

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

2007 Sessions will be held from 7/25/07 to 7/29/07
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

2006

July 26
to
July 30

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2006–2007

Presiding Clerk:
Sue Davison

Asst. Presiding Clerk:
Tom Paxson

Recording Clerk:
Margie Haworth

Asst. Rec. Clerk:
Peter Lasersohn

Reading Clerk:
Sue Styer

Co-Treasurer
Roger Laughlin

Co-Treasurer
Dawn Amos

Field Secretary:
Maurine Pyle

Admin. Coord.:
Sharon Haworth

Teen Friends Co-Clerks:

Ashlee Miller-Berry
Monica George

Teen Friends Recording Clerk:

Steve Kuhn

Trustees:

Richard Ashdown
Carol Bartles

Meetinghouse Phone: 815-882-2214

IYM Website: www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2005

Blue River Quarterly

B-N	CC	Co	P-G	St.L	SoI	U-C	
							Members & Attenders Statistics
							Average Attendance:
6	18	25	4	58	11	23	Adults
2	3	1	0	16	4	5	Under 18 years old
							Membership Statistics
6	28	16	5	66	5	29	Resident Adult Members
1	3	0	0	6	10	5	Resident Young Friends
10	37	31	2	62	5	57	Non-Resident Adult Members
0	1	0	0	1	0	8	Non-Resident Young Friends
17	69	47	7	135	20	99	TOTAL
16	65	47	7	128	10	86	Total Adult Members
1	4	0	0	7	10	13	Total Young Friends
							NEW MEMBERS
0	0	0	0	0	1	2	By Birth or Adoption
0	2	1	0	3	0	2	By Request
0	12	0	0	0	0	0	By Certificate of Transfer
0	14	1	0	3	1	4	TOTAL
							LOSSES
0	0	1	0	1	0	0	Deceased
0	0	0	0	4	0	6	Released or Withdrawn
2	0	0	0	2	0	0	Transferred
2	0	1	0	7	0	6	TOTAL

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	394
Metropolitan Chicago	701
Wisconsin	<u>104</u>
TOTAL	1199

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

DK	Metropolitan Chicago											Wisconsin		TOTALS
	DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NoS	OaP	RoV	SB	UFV	Mil**	Osh**		
6	30	5	65	27	34	13	25	8	24	8	60	5	455	
6	5	1	12	5	5	2	4	0	8	2	15	0	96	
6	48	12	59	15	74	27	14	10	22	15	73	5	535	
5	9	3	21	2	7	4	8	0	9	2	2	0	97	
3	51	2	32	107	64	13	1	1	7	7	24	0	516	
0	4	0	33	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	51	
14	112	17	145	124	145	46	23	11	38	26	99	5	1199	
9	99	14	91	122	138	40	15	11	29	22	97	5	1051	
5	13	3	54	2	7	6	8	0	9	4	2	0	148	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
0	2	1	3	1	3	1	4	0	2	0	2	0	27	
0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	
0	2	1	3	5	3	2	5	0	2	0	2	0	48	
0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	
0	0	0	12	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	28	
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	
0	2	2	12	0	1	2	2	0	4	0	2	0	43	

* 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.

DeKalb numbers are from 1993.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

Corey Leverett (Southern IL) 4/05
Evan Carter Ching
(Urbana-Champaign) 7/05
Cole Thomas Ehara
(Urbana-Champaign) 10/05

BY REQUEST:

Diane Dennis (Clear Creek)
Heidi Bezzerides (Columbia) 7/05
Barbara Matt (Downers Grove) 2/06
Lorraine Bartnik (Downers Grove) 1/06
Bernard F. Reilly (Evanston) 5/06
Rebecca Miller (Evanston) 6/06
Robert Hopper (Evanston) 6/06
Mike Conover (57th Street) 1/06
Ted Kuhn (Lake Forest) 9/05
Lukan Paulus (Lake Forest) 3/06
Peta van Tienhoven (Lake Forest) 3/06
Laura Camilli (Milwaukee) 11/05
Susan Perkins (Milwaukee) 9/05
Elizabeth Sprague (Northside) 9/05
Adrian Ayres Fisher (Oak Park) 7/05
Helen Rose Dickinson (Oak Park) 5/06
Donna Joy Cech (Oak Park) 5/06
Jim Holmes (Oak Park) 6/06
Sandra Tamari (St. Louis) 9/05

Pat Berg (St. Louis) 2/06
Debra Penna-Fredericks (St. Louis) 2/06
Kate Gibbons (South Bend) 10/05
Bobby Meyer-Lee (South Bend) 11/05
Jacqueline Waters (Urbana-Champaign) 7/05
Michael Phillips (Urbana-Champaign) 8/05

BY TRANSFER:

To: Clear Creek:
Beth & Paul Schobernd,
from Bloomington-Normal
Michael, Martin & Rose Dennis,
from North Carolina
Cindy & Gary Reynolds, from Decatur
Hannah Jean Protzman, from Decatur
John Allyn & Ileen Mary Moorman
from Decatur
John Moorman, from Decatur
Ferdinand Protzman, from Decatur
To: 57th Street:
Michael Sells, Janet Marcus & Ariella Mar-
cus-Sells from Landsdowne, PA, 11/05
To: Northside: Patricia Monaghan, from
Chena Ridge Mtg., Fairbanks, AK
To: Oak Park:
Valerie Lester, from St. Louis Mtg., 12/05

