to these relationships with joy and anticipation.

Decatur Monthly Meeting appreciates the caring and thoughtfulness of all of those who held us in the Light during this difficult decision process.

DOWNERS GROVE

Our meeting has experienced a year of change, losses, gains and challenge. It continues to be a vital spiritual community of God's people. We really love and care for each other, and for the world beyond, in Friends' 350 years-old manner. We sometimes think of ourselves as a small and diminishing community of seekers. Yet God continually sends us new souls with whom to rejoice in searching out together ways to make the world a better place.

PEOPLE

Our member Andrea Wolfe and Tim Bretl were married under the care of the meeting. One of the exciting wedding preparations was the removal of a huge wasp nest under the meetinghouse eaves!

We rejoiced in welcoming Karl and Evelyn Zerfoss who have put down deep roots in Meeting and in our hearts. They broaden our horizons with their involvement in *Common Ground*, an interdenominational forum.

From a phone inquiry, Ruth Marquez moved steadily to attender and membership. Her involvement in monthly meeting and both Illinois and Western Yearly Meetings is much appreciated.

We approved with joy the application for membership of long-time attender Diana Malon.

Following unexpected downsizing at his workplace and a time of testing, beloved Chris Jocius found a new employer to share the blessings of his librarian expertise. Unfortunately for us, he has moved to Rolla, Missouri. His presence will grace the preparative meeting there. Chris' quiet presence and many unobtrusive contributions to Meeting will be sorely missed. In particular his leadership in Adult Religious Education has won an important place for him in our hearts and lives.

In response to her request, Nancy Triscritti's membership was transferred to Tallahassee, Florida monthly meeting.

We rejoice in Ingrid Olson's completion of her Physician's Assistant studies, and her faithful participation in meeting during her demanding courses.

With her family, we recently helped Christine Bruder celebrate her ninetieth birthday with a surprise party. In spite of several "diminishments," from which she always seems to recover, Christine's wisdom, lively sense of humor and concern for others is undiminished.

Sadly, Jim Sprinkle lost his bout with cancer. We were encouraged by his cheerful determination and apparent recovery, then deeply touched by his loss. Our love and concern continue to hold his lovely wife and daughters in our care.

Beloved Martha Chester peacefully passed on. A memorial service, attended by many of her family and meeting Friends, shared Martha's love of life and growing things and her poetry.

Our member Jeanne Maloy succumbed to failing health. Joe Davison, Mike Ero and others had helped her through the complicated physical and financial process of movings and house sales. When it was all completed to Jeanne's satisfaction, she moved on. A memorial service celebrated her contribution to the lives of family and f/Friends. The memory of Jeanne's love of spontaneous fun and celebration lives on like the perfume of a rose.

MEETING EVENTS

Celebration parties for new members seemed to balance memorial services this year.

Young Friends studied famous Friends, chosen and presented by adults at First Day Assembly on 4th Sundays. The annual canoe trip, Arboretum trips and visits to and from young people from other faiths occurred, including a visit to a local mosque.

We have frequent visitors to Meeting for Worship, some of whom become regular attenders, even members. For interested new arrivals, Quakerism 101 was revived, resulting in the formation of some small groups.

A weekly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Peace is held on Wednesday afternoons. Peace and Social Concerns has led Meeting in support of AIDS-related activities; fund-raising bike rides, outreach to the evangelical Christian community, political advocacy, education of college students, and problems of the Third World.

With enthusiastic guidance of Pam Wolfe and Ann Jones, quilting is a weekday activity at the meetinghouse. Young Friends helped complete a beautiful "Earth" hanging to be sold to help our New Meetinghouse Fund. Another quilt is being created through the tracing and transfer of the mural in the Peaceable Kingdom Room.

We appreciated the visit of several members of Western Yearly Meeting's *Ministers of Spiritual Health and Vitality*, who met and participated in our activities, including worship, over a weekend.

OUTER EVENTS

World events are central to Meeting's concerns. With dedicated leadership of Lillian Moats and others, DGFM joined other peace groups and people of faith in minuting opposition to war, specifically the US' preemptive military action in Iraq. Community discussions sponsored by the *DuPage Peace Through Justice Coalition* are not limited to the situation in Iraq. Rather than curing the problems of injustice and misuse of power, our use of military force and economic power has sparked persistent and growing reaction of hate, as war and overriding force always seem to do. We continue to have concerns that basic human issues and needs must be addressed at a fundamental and universal level.

DUNELAND

Duneland Friends Meeting has continued in 2003 to nurture the Spirit and let our outward work arise from the leading of the Spirit. We have experienced increasing spoken ministry in Meeting for Worship. We struggle to find God's messages when the concerns of the outer world are so pressing and discouraging. We pray that the peace we find in meeting for worship can be transformed into a witness to the world. We have begun to seek ideas and clearness on how we can best serve people in our local community.

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business has been only quarterly this year. Monthly Bible study, hosted by Constance Kellam at Pines Village, has increased in frequency with two sessions every month. We have found the Larry and JoAnn Spears *Friendly Bible Study* to be a meaningful way to share our beliefs and vision, and experience of God and the wisdom of Jesus' teachings.

During this last year we have become the worship home for new members including Marjory Crawford, Pat Lucas, Sandy Huntley and Priscila and Fernando Freire. In May, the Freire's were blessed with the birth of a son, Daniel Antonio. He is now a lively attendee at Meeting for Worship. We also enjoy the occasional attendance of Fernando's mother, Nelida Rolon. We have greatly enjoyed the attendance and hugs from Teri Mitchell and the occasional attendance of Earlham alumni, Stephanie Danyi and Andrew Banks. We have welcomed the recent attendance of Kip and Becky Westling since their move to Hobart. At our last advent worship at Roxy Jacob's home we enjoyed the annual participation of Heidi Badgley and Roxy's granddaughters, Ashly and Nicole.

This fall we had a Meeting retreat at Lindenwood Retreat Center at Donaldson, Indiana. The retreat was facilitated by Douglas Germann, who was recommended to us by Roxy. We felt that Doug provided the spiritual space for us to focus the retreat in the directions that interested us most. Some found an opportunity to share their deepest concerns and anguish, greatest joys, and incipient hopes for spiritual development. We were able to get better acquainted with each other as well.

Earlier in the year we shared a potluck meal and preparation of Hygiene Kits to send to Iraq through AFSC with the Meditation Circle, a local Buddhist group.

The Meeting, and Roxy Jacobs in particular, continues to care for Sylvia Way. We gathered for a meal at Roxy's home to help Sylvia celebrate her 90th birthday in November!