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Gary Walden (Columbia) 10/05
Pauline Forsythe (Downers Grove) 2/06
Richard George (Downers Grove) 4/06
Teri Mitchell (Duneland)
Barbara Greenler (Milwaukee) 3/06
A. Douglas Tipton (Northside) 10/05
Jane Aurns (St. Louis) 12/05
Edna Billingsly Wynn (South Bend) 4/06

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Terry Dorsey (Northside) 11/05
Anna Poplawska (Oak Park) 1/06
Michael James Lawrence (Oak Park) 1/06
Vaughn Bradshaw (St. Louis) 9/05
Gina Christopher (St. Louis)
Ester (Von Laue) Bernard (St. Louis) 1/06
Madeleine Von Laue (St. Louis) 6/06
Leo Felon (South Bend) 6/06
Tom Miller (South Bend) 6/06
Helga Miller (South Bend) 6/06

BY TRANSFER:

Steven Suib (Urbana-Champaign) 7/05
Beverly Lobo (Urbana-Champaign) 9/05
Claire Farrer (Urbana-Champaign) 9/05
Gertrude Robinson (Urbana-Champaign)
9/05
Rebecca Southwood (Urbana-Champaign)
12/05
Andrew Southwood (Urbana-Champaign)
12/05
From Bloomington-Normal: Beth & Paul
Schobernd, to Clear Creek
From Duneland: Sally Merrill
From Lake Forest: Anita Lang Williams,
to Orange Grove, CA Friends Meeting
From Milwaukee: Janet Moore,
to Redwood Forest Meeting, Santa
Rosa, CA 12/05
From St. Louis:
Valerie Lester, to Oak Park Mtg., 10/05
Susan Betts, to Chestnut Hill Mtg., 5/06

IYM 2006 Schedule

Theme: Integrity; toward a seamless life

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
 7:30-9:00 Movie Night for Kids (location TBA)
 7:30-8:45 Panel of IYM Friends speaking on integrity in their lives.
 9:00 New attendees Meeting (Registration table)
 9:00 - 9:30 Registration desk open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30 - 7 am Early Meeting for Worship
 6:45 - 7:45 Breakfast
 7:30 New Attenders Meeting on Saturday (Registration table)
 8:00 – 9:00 Meeting for Worship (Memorials are read at Saturday Meeting for Worship)
 9:00 - 12:00 Meeting for Business / FUN Program for children
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 - 3:45 Craft Tent/Storytelling/Recreation for children
 1:30 – 2:15 Worship Sharing
 2:30 – 3:45 Workshops
 3:45 M&A Committee meetings
 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:

3:45 Finance Committee Mtg. (east porch)
 7:30 - 8:45 Friends from various national organizations will update us on their initiatives
 7:30 - 9:00 Campfire/Hayrack ride
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00 Environmental Concerns 26-Mile Bike Ride
 3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for worship, business and discussion
 4:00 Solar Cooking Demonstration
 7:30 - 8:00 Registration desk open
 7:30 - 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 Development Committee Mtg. (meet on front porch)
 4:30 - 5:30 Variety Show
 7:30 - 9:00 Children's Program
 7:30 - 8:45 Address by Jocelyn Bell Burnell
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks
 9:00 – 10:00 Quaker Midnight Ultimate Frisbee

SUNDAY

6:30 - 7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
 9:00 - 10:00 Reading of Epistles and Exercises
 9:15 - 9:45 Registration desk open
 10:00 - 11:00 Plummer Lecture by David Rutschman
 11:30 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting
132nd Annual Session
July 26 - 30, 2006
McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Minute 1 We opened the 132nd annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting with silent worship.

Minute 2 Janice Domanik read Epistles from Sweden Yearly Meeting, 2005 and Australia Yearly Meeting, 2006.

Minute 3 Clerk Sue Davison welcomed Friends and recognized first-time attendees.

Minute 4 We welcomed Ruth Seeley from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, representing American Friends Service Committee; Ginger and Jim Kenney from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation; and Jocelyn Bell Burnell, from Britain Yearly Meeting, who will be our Saturday evening speaker.

Janice Domanik read a traveling minute for Ruth Seeley.

Minute 5 David Shiner, Clerk, reported for Ministry and Advancement (see p. 39). M&A worked this year to discern their role more fully and to implement it more effectively. The Dream Gathering exercises of the past year helped M&A to recognize the needs of our constituent meetings and worship groups.

David recognized the Committee of Care whose members are available to assist Friends with spiritual needs during the Yearly Meeting.

Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway are pastoral counselors working with endorsements from the Yearly Meeting. Their endorsements are continuing and require no action at this time. Both Beth and Carolyn will be with us later this week.

David read the report from Field Secretary Maurine Pyle. Maurine has visited widely throughout the Yearly Meeting this year. Columbia and South Bend engaged in visioning exercises this year with Maurine as “spiritual mid-wife.” Maurine reminds us that we need to prepare our next generation of elders, and that all of us need to help in caring for our meetings and worship groups.

David read suggested changes in the description of the Field Secretary position. These changes are more for clarification than actual changes in duties. We approved these revisions.

M&A is recommending an increase in the Field Secretary's working hours from 500 hours per year to 700, contingent upon funding. This request will be addressed later in our annual sessions. We accepted the M&A report.

Minute 6 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee (see p. 36). The committee is recommending several changes to the Handbook, which Pam summarized for us. Friends took exception with the proposed changes dealing with the section on quarterly and regional meetings and made several suggestions for revisions which the Handbook Committee will take under advisement.

We accepted the remaining changes.

Minute 7 Beth Schobernd reported on her leading to index the Illinois Yearly Meeting minute books (see p. 68). This would allow Friends to easily find information in past minutes. Beth explained what would go into this project in the beginning, but has no cost estimate yet. This project would take multiple years. Beth requests to be able to select committee members to work with her, and asks for the Yearly Meeting's blessing to move forward. We approved having Beth work on this project.

Minute 8 We approved minutes 1-7.

Minute 9 David Finke reported for the Publications Committee (see p. 43). Mechanical problems have delayed the publication of last year's Plummer Lecture, but the sharing of Clance Wilson's life is currently available on our web site.

Dawn Amos reported on the IYM web site. We are exploring the use of Wiki technology to enable a participatory approach to the maintenance of the site. Dawn will offer a workshop this week to discuss that further. We approved having Publications move forward with the Wiki approach.

David asked that the Yearly Meeting give encouragement and spiritual support toward publication of a Friend's biography of Jonathan Plummer. Friends approved such support.

David reminded us that the Yearly Meeting has a privacy policy concerning use of email addresses and personal information. We do not make that information available for commercial purposes. Monthly meetings are encouraged to consider having such a policy. A Friend suggested we consider a section of our web site be password protected. Publications will take that under advisement.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION: Thursday - July 27, 2006

Minute 10 David Shiner closed silent worship by reading sections of Epistles from Britain Yearly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and the 2005 World Gathering Young Friends in Lancaster, England.

Minute 11 We welcomed first-time attenders from within IYM.

Minute 12 We welcomed visitors from other Quaker organizations: Verne & Shirley Bechill, representatives of Friends General Conference; and Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary of Friends World Conference for Consultation, Section of the Americas. Margaret thanked IYM for hosting the Youth Pilgrimage, which will be arriving this evening.

Minute 13 Janice Domanik gave the first reading of the Nominating Committee Report. We will receive the final report on Saturday. She also reported that the Exercises Committee will include Elizabeth Mertic, William Alsup, and Steve Hinson. The Epistle Committee will be Dawn Amos, Nancy Duncan, a high school Young Friend and one other Friend yet to be appointed. The Nominating Committee will begin this year to ask some members of the Epistle committee to stay on from one year to the next for continuity.

Minute 14 A minute was read from Milwaukee Monthly Meeting regarding their dual affiliation. They agreed in 2005 to try to affiliate with only one yearly meeting, either IYM or Northern YM. In 2006 they decided to test the idea to support the work of Friends who wish to continue their work with IYM, but officially to affiliate

with Northern Yearly Meeting. They will season this idea for a few months to see what issues or concerns arise.

We acknowledged receipt of the report from Milwaukee Friends, and expressed our gratitude for their presence among us in years past, present and future. We send our love and affection to Milwaukee Monthly Meeting and our prayers for them as they move forward with their discernment toward association with only one yearly meeting.

Minute 15 Peter Lasersohn reported that Faith and Practice Committee (see p. 27) has spent most of its time during the last year on a draft section about marriage. The section is on page 60 for Friends to review and make comments to the committee members. The committee will be offering two workshops during annual session to encourage discussion of the section. The group hopes to bring back a revised version at the 2007 annual session for approval.

During the coming year the committee will continue to work on the section dealing with meeting organization and structure. The committee has been distributing approved sections to individuals and Monthly Meetings in a three-ring binder. They will send out new sections as they are approved.

A draft section on marriage was read for Friends to consider.

Minute 16 Breeze Richardson reported for the Peace Resources Committee (see p. 42). During the past year the group has developed a workshop on the Peace Testimony. They will be presenting part of the workshop during IYM and will provide Monthly Meetings with the entire workshop upon request. In the coming year the committee plans to develop more resources to share with Monthly Meetings and also to work more closely with the Environmental Concerns Committee for a joint vision of the Peace House on the Prairie. The committee remains a resource for those dealing with the rights of conscience and claims of conscientious objection.

Minute 17 We approved minutes 8-16.

Minute 18 Cathy Garra, clerk of the Development Committee (see p. 25), reported that Friends (individuals and Monthly Meetings) met the Property Improvement Fund matching gift challenge that allowed us to move forward with building renovations and the building of six cabins. An additional \$35,000 will need to be raised to pay back the Duneland Monthly Meeting loan and to build two more cabins. The Development Committee will be working in the next year to assess capacity, particularly in considering the construction of a new building.

Deep appreciation is given to the Development Committee for raising this substantial amount of money.

Minute 19 Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report (see p. 20). We noted our regret that Roger Laughlin could not be with us.

Minute 20 Michael Dennis, along with Marti Matthews and Ashley Miller-Berry, reported for Youth Oversight. The teens have had a very productive year. Friends were referred to the full report in the Advance Documents (see p. 47). YO brought us a proposal that grew out of the Dream Gathering exercises to hire a youth coordinator. Other Yearly Meetings have a part-time paid coordinator for teen activities. YO has looked at the budgets, practices, and challenges of other Yearly Meetings to see what would be involved in hiring a quarter-time youth coordinator. The youth have

indicated their willingness to participate in the fund-raising for this position. The coordinator would help with the organizing of youth activities and communication among the youth. There was much support voiced for the youth coordinator proposal. There was also concern raised about having sufficient funds to support the position. We will continue to season this request.