Benjamin White continues to attend Guilford College. Janna commenced her first year at Earlham College in the fall after graduating from Scattergood. Nathan and Emily Pavlovic join us fairly regularly in Meeting for Worship. We enjoy the attendance of Fernando Juan Freire.

Members continue to serve in various ways in our community, at the Yearly Meeting and wider Quaker organizations. We have among our number the IYM Field Secretary, a member of the FGC Religious Education Committee, treasurer of the Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature), clerk of the Illinois Yearly Meeting Finance Committee, clerk of the Sustainability Committee for Quaker Earthcare Witness, and one who expresses her concern about war through art and writing. Friends also serve as a Quaker voice on the Religious Communities Task Force of United for a Purpose, an interfaith group seeking to promote religious understanding and make a stand against prejudicial violence in Valparaiso.

EVANSTON

This year, to develop the State of Society report Ministry & Counsel sent out a questionnaire post card to all regular resident members and attenders asking the following questions:

How has Evanston Meeting influenced your spiritual life, both inwardly and in relation to others?

How would you describe the spiritual state of Evanston Meeting over the past year?

Other comments?

Nineteen responses were received out of 95 sent out to members and attenders. The following report describes the current state of the meeting.

The influence of Evanston Meeting on the spiritual life of the individual is described variously as one that:

- refreshes the soul,
- provides personal support,
- helps keep me centered and balanced,
- makes me feel inwardly more forgiving in relation to others,
- helps me develop a fuller spiritual life profoundly,
- provides avenues to explore my spiritual path without hypocrisy or judgment,
- helps me to open myself to God and to feel God's presence and guidance,
- provides a supportive spiritual community and social concerns support, particularly with the Iraq war,
- provides individual sharing fully with each other, second hour dialogue, and sharing of common goals through Peace and Social Concerns,
- affirms my spiritual direction, provides comforting support and enables me to be more open,
- offers a way to be different yet together which is very special,

- enhances my awareness of my connection to others in our community, and develops greater awareness of being a part of our world, and
- provides spiritual energy generated by the group through Meeting for worship.

Also in this area of response,

- Although Evanston Meeting has not been my spiritual “all”, it certainly reflects the sum of all spiritual influences in my life. I am grateful for my earlier non-Quaker upbringing, which eventually led me to seeking Truth to Power through my love for and contacts with the inner Light of all those seekers with whom I share my spiritual journey.
- I have grown inwardly through meeting for worship, singing before meeting, friendly dinners, and people’s spiritual journeys and have become more accepting, able to truly listen less judgmental and feel loved by meeting.
- I am strengthened through meeting activities such as spiritual enrichment and support group, friendly dinners, Quakerism 101 and thoughtful committee meetings.

Descriptions of the spiritual state of Evanston Meeting include:

- New members help energize our meeting; separation from Western Yearly Meeting reduced some strains within the meeting
- Active, but no way to “measure it”
- Slow, but important growth, wedding of same gender couple welcomed
- Has its ups and downs, but people are struggling with deep spiritual issues, and often have glimpses of the Greater Reality; lack of demonizing is appreciated
- Much attention outward to the larger world, important to link with others to share opinions and to examine options
- War has increased anxiety level, but meeting provides an outlet for, as well as a sanctuary from, our communal fears; sometimes wonder about the level of belief in Christ at Evanston Meeting, but Spirit of Christ is evident, nonetheless. Though social action and political awareness has increased, feel that spiritual state has decreased, feel a shift from inner to outer and that meeting is spinning away from its Christian roots
- I believe that spiritual state is strengthening and getting deeper as indicated by activities supported both outward through Right Sharing of World Resources, Fisher Memorial ministries, friends of Latin America and Lakota Project and inward through Pendle Hill Midwest, silent retreat and spiritual support groups
- Visitors have commented they sense a deep spiritual faith in worship, at the same time Meeting has not completely healed from the dissension resulting from the same gender wedding last year, still there is a lot of love and caring in our midst; young couples and children bring new life for our future
- State of meeting is healthy and vital, many ways to become connected to others on both inward and outward paths, it is challenging to find unity with such diversity of theology and interests yet the underlying unity is tangible as we strive to deepen our life together
- Evanston Friends Meeting is tolerant, non-judgmental loving warm and not pushy, seems very healthy to me
- Comfortable environment with room to spiritual freedom
- There is a lot of spiritual depth as reflected in our worship and caring for one another

- I believe the meeting is in a state of continuing revelation. In its own way it was healthy 50 years ago-20 years ago-yesterday- and today, although I wouldn't want to go back to where it was in earlier days, and I look forward to what it will be "tomorrow." Our Faith will see us through.

Other comments expressed include:

- The new young attenders and members are so welcome
- More focus needed on environmental issues
- I would like to see more of a commitment to corporate witness, need to develop summaries of the work of our committees and how newcomers can become involved with the life of our community
- I love Evanston Friends Meeting and have no vision as to how it should change; I appreciate the lack of pressure to do service work or feel guilty for not helping out. Some day I'll have fewer kids at home.
- I like this way of getting everybody's thoughts on the state of society as we see it.

The individual comments of members and attenders of Evanston Meeting mirror perspectives which are also shared by Ministry and Counsel in its own reflection on the state of the meeting. Our worship generally is spiritually nurturing with a balance between silence and vocal ministry. Our First Day School continues to flourish and is well-attended by a lively group of children. We have several wide-ranging avenues for getting to know each other better and for spiritual fellowship. We are finding modest ways to witness for peace and justice. Our vitality is reflected in a number of new members who have joined meeting over the past year. While the Meeting has flaws, we are grateful for our strengths and we strive for greater collective spiritual depth.

FIFTY-SEVENTY STREET

Attendance at 57th Street Meeting of Friends has increased substantially, with 20-30 people on average at our Meetings for Worship. New members and attenders have brought fresh energy and vision to the Meeting. We have reinstated a clerk and committee structure, along with a part-time paid secretary. The new structure enables the spiritual and other gifts of Friends to be woven into the life of the community. At the same time, Friends feel freer to participate in the life of the Meeting without feeling coerced to participate in committee work. Three new members have joined in the past year (one a transfer, two new to the Society of Friends), another is in process of becoming a member, and we anticipate others joining or transferring membership. A Young Adult Friends group has been formed. As we grow in the Spirit we have found new strength to take up difficult tasks. The Meeting has confronted a threat to Quaker values in a forthright and loving manner.