Minute 21 Minutes 18-20 were approved.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION: Friday - July 28, 2006

Minute 22 Tom Paxson closed silent worship by reading selections from Epistles from German Yearly Meeting and Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Minute 23 Mariellen Gilpin, before reporting on the Dream Gathering, made a plea to fellow Friends to air-condition the Meetinghouse space so that Friends with health limitations can attend IYM.

Mariellen reviewed the past year of Dream Gathering (see p. 58). The Dream Gatherers made the following recommendations:

- 1) Create an ad hoc committee in cooperation with Ministry and Advancement Committee to identify the barriers to discerning of gifts and putting them to use, and to make recommendations on how to do it better.
- 2) Hold a Discerning Gifts Retreat during the winter of '07.

At this point, the results from the '06 Dream Gathering retreat are in the hands of the standing committees for discernment. When they are ready, standing committees will forward recommendations to Monthly Meetings.

Friends approved the recommendation to form an ad hoc committee on discernment of gifts. M&A, Nominating Committee and the presiding clerk will work together to form this new committee.

Friends were cautioned to look at how decisions are made outside of annual session. Friends were also reminded that some decisions need to be made during the year for projects to be completed, trusting in committees and appointed clerks to represent Friends in IYM. This process involves energizing individuals to participate in these projects and including others who might not otherwise attend annual sessions.

David Shiner, clerk of M&A, requested that individuals interested in serving on the ad hoc committee approach a member of M&A. M&A would be interested in participating in the next retreat, but cannot organize it. Mariellen Gilpin offered to organize the retreat.

This was approved.

Minute 24 Tim Narkiewicz spoke to what came out of the Dream Fest regarding the functions of Maintenance and Planning, Site Envisioning and Building, and Development. M&P recommends that these committees be re-organized into three new committees. Maintenance & Planning would become the Maintenance Committee; SEB would merge with Development to become the Planning and Development Committee; and one other committee would be charged with Fundraising. As the functions of all of the committees continue to be so close, it would be beneficial for the committees to work together.

Concerns were brought forward from the clerk of Development committee about merging with SEB as the functions of the two committees are very different.

SEB also considered this suggestion. They agree that M&P should be just Maintenance. SEB feels that the Development committee needs help from other Friends to continue their work.

By re-organizing the committees, will this tighten the focus of the committees? How can discernment of gifts help this process?

Friends did not reach unity in this discussion but recommend that each of the above-mentioned committees take this idea, season it and return with further recommendations for moving forward.

Minute 25 Tim Narkiewicz gave the Maintenance and Planning Report (see p. 38). A new well has been dug for the Meetinghouse and many thanks are given to Dick Ashdown for his many years of service in making sure the old well did not freeze. Termite damage was repaired and steps were taken to prevent future termite damage. Tim also outlined other smaller projects that have been undertaken by M&P.

The committee has been asked by individuals to address the issue of air-conditioning the Meetinghouse. The committee asks the Yearly Meeting if we wish M&P to provide an assessment of methods and costs for air-conditioning the Meetinghouse?

Possible cost estimates for a mechanical engineer to determine the best way to air condition the Meetinghouse might be \$1500 to \$2500.

Some Friends feel that M&P can at least gather information to be able to make an informed decision. This does not mean that the YM will decide one way or the other in regards to air-conditioning, but we will become more knowledgeable about the possibilities.

The concern was brought forward that Friends need to decide if we would approve air-conditioning whatever the cost. If Friends would not agree to air-condition the room, there is no need to spend money to get cost estimates.

Friends are encouraged to think about others who are not in attendance because they cannot stand the heat and humidity.

Friends urged that all ways of accommodating others be considered, not just those involving air-conditioning.

Friends are in unity that accommodation for individuals with special needs is a priority, but the recommendation brought forward by M&P was not approved. Carol Bartles wishes to stand aside on this decision.

Minute 26 Bill Howenstine reported for Site Envisioning and Building (see p. 45). Bill feels that the group has been led by a deep sense of the spirituality of our grounds and also by a Green ethic. Bill highlighted the major projects during the past year: dismantling the dormitory and recycling pieces into 6 - 8 cabins, and restoring and moving the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse.

Bill reminded Friends that all of this work has been done in preparation to clear the land for a new building that will include areas for air-conditioning, sleeping, meeting, dining and a kitchen.

Recommendations:

- 1) The committee recommends that one of the summer cabins be made to be handicapped accessible. The committee asks if this should be one of the current cabins, or if it should be another cabin yet to be constructed.

- 2) The committee also wishes Friends to consider whether one of the cabins should be winterized and able to be air-conditioned in the summer.
- 3) Clear Creek had used the JrYM house as their winter Meeting area. The movement of the JrYM house across the road has taken away their space. The committee reminded Friends that Clear Creek paid for the restoration of the wood floor of the Meetinghouse. Clear Creek has done so much for IYM that the SEB Committee recommends that, during the winter, Clear Creek close off the West side of the Meetinghouse, heating it as is needed while the YM pays for that heating bill. The group feels that this might be in the end more cost effective than creating more winterized cabins and facilities.

Minute 27 Minutes 22-26 were approved.

Minute 28 The first reading of the Finance Report was given by Judy Jager (see p. 28). Contributions have remained steady, but are not yet sufficient. M&A and YO are requesting funds for additional staff time. Finance Committee clarified that they do not decide who gets the money; their job is to analyze the requests and report to the business session.

Some changes in the budget: Office expenses will increase due to the need for a new computer, and more copies to be made for Faith and Practice.

A new budget line item was added for utilities, to reflect SEB's recommendation to pay for heat for Clear Creek. Friends were reminded how much Clear Creek does for the Yearly Meeting and this cost is one way for the YM to give back to our resident Monthly Meeting.

In the current budget \$6,094.21 is not currently allocated, so the committee proposes moving \$3000 to staff fund, and the rest to the Site Fund. The Site Fund currently has a negative balance and Friends are encouraged to make donations.

Friends and committees are asked to check with Finance Committee if they plan to spend more than was originally budgeted.

The Finance Committee proposes an increase in the resident adult assessment in order to cover current staff salaries. This would be an additional \$7 per adult.

Two proposals have been brought forward for additional staff. M&A has asked that the Field Secretary position be increased by 200 hours, which comes to \$3300 more per year. For this to happen there would need to be an additional \$10 per adult (\$8 for staff time, \$2 for increased travel.)

Friends will be asked to respond to these requests and to proposals by SEB at tomorrow's session.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION: Saturday - July 29, 2006

Minute 29 Following worship with attention to Memorials, David Finke read selections from Epistles from Japan Yearly Meeting, France Yearly Meeting, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Minute 30 We welcomed first-time attenders and made announcements.

Minute 31 Janice Domanik gave the final Nominating Committee Report (see pages 1 and 96. Friends approved the report.

Minute 32 The report brought forward by SEB yesterday was revisited for further discussion. Clear Creek Meeting expressed their thanks for the offer of heating during the winter, but feel that they have other spaces in which to meet, so do not wish for Friends to move forward with this recommendation.

The first recommendation addressed making a cabin handicapped-accessible. Issues of accessibility to the road, electricity, proximity to the existing bathhouse, ADA requirements, and housing both genders in one cabin were discussed. Friends were reminded that an accessible cabin is hopefully a temporary solution until our new building is completed.

Friends were reminded that the proposed accessible cabin might still be impractical for individuals with mobility issues, given the difficulty navigating the campground to the restroom.

The suggestion was made to establish a fund to subsidize motel rooms for individuals with these special needs. This idea needs further seasoning as to who would have access to these funds.

We will also further season a broader range of accessibility issues.

There was not unity among Friends on building a handicapped-accessible cabin at this time. This issue will be referred to Continuing Committee for further discussion.

The second recommendation addresses the issue of winterizing/air-conditioning one of the cabins. Friends approved seasoning of the recommendation among Maintenance & Planning, Site Envisioning & Building and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Their report could be discussed at Continuing Committee.

Minute 33 Discussion of the reorganization of committees, suggested yesterday, was re-opened. Friends feel further discussion and seasoning is needed. Reorganization will be re-addressed when the committees feel ready. Development Committee feels that further clarification is needed about what is expected of them and their relationship with Maintenance and Planning.

Friends approved that the Site Envisioning & Building ad hoc committee continue for another year.

Minute 34 Pam Kuhn brought forth the report of the ad hoc committee to study IYM Finances (see p. 24). Committee members include: Janet Means, Angie Reeks, Pam Kuhn, Nancy Wallace, Bob Bartles and Bruce Kanarak. The committee feels that the current financial practice does not fit the current needs of the Yearly Meeting.

The committee recommends that we have one process for all financial activity following standard accounting practices, specifically:

- Finance Committee use a balanced budget, and
- the treasurer use a balance sheet with details of net assets by fund, along with an income/expense statement.

Friends are reminded that these recommendations will require new software for the treasurers and the ability to present these numbers in lay terms. A new structure for decision-making will also need to be put in place.

Friends approve the recommendation to have one process for all financial activity following standard accounting procedures, with thanks in advance for the continuing work of the ad hoc committee in helping to put the new procedures in place.

The second recommendation of the committee refers to making donations to other organizations.

The committee feels that most of the current practices meet our current needs in this area.

The committee will take comments from Friends back for more discussion.

Friends unite with the committee's second recommendation, excepting the section according more weight to organizations of which we are members. Friends are not united on listing some organizations of which we are members and not others.

Minute 35 Greg Woods, for the Naming Committee, brought forth Elizabeth Mertic and David Wixom for the Nominating Committee. Margie Haworth was named as clerk of the Nominating Committee. Friends approved the report.

Minute 36 Judy Jager, speaking for the Finance Committee, presented more on the Annual Budget. Youth Oversight has brought forth the proposal for a quarter-time youth coordinator. The Finance Committee estimated that this would require an additional \$25 increase per adult resident member.

With all of the proposed increases the total per resident adult member would be \$207.

Clarification was sought on how to compute a Monthly Meeting's assessment. Most Friends agree that this applies to active members.

Lake Forest Monthly Meeting and others regard this assessment to be the minimum amount that needs to be contributed.