The silence in Meeting for Worship is deepening, and covered Meetings are more frequent. Vocal ministry has become somewhat more focused; Friends who have sometimes dominated in vocal ministry have modulated their words, leaving room for quieter Friends to share their messages. There is more to be done in this area, however, to further our understanding of what it means to be called to speak, and to ensure that messages spoken are appropriately brief, spiritual, and "keep close to the root." Occasionally messages may be somewhat too ego-centered. Some of the messages spoken may be more appropriate as announcements or for general discus-

sion at potluck; but overall the quality of vocal ministry appears to be improving, and we have moved toward protecting fruitful silence that provides room for Seekers to seek. Members indicate that messages in Meeting frequently “speak to my condition.” Planned discussions on the topic of vocal ministry in the future may help to ensure this continues and deepens. There is a need to develop formal programs to address the questions of new attenders, as well as to deepen the roots and nurture the spirits of longer time members and attenders. The Religious Education Committee is moving to do this.

There is real attention given to Quaker process in our Meeting, although we do not always achieve it. This concern for preserving Quaker process means Meetings for Business are often lengthy. There is a genuine effort to live the Quaker testimonies as a community. Those who come, both members and attenders, are people who really care about others. Many are involved (in their free time, in their work, or both) in a range of important types of service and witness in solidarity with the vulnerable.

An issue we have dealt with this year involves our Meeting’s disconnection, on many levels, from Western Yearly Meeting. We have begun the work of reconnecting with Western Friends and to this end sent beloved Friends David Finke and George McCoy to WYM to begin to reestablish those ties. In the past year, Western has provided us with support in addressing issues for our Meeting. Our witness supporting the loving unions of same-sex couples remains an area where our leadings may diverge from those of others in the yearly meeting.

There were serious breaches this year that grew out of conflicts that were not handled respectfully. Healing these breaches and ensuring that such issues do not again get out of hand are critical goals for this year. This will require the creation of better safeguards for the protection of those involved in the work of the Meeting. As we work toward these goals, it is important to continue to reach out in spiritually healthy ways to others that attend so our Meeting is not experienced as being mired in conflict, but rather as moving toward the beloved community. In addition, restabilizing and exercising our committee structure effectively will require considerable attention. Attracting new members/attenders, especially families with children, is a third goal. Organizing our extensive library so it can be a real resource to the Quaker community is another. The possibility of collaborating with other Meetings to create a Peace Center is currently being discussed. Our final and most important goal is to deepen the spiritual life of our community.

We are working on changes to promote the spiritual health of our Meeting. These changes include setting aside lingering “win/lose” approaches to decision-making. Such approaches are violent and disturb leadings. We are also continuing work on community-building so we will know when others need to be held in the Light. Offering Bible-study or other learning opportunities to assist people to systematically deepen their faith will also help build community. Paying continuing attention to the quality of Meeting for Worship, including finding ways to prepare new members and attenders for participation in the Meeting is important. Finally, turning greater attention toward the service and witness emerging from deep spiritual roots will also help us move beyond personal and internal issues. Such issues require attention, but should not become the focus of the Meeting.

HEARTLAND

The Heartland Worship Group has decided to lay itself down as an independent worship group in Illinois Yearly Meeting. There were too few of us and we met too infrequently to continue as a worship group.

We will continue to be in touch with one another and many of us will be active in wider Friends activities, including Illinois Yearly Meeting. While Heartland Worship group has played a meaningful part in the lives of several of us for ten years, it is time to bring Heartland Worship Group as an independent worship group to an official close.

LAKE FOREST

Our meeting continues in good order, without major problems or changes. We received five valued Friends into membership and celebrated the life of Tom Underhill, the late husband of member Janet Means Underhill.

The issue of child membership was raised with some contention this year. The whole issue of membership has roots in the question of what holds the Meeting together and makes it a community. Our unity cannot be founded on a common religious view, for we have no such view. We may regard religion as essentially inward, or as an outward concern with ethics and social action. We may be Christocentric or universalist, religiously concerned or not, and so forth. We seem to be united in our common way of life, which is based on our deepest values and highest aspirations. These values and aspirations can be accommodated by any number of religious views, and may not necessarily be regarded as religious beliefs, though they are always spiritually significant.

Values and aspirations are closely linked but face in opposite directions. Our values look back to tradition for a sense of what is most important in this world. They order our experience and guide our behavior. Among our commonly held values are peace, simplicity and inwardness, all from a particular Quaker perspective; also the central importance of community along with individual responsibility for religion according to Inner Light; and the equal intrinsic sanctity of each individual ("that of God in everyone").

Our aspirations look forward and extend from this world to eternity. Through them we acquire the vision of possibilities necessary for creative advance. But because our highest aspirations reach beyond present circumstances and are products of inspiration, they are difficult to describe adequately in ordinary language and are best expressed in artistic form. The statement that we aspire to trust fearlessly in God, for example, feels far less convincing than the 23rd Psalm.

Possibly for this reason and because the past is comfortably familiar, there seems to be a bias in the Meeting for looking back more than forward. This is not new. Alice Walton, in the 1965 *State of Society Report*, worried about blunting our vision and vitality by only looking back. She asked us to imagine that we had no tradition and were trying to create the Society of Friends. She compared our tradition to a solid wall of experience built by those who have sought their own answers, and asked if we were leaning against this wall or adding to it. We look to the past for our enduring values, but if they are to be expressed in a form appropriate to our time and condition, we must also look to our aspirations, which are the ways we imagine our per-

sonal and corporate fulfillment. These images of fulfillment are connected to the past but exist in an idealized future, where they draw our inner vision towards paradise.

MILWAUKEE

We come together seeking to live peace faithfully and to nurture an alternative vision of being in the world in these times of war and polarization.

We cherish our ability to encourage one another in these difficult days.

We continue to discover ways to welcome newcomers, including name-tags to help learn everyone's name. First Day attendance continues about 85-100, including a wonderful growing group of children. We seek to accommodate our expanded community as well as our desire for closeness. We value the accessibility of our Meetinghouse and continue to work on communication, signage and other issues to enhance it further.

We have two energetic coordinators of our First Day program for young people and we are grateful for their graceful leadership and for the connections they make with parents. They make it easy for those without children to contribute to the First Day program. 34 youth ages 4 – 17 participated in our First Day School with the overall theme "Faith Lived in the Modern World." Lesson plans are related to Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus, Quaker traditions, daily practice and faith in action, and social justice. Adult First Day, which meets three Sundays per month, usually has between 10 and 20 adults in attendance.

We have instituted a convener's gathering to facilitate discussion among committees on pending business. We appreciate the leadership of our clerk, George Owen, who brings us a focus on communication and organization and sets a loving tone. Our budget for this year remained fluid until March; we held two threshing sessions on funding outreach. We consider our anticipated revenue shortfall in our need to fund mortgage and maintenance as well as outreach. Despite this we gave \$7600 to local organizations working in the areas of peace and justice. We re-invigorated fundraising efforts with a "Burn The Mortgage" campaign.

We continue our outreach to our local and extended community in many ways. Among these are the annual International Gift Shop and Peacemakers Camp, and our monthly meal at Casa Maria and prison visitation at Waupun (now in its 28th year). We have kept a promise made as part of the decision to expand the Meetinghouse by developing regular weekday use of the lower level at terms that allow the user, Life-Ways, to balance quality childcare, fair compensation to employees and service to community and low-income families. A good number of Friends are involved in The Peace Learning Center, which this year taught 373 students and their teachers and aides from three neighborhood elementary schools non-violent conflict management, effective communication and cooperation, and awareness of the environment. 34 students from the UW-Milwaukee Mediation Center assisted. We support this work with free use of the Meetinghouse and appreciate knowing that participants connect peacemaking with our space.

Our FCNL committee brings issues to our attention once per month after meeting with a letter-writing table stocked with information, paper, envelopes and stamps. Young people as well sometimes join in the writing. The high visibility of the table and the reward of a cookie or brownie for letter writers has improved the response.

We gather in many different ways to explore our spiritual lives and build relationships through our Men's Potluck, Women's Spirituality, NYM Spiritual Nurture

program alum, families with young children get-togethers, and two reading groups. New semi-annual regional gatherings with Friends from south and east Wisconsin and northern Illinois were dynamic opportunities for growth in spirit and community.

We explore our diversity in the many needs expressed by those who join us for worship. We experience the paradoxical need for more silence during worship and our continued commitment to welcome the latecomer. We explore how to best prepare ourselves for worship and how our singing before worship serves children and adults with diverse desires. We are exploring electronic transmission of our newsletter; while this is convenient for some, we are mindful not to limit accessibility for those who do not use electronic means.

We recognize that our Meeting and people in our Meeting are very busy. How do we create space for breathing room, for a sense of unhurriedness? We ask for the courage to be faithful to our “yeas” and “nays” when we find our activity and reflection to be out of balance.

Membership changes: By request: David Munroe, Jo-Walter Spear, Jr. By transfer from DeKalb, IL: Dan, Barbara and Jason Griffiths. By death: Bruce Mikel, 9/01/03. Weddings: David Munroe-Michelle Hirning, 7/5/03

Births/adoptions (all to non-members): Anna Wilder, 10-13-03; Mia Pearl Muchhala, 2/25/04; Norah Grace Mast-Hochstedler, 2-27-04; Priyanna Cabraal 12-15-03.

NORTHSIDE

Dear Clerk,

In the Spring of 2003, Northside Friends began an ambitious experiment. Putting aside as much of our regular business as we could, we began a Sabbath Year. Just as we put aside our worldly concerns for an hour each First Day to wait upon the Lord, we are endeavoring to set aside a year for spiritual renewal.

With no committees, we bring all business to the floor of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. We have sometimes found it difficult to discern between necessary business that strengthened our meeting and unnecessary business that might undermine our Sabbath. To help us, with Spirit’s guidance, we apply criteria our Nominating Committee had developed in anticipation of the Year:

- Is it God’s will?
- Is action necessary to be able to meet for worship?
- Is action necessary to meet our obligations to other entities (our landlord, IYM, etc)?
- Is action necessary to prevent harm to members and attenders of the meeting?
- Will acting support the work of this year?
- Is this an issue about which the meeting could profit by discussing and coming to unity?

Tactically, we established a Sabbath Year Committee (under oversight of Meeting for Business) charged with planning activities (retreats, worship sharings, readings) to strengthen our meeting community. Under their leadership, we divided the Year into quarters:

1. Seeking a better understanding of our larger faith community by studying Quaker practice and Quaker history.
2. Looking inward at our faith as individuals.

3. Examining how each of us relates to the Meeting, through the twin lenses of membership and marriage.
4. Incorporating our insights into our faith and practice.

Since we have not yet begun our fourth quarter, Northside Friends are not prepared to submit a formal State of Society Report at this time. But Northside Friends are mindful of and grateful for the assistance and prayers extended to our Meeting by Illinois Yearly Meeting and its members. So rather than simply ignoring the call for Reports, Northside Friends directed me to convey their thanks. We look forward to sharing the fruits of our labors soon.

In Peace,
Kevin Brubaker, Clerk
Northside Friends Meeting

OAK PARK

This year: Our meeting continues to grow and flourish in size, in spirit and through action. We have welcomed one new member and two transfers, increasing membership from seven to ten. The overall meeting has grown as well: frequently as many as twenty-five come to share worship, and many regular attendees serve on committees and take part in classes and outreach activities. In addition, our meeting maintains ties with Illinois Yearly Meeting and other Quaker organizations.

How does the truth fare among us? In past years our reports have mentioned a desire on the part of our meeting to increase vocal ministry, and that is one way in which our meeting has grown. Vocal messages have grown more frequent during worship and have benefited all. One activity that has helped us grow closer together spiritually has been a Quakerism 101 course, in which many participated. These fruitful sessions helped us develop greater unity and a greater sensitivity to contributing to a covered meeting in which vocal messages are welcome.

William Durland wrote that Quakerism involves a “physical, spiritual activation of the inward light” and that we should bear outward witness to our inner spirituality. That combination of spiritual and material action appeared on many occasions this year. For example, at the PADS dinners to feed the homeless a spirit of joy and unity hovered over all. Later many commented on how they could feel that our meeting has evolved through participation in these kinds of activities.

Our developing gatheredness, cohesiveness and power as a meeting help foster a flowing reciprocity between spirit and action. Many in our group engage in witnessing activities separately and together that help forward Quaker testimonies, especially those of peace, nonviolence and stewardship. Many belong to secular organizations working toward these ends, in which they may be the only Friends. Some report that the meeting for worship gives them the spiritual nourishment needed for the strength and courage to carry out our testimonies in the world.