Mike Dennis, for Youth Oversight, asked Friends that, if the youth raise the funds for a youth coordinator during the coming year, they be able to move forward in hiring this position.

Friends united to move forward with the proposed increase of the assessment for Monthly Meetings. Friends also agreed that, if the funds are raised, YO can move forward with hiring the youth coordinator.

Minute 37 Elizabeth Mertic, continuing to report for Finance Committee, informed Friends that since Clear Creek has declined the offer to pay for utilities during the winter, we have \$500 extra in the budget. The committee will discuss the best way to appoint these funds.

The committee brought forward the following names as IYM's officers (as reported to the State of Illinois) for the coming year: Richard Ashdown, Carol Bartles, Susanna Davison, Margaret Haworth, Helen Jean Nelson, and Roger Laughlin as the registered agent. The committee recommends that these individuals will have the authority to sign contracts for IYM.

The decision to approve these individuals as officers empowered to sign contracts will be deferred until the by-laws are discussed.

Minute 38 Cathy Garra reported for the Finance Committee regarding incorporation. The committee brought 3 proposed minutes for the business session to approve (see p. 31).

Concerns were voiced from Friends from Clear Creek about the emotions involved in the Trustee role being laid down.

Friends were reminded that under the new law governing incorporation, additional protection is provided to the officers of the Meeting.

Friends accepted the Finance Committee report but deferred action on the proposed minutes.

Minute 39 Friends approved the formation of an ad hoc committee, as proposed by the Illinois Yearly Meeting Trustees and endorsed by Finance Committee, to look at the many issues of the transition from a Trustee structure to the Incorporation structure.

Minute 40 Minutes 28-39 were approved.

MINUTES FROM THE FIFTH SESSION: Sunday - July 30, 2006

Minute 41 Judy Jager presented the draft by-laws proposed by the Finance Committee (see p. 32).

While delaying approval, pending the work of the new ad hoc committee, Friends thanked Finance Committee for all of their work on this project. The clerk also thanked the Monthly Meetings for engaging in this process.

Minute 42 Friends were asked if the time for IYM annual sessions should be changed to avoid the heat of the summer. Friends did not reach unity on a different schedule, but did unite that this should be further seasoned.

Minute 43 We heard Epistles from the 3-5 year olds, the 6-8 year olds, the 9-11 year olds, the Junior High group, the High School group, and the Adult Young Friends. Pam Melick read our Epistle to other Yearly Meetings. William Alsup read the Exercises (see pages 15-19). Friends approved the epistles.

Minute 44 Annual sessions were closed with silent worship.

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2006

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 232 (159 adults, 43 YFs under 19, representing 124 households plus 26 Quaker Youth Pilgrims and their 4 leaders).

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	48 Adults		
	16 Young Friends	Total:	64
Chicago North	52 Adults		
	12 Young Friends	Total:	64
Chicago South	49 Adults		
	15 Young Friends	Total:	64
Other	14 Adults		
	26 Young Friends	Total:	<u>40</u>
			232

Housing: 101 camped, 12 stayed in cabins, 44 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 75 used motels or local housing.

EXERCISES

Familiar trees and birds greeted Friends for the 2006 annual session of Illinois Yearly Meeting. New sounds and sights also greeted us: the sounds of hammering as workers finished the steps and roofs of the six new cabins, and the bare ground where the dormitory and Junior Yearly Meeting house once stood. The new cabins are not just cabins; they are special because much of the wood used in these new buildings came from our forty plus year old dormitory. Another change is the new location and new use of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse which was moved across to the campground and will be used for sleeping and meeting space for the teens.

We welcomed 24 Quaker Youth Pilgrims and their leaders on Thursday evening. Ranging from 16 to 18, these teens come from Europe and the U.S. and are spending a month together learning Quaker history, volunteering on a work project and meeting Midwestern Friends. As they develop a bond with one another, they expect their understanding of Quakerism and their faith to grow deeper. We were glad to have them join us for our Friday evening dancing to close their full day of a ropes course.

July 26 to 29 will stand out as one of the hottest and wettest yearly meetings. On Wednesday and Thursday there were heavy rains, a challenge to the Friends who sleep in tents. We found ourselves without sufficient hot water for the dishwasher the third morning and learned how to reduce the other uses of hot water during the first part of the day.

The large group of younger children, along with the teens, have found many ways to amuse themselves around the new layout of the grounds. The front lawn keeps its primary role as the place to play Frisbee or football and the dance space for Friday evening. The very hot weather doesn't slow down the enthusiasm for games of Frisbee. The traditional hayride and bonfire happened on Thursday and Friday evenings. Several trips to swim in pools in nearby towns were made for the benefit of the children. Those visiting the Craft Tent could try some weaving projects.

There have been workshops about new technology for the IYM website, the history of quarterly meetings within Illinois, and Friends and Integrity. The theme of this yearly meeting session is Integrity: Toward Leading a Seamless Life.

We were given a message on the theme from Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a British Friend, on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning David Rutschman delivered the annual Plummer Lecture, which is an opportunity to hear from a Friend within IYM.

IYM continues our commitment to build the Peace House on the Prairie; we had a display of the footprint of where the new building will rise, partially on the footprint of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse and the former dormitory.