Yet we are still a collection of individuals, with busy lives and multiple responsibilities. Sometimes we travel in so many separate directions that we might feel alone in our daily efforts, and perhaps desire additional or different support from other members. We began spiritual support groups to help each other grow in their individual practice. These have had a slow start, but we are hoping to adjust structure and schedules so that all who wish to might participate.

We are all grateful for the steady efforts of the oversight committee, and Co-Clerks Helen Dickinson and Judith Erickson and Recording Clerk Penny Murad. Without them our meeting would not be nearly so unified and harmonious in worship and business.

OSHKOSH

This past year has been fairly smooth within the meeting. We are more generous with each other and are showing more tolerance. We are learning to accommodate many of our differences. This is essential in a meeting that has a small core group of confirmed Friends as ours, and is an ongoing process. Another ongoing process is learning what we can do and can't do. It is a trap to over-commit ourselves and our meeting as well as to under-commit ourselves. In these troubled times there are so many good causes. It is easy to feel that we have to champion every cause you feel concerned with, but it is essential that we do not exhaust our meeting and ourselves. It is also essential that we do act – that we balance action with knowledge of our limitations. However, we should not excuse ourselves from action because of unfounded beliefs that we will exhaust ourselves or that we cannot affect events.

We must also find balance between our spiritual and our social concerns, both within and without meetings. Often Meeting seems to be going good in one direction or another. We need to be aware of this and bring our Meeting into balance when it sways too far in either direction. We need to heighten our awareness and responses to situations like this as a meeting, to individually recognize routines or comfort levels when we fall into them and examine them for relevancy and spirituality. We need to heighten our sensitivity to doing actual long-term good, rather than merely being “do-gooders” and putting band-aids on problems.

Individually we are very diverse – we have different skills, jobs, incomes, family lives, and schedules. We have done well at balancing these and being aware of the fact that we each serve in different ways. We need to foster flexibility – to continue to grow and change to meet today's ever-changing concerns.

ROCK VALLEY

We met together as a Meeting to review the past year's activities and issues. This report is a summary of that discussion.

Over the past year we have tried to simplify our Meeting life. We have laid down all of our committees but one and do our business as a committee of the whole. We have experienced that this is a positive change. As one Friend commented, “We are no longer pretending that we are a big Meeting that needs so many committees.” We have also recently eliminated having music before meeting on first First Days. This was an activity that had been received with mixed feelings and results. We will leave singing up to the prompting of the Spirit.

There is concern that ministry and counsel concerns need more attention in our Meeting than they have received recently. It has been suggested that since we don't have a committee to deal with such matters that it should be on the agenda for meeting for business every month.

On and off over several years we have held mid-week meetings in the homes of Friends. Recently we have revived this practice and have found it to be very positive

and beneficial for everyone, hosts and participants alike. It has perhaps brought us closer together as a Meeting.

One of the saddest and most difficult events of the past year for us was the abrupt and seemingly inexplicable request from one Friend to have her membership and involvement in our Meeting terminated. We have not known how, or even if, to respond to her written request. She seems to want to have no more contact at all with us. On the other hand we have a handful of members with whom we still have regular contact on a personal basis but who have not participated in the life of the Meeting for many years. This too is disturbing to us and is hard for us to understand.

One of the highlights of the past year was our member Adah Manby traveling to the West Bank as part of a Christian Peacemaker Team. She returned with a greater understanding of the problems and the people of that strife-ridden area of the world. She has enthusiastically educated us and has spoken to numerous groups throughout the Rockford area about her experiences. Her energy and involvement in the world, even at the age of 83, is an encouragement to us all.

We sometimes wonder if our Meeting is dying. We currently have seven regular attenders at meetings for worship and business. Four of these Friends are over eighty years old. We have not attracted any new people for a long time. We are not appealing to young people, not even our own children and grandchildren. We don't know the solution to reversing this trend.

For obvious reasons aging and death and dying continue to be topics of concern for our Meeting. We have decided to deal with the topic of "getting our affairs in order." We have a desire to help one another in preparing for our deaths and other end-of-life issues. We feel it is important to encourage one another to record our wishes regarding these matters before it is too late.

We continue to be involved with Friends House Neighborhood Center which owns the building where we meet. Three Friends are on its board of directors and several of us volunteer time and energy to the Center and its programs for local youths. We also continue to collaborate with other like-minded individuals and organizations locally on peace and social concerns issues.

Despite problems and concerns mentioned in this report we do not feel discouraged in general. We are ministering in important ways to each other and, at least in small ways, to the world as well.

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

We continue to hold forth in the Spirit every First Day the year round at an ecumenical center near the University of Missouri-Rolla campus.

Our main new activity has been a discussion and series of readings on various forms of meditation.

Our new member from Illinois, Chris Jocius, has contributed much to this ongoing program and has deepened our worship in other ways as well during his year here. We have attracted several new attenders but still we remain a phenomenally small group: six is a good crowd for us.

We continue to share a potluck at the end of the month. We are honored to have older members who attend regularly and younger attenders too who add much to our worship. Visitors have been greatly appreciated, and we try to accommodate any travelers with hospitality and an audience for all that we share.

ST. LOUIS

As St. Louis Friends reflect upon the past year there is much to bring us joy. We rejoice in the strength of our community and deep commitment to each other as we strive to nurture old and young alike. Most Friends feel comfortable opening themselves to the Meeting and asking for help practically, emotionally and spiritually and most feel that they receive it. We have been blessed with many newcomers and new members and are looking forward to three weddings this year. Our First Day School is growing by leaps and bounds and we delight in the presence of our young people both during meeting for worship and as we gather for fellowship and food afterward. Our Quakerism 101 class is the largest in recent memory. However there is still concern among Friends that we may not be doing all we can to help adults to realize their full spiritual potential. Though a few stalwart Spiritual Directions and Friendly Dozens groups are going strong, we worry that we may not be bringing newcomers into the groups as well as we might. There is a yearning among adults for a deeper understanding of Quaker ways, particularly in recognizing true leadings and understanding the process of discernment both personally and as a Meeting.

The quality of the silence during meeting for worship is excellent and there is a sense that the silence is deep and spirit-led. We are grateful for many wonderful messages that we have received during meeting for worship and feel that the quality of vocal ministry is generally good. There is a concern among Friends that some of the messages may not be spirit-led and a desire to better understand how God moves each of us to speak.

Our most troubling struggle is not uncommon among Friends, but is a matter for deep concern. Our meetings for worship with a concern for business suffer from consistently low attendance, which leads to decisions lying solely in the hands of a few faithful participants and a subsequent difficulty in communicating decisions to the Meeting at large. We recognize that the meeting for worship with a concern for business is the very soul of Quaker process and poor attendance weakens the Meeting as a whole and reduces our ability to effectively implement our decisions. Our attendance problem seems to stem from three factors: an unfortunate tendency to rehash committee work during meeting for business; meetings which are needlessly long; and, most importantly, a failure to communicate a sense of our corporate responsibility as Friends to tend to the business of the Society. It is our fervent hope that we can work toward deep listening, expectant waiting and thoughtful speaking as the very life of a successful meeting for worship with a concern for business.

Our committees are working well for the most part. Our First Day School has been reorganized and a class for pre-schoolers and early elementary age children has been added. We are delighted that the changes seem to be bringing some young people, who had attended inconsistently, to Meeting more regularly and several new families have begun attending as well. In an attempt to focus the limited energies of a small committee, the Peace Committee is focusing on conscientious objection and alternatives to the military. Their primary goal is to create a St. Louis-wide coalition that would provide information and counseling to young people considering conscientious objection and to raise the consciousness of the public to the threat of a reactivation of the draft. Finance Committee has been very successful in strengthening the financial status of the Meeting through refinancing our debt, most notably by instituting a loan program whereby members and attenders could make loans to the Meeting

to help pay off the mortgage early. The program benefits the Meeting by providing it loans at a lower interest rate and members by offering them a higher interest rate than the banks would offer. We have been able to significantly reduce our interest payments with this program. The Grounds/Unity with Nature Committee has received a grant to help beautify both the Meeting grounds and our neighborhood. There is a sense from both Advancement and Outreach and Ministry and Caring that we could be doing a better job in reaching new seekers and in communicating with them quickly. Some committees struggle to get big jobs done with poor attendance or with very small committees. Nominating committee has been challenged to find willing committee clerks in some instances.

We have broadened our outreach beyond the Meeting in two important ways this year. Our website is now up and running at <http://www.stlouisfriends.org>. In 2003, we began holding “Burundi Sundays” where lunch and other goodies are offered for a donation in support of two Quaker elementary schools in Burundi. We will continue with this successful program in 2004. Friends’ participation in Blue River Quarterly and Illinois Yearly Meeting remains strong. In order to strengthen the Meeting’s witness in behalf of Friends’ testimonies to the world, we must maintain and deepen our sense of community—being particularly tender toward each other when there is disagreement. We must further strive to reach out to each other and to new seekers and continue providing a strong children’s program in order to draw and keep new families and to keep our Society vibrant. We recognize that we must also do a better job of supporting and providing programs for young Friends as they reach the transition into adulthood. The work of committees needs to be fully supported and the meetings for worship with a concern for business strengthened. Individually we must recognize the gifts that the Meeting gives to us and be willing to give to the Meeting in equal measure.

SOUTH BEND

There is a lot of optimism about South Bend Friends Meeting, for the most part. Many of those who attend are especially happy with the quality of the Meeting for Worship; it was deemed to be “refreshing,” “renewing”; and we are all grateful for its “good health.” A number of members have expressed appreciation for one of the changes in procedure that has been instituted in the last two years, and that is the continued opportunity of taking turns after Meeting for Worship to announce our names and to add anything else that we wished to share with the group, but which we did not feel “called” upon to give as a message during worship. (Sometimes these are musings that we have had during Meeting; sometimes information on absent Friends or a request for prayers; sometimes a sharing of a recent spiritual experience.) In addition to contributing to fellowship by sharing news, some feel this may have improved the quality of Meeting for Worship by ensuring that only those messages that are truly moved by the Spirit are shared during Worship.

South Bend Friends has been through a period of growth in the past year or two; indeed, our numbers have doubled in the past eight years. One Friend has stated that the potential for the Meeting’s growth is greater than it has been in twenty years, and there is a lot of optimism in this. Seeds of growth of many kinds are evident.

One thing our growth has led to is a much larger number of children and a more active First-Day School. This past year we have gone from twice-a-month First-Day

School to a program for two different age groups *every week* during the school year. While still concerned that we have not been successful at attracting our few “teen” members to attend on Sundays, we have a large and cohesive group of younger children and intermediate ages.

The Meeting has experienced growing pains in a number of areas over the past year. We have spent a lot of time and energy on the question of whether we want our own Meeting House (or such a one as we could possibly afford); and we have yet to digest this movement and figure out where we have unity and where we want to go with it. We have been integrating and consolidating new energy, and some see us at a “critical mass” for the next stage of development in this and in other matters. We are continuing to struggle with ways of balancing ourselves in terms of process. As we move from a small meeting to a medium-sized one, is it time to institute more formal processes for committee work, business meetings, and participation in the responsibilities of the Meeting? Things have been done in a somewhat informal way for a long time; but with increase in numbers, there is a need to find the right balance for our size, for clear lines of responsibility, for fairness in the distribution of work, and for ensuring trust in one another.

Our base has definitely broadened with the new growth in Meeting, and Friends have expressed gratitude that there is still room for a variety of opinions, for sharing and struggling with individual and Quaker ideals. Friends are grateful that the Meeting has been able to successfully incorporate the new members of the last eight years, to share leadership in Meeting activities, as well as to show a growing tolerance for openly acknowledging and discussing differences within the Meeting.

Although some feel there is still some defensiveness and not-entirely-healed past rifts within the Meeting, in the past twelve months there have been many wonderful opportunities to get to know one another, strengthen our bonds, and build trust. There have been a number of social occasions at which to work and play together: a trip to Fernwood Gardens; a number of pot-luck meals, with or without business being conducted, at members’ homes this year; and, most recently, a wedding in April between two of our newer members. Rock-climbing, art or charitable projects, and museum trips have helped build friendship with and among the children.

Along with all of this optimism, observations have been made that we still have more work to do in sharing leadership, developing potential leadership, and in acknowledging and discussing differences. There was also concern that we seem to lack a group mission or direction. The Meeting’s balance between worship and outward action is in flux. One thing we did this year was to join, as a meeting, the interdenominational Center for Peace and Non-violence, and some members are starting to work on projects in conjunction with this city-wide committee. In the coming year, we would like to think about a sense of mission and how one can discern it.

This led to the observation that, this year, perhaps our mission has been one of exploring process: how do we work toward clarity, come to unity, etc.? It has been a rich experience for the Meeting, and the “yeast” is still rising. Once we figure out where our unity lies, then we will be in a position to share it. In terms of outreach, certainly, we need to decide how to make available the treasure that we have in our Meeting for Worship. How should we promote/advertise our Meeting?