- William Alsup and Elizabeth Mertic

EPISTLES

2006 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

To Friends Everywhere,

We send you greetings of peace and love from near McNabb, Illinois, during our 132nd annual session.

We at Illinois Yearly Meeting find ourselves once again in the midst of transition and transformation. We are examining what no longer serves us as a yearly meeting, what we seek to preserve, and what God asks us to do to prepare for our future. Visiting our historic yearly meetinghouse is, in many ways, like going back in time 132 years. There has been no modern encroachment on the farmlands surrounding our site. A long agrarian tradition still shapes our yearly meeting's legal and financial structures, much as farmers once stored their savings in cookie jars. Yet Illinois Yearly Meeting must function effectively in modern times. Our visions – for establishing a Peace House on the Prairie, for growing our ministry, and for nurturing our youth – are calling us to discover a more flexible organizational structure.

So we now find ourselves living the exquisite tension of transformation. How is God carrying us through this metamorphosis? What is Love asking of us? God seems to be expecting leaps of faith as we relinquish our old methods and make room for the new. We are grieving our losses even as we embrace our future. God is challenging us to deepen our faith community by tenderly witnessing each other's pain and joy. Indeed, we have witnessed many instances where deep caring was offered, committee to committee, Friend to Friend, heart to heart, spirit to spirit.

Among our joys is the presence during our annual sessions of the FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrims, mostly from Europe. Our own teens report that the mix of cultures and beliefs has energized their community. Hosting these young Friends was possible only because our meeting's transformation included creating a dormitory for the teens. What a lovely affirmation of our leadings, to be gifted with the visit of the Pilgrims.

As we cope with our transformations we are reminded that to become peacemakers in the world, we must first be peacemakers in our communities and homes, and to be at peace with ourselves. Scripture tells us "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. He has made everything beautiful in its time." (Ecc 3:1,11.) We seek to acquiesce to God's time, remembering also the hymn brought to us by Jocelyn Bell Burnell, which speaks to our condition:

The days of old have dowered us
With gifts beyond all praise;
Our Father, make us faithful
To serve the coming days.

Love, peace and blessings,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Adult Young Friends

AYF is in its 3rd year as a group and has been finding it hard to stay together as a community. As most of you know these years are filled with change, travel, overwhelming amounts of school work, new jobs, and relationships. There is a sense of loss in our community this year due to these new adventures, but our community has also benefited this summer from the addition of Friends who have not been here before. Several years ago AYF came to the yearly meeting to ask for your support in the forming of a group, and we received your blessing. This year it was decided to “break away” from the care of YO, and have asked M&A to form a support committee for the AYF. The support committee would help us to hear our vision and to try and bring that together. We believe that in these formative years AYF could benefit from the wisdom and experience of OAFs.

- AYF

High School Friends Epistle

Dear Friends,

This year the integrity of the whole group was strengthened by enduring the heat and by meeting the 26 pilgrims, part of a pilgrimage of young Friends from the US and Europe.

Most people arrived on Wednesday evening when we met old and new friends. We began to bond throughout the evening as some of us took an evening walk around the cornfield, while others, choosing to avoid the vicious heat, played various games.

Thursday, we were all anxious for the arrival of the pilgrims. We passed the time with a business meeting and two workshops, one about liberal Quakers and their relationship with Jesus and the other a Bible study that encompassed everything from how to locate Bible passages to the very definition of religion. Later a few of us went on our traditional snack run while others stayed to put up the tents to hold those who could not sleep in the recently moved and soon to be renamed Junior Yearly Meeting House. Then we had the dubious honor of serving dinner and cleaning up afterwards. Finally, as the sun dropped below the horizon, the pilgrims arrived. We were all a bit anxious as we were too sweaty to give a good first impression. That evening was devoted to getting to know and bonding with the pilgrims through group activities and talking. They participated in the High School activities for the rest of IYM.

Friday’s activity, the trip to the Great Oaks Outdoor Adventure Challenge Course, was the highlight of our week. It was an outdoor ropes course suspended over a ravine filled with obstacle courses, a zipline, a high jump, and a rock wall. We bonded even further with the pilgrims in the afternoon with a series of team-building challenges. As the evening came around, we enjoyed square dancing on the meetinghouse lawn. And the rest of us enjoyed playing the board game “Risk.” Some of us enjoyed our third shower of the day after the intense dancing, which really more accurately resembled swimming, considering the humidity. We continued our annual tradition of walking to the graveyard and gazed up at the extraordinarily bright stars.

For those of us who could still get up the next morning, we attended our business meeting and, in the afternoon, replaced our senior clerk. Before lunch we had a workshop entitled “The Lamb’s War: Building One Hundred Years of Peace” which showed us ways to wage peace instead of war. Later we topped the day off with the

Variety Show, for which no talent was needed, and upheld another tradition of staying up until the wee hours of the morning.

Sleepless, dull-eyed, and hot, we approved this epistle, and cleaned up our mess, and are preparing to say goodbye until we meet again. We all look forward to the next yearly meeting and eagerly wait for what the next year will bring... Hopefully, it will involve less heat.

Junior High Young Friends Epistle

The people in our group are Nina Easter Van Jacob, Elizabeth Anderson, Sara Raffensperger, Emily Pavlovic; our helpers were Kally Thierry and Cameron Laird. Our leader was Monica Tetzlaff.