Other areas that some Friends feel could use improvement were in individual commitments to come to Meeting regularly and in a group commitment to be more

involved with the larger Quaker universe, such as Illinois Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

We close this year with hope for continued health and clarity.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The past year at Southern Illinois has been one of deepening the sense of community and spirit. This was aided by a visit by the IYM Field Secretary, Roxy Jacobs, in November. Our clerk, Dawn Amos, has been active in IYM, Blue River Quarterly and FWCC, bringing us in closer contact with the broader community of Friends. Her experiences enrich all of us. We have an active First-Day program for our youth—although it is quite a struggle for our small meeting to meet the needs of youth aged 2 to 17. All of the youth worked together to put on another in the series of short Quaker-related plays that have been penned by Tom Leverett. This year's play was on the life of George Fox and incorporated many of Fox's and Woolman's own words. There were parts for the kids from the youngest to the oldest. In other First Day activities, the high school students have examined the works of Plato, William Blake's etchings illustrating the book of Job and Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Younger children have enjoyed walks to many nearby sites and have enjoyed the oft-requested story of the giant defeated by kindness. Although small, we continue with a steady attendance, although the academic community brings both comings and goings. We try to follow a schedule of after-meeting fellowship rotating between pot-lucks, singing, and discussion. We stay in touch with each other through an active listserv which allows us contact with members and attenders who have moved away, and Dawn Amos has maintained a website, www.siquaker.org, which helps with outreach. The Meeting continues to be a source of fellowship and spirit for all of us.

UPPER FOX VALLEY

In March 1974, 15 adults and 3 children affirmed their wish to form a monthly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and thus the McHenry County Friends Meeting was formed. Thirty years later, in April 2004, at a business meeting attended by 9 adults and 2 children, it was decided to change the name to the Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting.

This name change was made after long consideration over many months. It reflects our desire to delineate more clearly the area from which our members come, to show our unity with all of God's creation (including the natural world), and to make our Meeting more recognizable to seekers unfamiliar with "Friends" in a community of many "friends" organizations.

The "state of our society" today is indicated more by that action to change the meeting's name than by the number of people who were present to approve the change. The small number of Friends involved might seem to indicate a lack of vigor.

However, in the past two years there has been an uplifting spirit in our Meeting, indicated tangibly by the addition of four new members during the past year and by a gradual increase in numbers attending meetings for worship. Since we continue to meet in homes, these numbers sometimes challenge the seating capacity of a room.

Still more encouraging has been the growing diversity of ages involved in our meeting – pre-school, elementary school, high school, college, young adult, and senior groups – participating together in all our activities.

Our snack after meeting for worship has evolved into a potluck meal over which we share news of the “Meeting family”, and after which we hold business meeting, or our Spiritual Formation group (currently based on readings from the *Friends Journal*). Earlier, when the Spiritual Formation group met in mid-week it drew almost as many participants as our Meetings for Worship. The small worship groups in Aurora and St. Charles continue to meet under our care. Our Meeting members and attenders have been participating more fully in the larger Religious Society of Friends, including the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, the Illinois Yearly Meeting, the Friends General Conference, and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Our group is blessed with a rich sense of community, which sustains us as we pursue our individual interests and local work—for peace, a sustainable natural environment, healthful living, and the arts.

Nonetheless, we are challenged by these questions which we ask ourselves from time to time:

Why has our membership not increased significantly in 30 years, to match the extraordinary population growth in the Upper Fox Valley?

How can we achieve that “critical mass” of First Day School children to attract and keep more families in our Meeting?

What can we do to strengthen the small worship groups under our care?

Can we better meet the needs and desires of those seekers who enter our orbit, but do not stay?

We feel an energizing Spirit among us that we trust will help to answer these queries and continue to invigorate our society.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

We look forward to worshipping in the new meeting house. We’ve been told we can meet there privately any time, but Friends prefer to wait until there are bathrooms. The meeting room has been painted. It looks beautiful! The New Meeting House committee worked out an altercation between the architect and the contractor; the professionals learned a little about how Friends deal with conflicts, and now the builder and contractor work together more easily.

First Day School. There have been lots of activity, and lots of new children, on first and third Sundays, when Wee Friends meet. Religious Education committee has put together a thematic program based on Quaker testimonies, and is actively working to nurture the children’s spiritual life. We enjoy seeing the young faces at meeting, and seeing new families among us, even before we’re in the new meeting house. Recently the kids heard *Clarence the Copy Cat*, a story about a cat that doesn’t want to kill mice, and has to seek alternative ways of getting the mice out of the house.

March 7 we held a Family Worship with the children. We read the story of Noah’s Ark, sang some songs about Noah led by Drew Phillips, and then had Grand Silence for half an hour. During Grand Silence, Friends did handwork or other quiet work while worshipping. Bags of art clay were available for adults and children, so that Friends could fashion animals for Noah’s Ark during the Grand Silence. The Noah’s Ark will be displayed in the new meeting house.

Meetings for worship are quiet and meaningful. Attendance is growing. We would like to hear more spoken ministry; we wonder if Friends are censoring themselves, or if perhaps the leadings have been personal and not for sharing. There has

been good fellowship after worship, and one recent Sunday there was a lot of sharing during worship. Business meetings have been small. Our sessions have not been contentious but still stressful, because we keep needing to approve small incremental expenditures for the new meeting house: first an alarm system, and then professional varnishing of the mullioned windows throughout the meeting house. Many have come through, however, with extra cash as well as extra help for two elderly Friends.

Peace and Service has worked to promote peace. They have gathered lesson plans on peace and conflict resolution through research on the Internet. They plan to send the results of their research to the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, in order to increase peace education in schools in both Israel and Palestine. Peace and Service also actively contributes to efforts for restorative justice in Champaign-Urbana.

The Tuesday evening study group has read Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief*, and followed up by reading the *Gospel of Thomas* with a commentary they found on the Web for the obscure passages. They are starting to spend one Tuesday a month reading Jessamyn West's *Quaker Reader*, with the participation of both new and old attenders. The series began March 9. Several new attenders have expressed interest and ordered books. Soon we will watch Monty Python's *Life of Brian* together, and pick out a Pendle Hill pamphlet to read together.

Kory, Cynthia and Connor Ching have been welcomed into membership. Several new attenders have swelled our ranks in worship. We were grieved at the death of our longtime member Gardiner Stillwell, March 16, 2004. His memorial meeting was well-attended. Several of Gardiner's friends from the wider community spoke in ministry, making clear the depth of his contribution to the lives of others.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Clerk: Bob Wixom

2005 Nancy Halliday,
 2005 David Westling,
 2005 David Wixom,
 2006 Sandy Bales,
 2006 Ted Smith,
 2006 Anne Comiskey,
 2006 Noel Pavlovic,
 2006 Sarah Pavlovic,
 2007 Alice Howenstine,
 2007 Bill Howenstine,
 2007 Roy Treadway,
 2007 Bob Wixom,

COMMITTEE ON FAITH & PRACTICE Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik,
 Peter Lasersohn,
 Tom Paxson,
 Colleen Reardon,
 Larry Stout,
 Bob Wixom,

FINANCE COMMITTEE Clerk: Sandy Huntley

2005 Bob Bartles,
 2005 Alethea Tschetterwood,
 2006 Judy Jager,
 2006 Nancee Miller
 2007 Cathy Garra,
 2007 Sandy Huntley,
 2007 Bruce Kanarek
 2007 Elizabeth Mertic,

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2005 Pam Kuhn,
 2007 Margaret Katranides
 2007 Clance Wilson,

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Clerks: Brent Eckert

2005 Chip Rorem,
 2005 Marie White
 2006 William Alsup
 2006 Ann Eckert,
 2006 Brent Eckert,
 2006 Bill Howenstine,
 2006 Tim Narkiewicz,
 2007 Robin Johnson
 2007 John Knox, I

Ex-Officio: All Trustees

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT Clerk: David Shiner

2005 David Finke,
 2005 Margaret Katranides,
 2005 Rachel Mershon,
 2005 Faith Romano,
 2005 Tom Stabnicki,
 2006 Jeanette Baker,
 2006 Michael Dennis,
 2006 Jinny Laughlin
 2006 David Mirza,
 2006 Joan Pine,
 2007 Cherie Dupuis,
 2007 Janet Means Underhill,
 2007 Paul Schobernd,
 2007 David Shiner,
 2007 Martha Turner,

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Janice Domanik

2005 Jon Wixom,
 2006 Marlou Carlson,
 2006 Janice Domanik,
 2007 Margie Haworth,
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert,
 Rebecca Acquisto,
 Judy Jager,
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE Clerk: Elizabeth Sprague

2005 Dawn Rubbert,
 2005 Elizabeth Sprague,
 2006 Andrew Bartles,
 2006 David Finke,
 2006 Chuck Hutchcraft,
 2006 Ted Kuhn,
 2007 Breeze Luetke-Stahlman,
 2007 Anna Sandidge,
 2007 Tom Sandidge,
 2007 Chuc Smith,

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Clerk: Marcia Nelson

2005 Marcia Nelson,
 2005 Nora Vera-Godwin,
 2006 John Knox,
 2007 Chris Jocius,

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: David Finke

2006 David Finke,
 2006 Pat Wixom,
 2007 Dawn Amos,
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Chris Jocius

2005 Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd., Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726

2006 Chris Jocius,
2007 Jeannie Marvin,
2007 Grayce Mesner,
2007 Scott Searles
2007 David Wixom

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Marti Matthews

2006 David Finke,
2006 Marti Matthews,
2006 Jerry Nurenberg,
2007 Candy Boyd,
2007 Judy Jager,
2007 Bob Wixom,
2007 Greg Woods,
2007 Carol Zimmerman,
2007 Julia Pantoga,

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Co-Clerks: Marti Matthews, Katherine Trezevant

2006 William Alsup,
2006 Dorothy Day
2006 Marti Matthews,
2007 Peter Albright,
2007 Katherine Trezevant,

Ex-Officio: Teen clerks

AD HOC COMMITTEES

DEVELOPMENT

Clerk: Cathy Garra

(Clr Crk) Robert Bartles,
(Finance) Cathy Garra,
(at large) Nancy Duncan,
(Site En) Sallyann Garner,
(M&A) Tom Stabnicki,
(at large) Frank Young,

SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE Clerk: Bill Howenstine

Richard Ashdown
Carol Bartles,
Betty Clegg,
Sallyann Garner,
Bill Howenstine,
Jeannie Marvin,
Dennis McQueen,
Jerry Nurenberg,
Beth Schobernd,
Matthew Smith,

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION: 4 Representatives

2005 Carol Bartles,
2005 Dawn Rubbert,
2006 Robert Godsey,
2007 Linda Sizemore,

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2005 Grayce Mesner,
2007 Scott Searles,

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2006 Patricia Monaghan

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION: 6 Representatives

2005 Tom Dix,
2005 Matthew Smith
2007 Wallace Winter

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

2007 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE: 4 Representatives

2005 Casey Kashnig,
2005 Nancy Jordan,
2006 Dorothy Day,
2006 Tom Paxson,

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2006 Julia Pantoga,

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISON

Scattergood School:

Olney Friends School:

2005 Grayce Mesner,

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2005 Liz Oldham,
2006 Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd., Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726
2007 Nancy Wallace,

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS:

2006 Alice Howenstine,

YOUTHQUAKE

2007 Joe Davison,

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2004 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Dawn Amos , Tom Paxson, David Wixom

2004 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:
Ted Kuhn, Brad Laird, Pam Melick,

2005 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:
Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Blue River Quarterly
Food and Adult Program: Chicago North
Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago South

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:
Cindy Reynolds,

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:
Brent Eckert,

WEBSERVANT:
Dawn Amos, 310 Union Grove Rd., Carbondale, IL 62903 618-457-8726

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDING CLERK:
Maurine Pyle,

PAST CLERK:
Margaret Katranides,

FORMER TRUSTEE:
Richard Ashdown,

FORMER TRUSTEE:
Carol Bartles,

REGISTERED AGENT:
Roger Laughlin,

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2004

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 203 (159 adults, 44 YFs under 19 representing 125 households).

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	46 Adults	
	20 Young Friends	Total: 66
Chicago North	56 Adults	
	12 Young Friends	Total: 68
Chicago South	44 Adults	
	11 Young Friends	Total: 56
Other	13 Adults	
	1 Young	<u>Total: 14</u>
		203

Housing: 114 camped, 89 used motels or local housing.

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 the current IRS business rate per automobile mile (36 cents per mile in 2003) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees 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 Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

RATES FOR USE OF IYM FACILITIES

Facilities are available April 15—October 15

Site fee for IYM groups:	\$ 25
Site fee for non-IYM groups:	\$ 50
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per IYM group:	\$500
Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee (at cost, according to size) if necessary.	