On Thursday, we played games from Play for Peace to get to know each other. We also read about Stephen Angell and his leadings. Stephen Angell was a CO. Another thing we did was read different testimonies. We discussed this year's testimony about integrity. Also on Thursday, we wrote autobiographies. We would choose the name of a song as our title and write what our meeting was, where we were born, and where we went to school in first grade.

On Friday, we played some more games from Play for Peace. We made collages about ourselves: our past, present, and future. We read about another Quaker as well. Her name was Elise Boulding. What stood out to us about her was that one of her leadings was to be engaged after only three weeks and that she worked for peace. Outside of our group, we danced, played soccer, and some people from our group got lost on the bike ride.

Finally, on Saturday, Kally Thierry told us about Chad in Africa where he grew up. After that we wrote our interview questions to interview Quakers that we know because we had read about other Quakers. The Quakers that we interviewed were Bill Howenstine, Elaine Meyer-Lee, Brad Laird, and Nancy Duncan. After we interviewed them we read about another Friend, but this one was closer to our age. Her name is Hayo Daniella who is 15 and she's from Burundi.

In Light and Love, The Illinois Yearly Meeting Junior Highschoolers

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 9-11

Greetings! We gathered at McNabb for our Yearly Meeting. We decided on a skit and made props and costumes. The skit that our group chose is the White Feather. We later realized that it went perfectly with our theme this year. The Quakers in the story showed great integrity when they stayed behind even when the government told them to leave.

We read stories and played fun games. All of us got wet in our tents. Alice Howenstine tied us up by our wrists for a two-person puzzle. We doodled, and had snacks. Other than all the bugs, we all had a lovely meeting.

Delia, Mercedes, Claire, Nathan, Gabriel, Quetzal, Isabella, Rebecca, & Aaron

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 6-8

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Five children, ages 6-8, met under a yellow and white tent in the fertile fields of Illinois. This is the heartland of the United States of America. They send you the following epistle:

We had five children in our group. We learned about integrity. Integrity means honesty, telling the truth, not lying. You have to have courage and bravery to have integrity.

Harriet Tubman was brave. She had courage. She was a conductor for the Underground Railroad. We wish that all the children who read this have integrity. We wish the world to take care of our mother earth, to have peace and no more wars.

Marlena, Molly, Laure, Jackson, & Corbin

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-5

Greetings Friends from the 3-5 year old IYM Wee Friends. We had six Friends to play with this year. There was great fun playing on the swing set, in the sand box, and sliding down the slide. We played with and were good role models for the Friends smaller than us. Paint, Play Doh, and books brought us much joy. We practiced quaking and shaking with a message from God and then shared what we loved. Then we planted seeds so we could watch beautiful plants and flowers grow. We painted the pots too! We made maracas and learned about percussion and keeping a beat. More fun came when we built things with Magic Nuudles that magically stick together when dampened. We want to thank our helpers for playing with us and of course for snacks too!

In Light, love, and laughter, The Illinois Yearly Meeting Wee Friends

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.	

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 6/30/05 to 6/30/06

GENERAL FUND

Initial Balance on Hand 6-30-05	32,962.50
Transfer to Special Gifts Fund	3,000.00
Transfer to Property Improvement Fund	-2,682.50
FINAL BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-05 (FOR BUDGETING '05-'06)	\$27,280.00

INCOME

Contributions – Meetings	\$26,870.00
Contributions – Individuals	3266.60
Interest – Friends Meetinghouse Fund	400.00
Interest – First State Bank Checking Account	904.24
Interest – First State Bank Certificate of Deposit	349.60
Book Sales – '05 session	114.76
Surplus '05 session	2943.60
Total Income	\$34,848.80

EXPENSES – Operating

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Publications	\$4800.00	\$4991.42
Committees	200.00	499.83
Religious Education	600.00	34.50
Travel – IYM Representatives	5000.00	5218.55
FWCC Triennial	1200.00	1200.00
Office	1100.00	670.78
Insurance	4400.00	4228.00
Staff Travel	3500.00	3111.51
Total Operating Expenses	\$20,800.00	\$19,954.59

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)	450.00
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 , Gay,...Concerns (FLGBTQC)	50.00
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
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	150.00
Friends Peace Teams	200.00
Project Lakota	200.00
Total Contributions Expenses	\$6,480.00
BALANCE ON HAND 6-30-06 (FOR BUDGETING '06-'07)	\$35,694.21

Special Funds Activity For Period 6-30-05 to 6-30-06

SITE FUND		PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$18,065.94	BALANCE 6-30-05	\$472.65
INCOME -Contributions – Meetings	+13,265.55	INCOME - Contributions - Indiv.	+268.10
Contributions – Individuals	+954.00	Registration	+1490.00
Fees—FWCC & Women’s Wknd.	+550.50	EXPENSES - Food, books,	
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,769.55	Manuals, honorarium	-1465.87
EXPENSES -Painting	-19,297.52	Balance 6-30-06	-\$180.42
New Well	-7638.03	FWCC TRIENNIAL	
Gutters	-6000.00	BALANCE 6-30-05	\$1383.23
Mowing	-2545.00	INCOME —Tr. from Gen’l Fund	+1200.00
Elec. Bills	-473.62	BALANCE 6-30-06	\$2583.23
Screens	-578.60	FWCC MIDWEST GATHERING	
Misc.	-2824.33	INCOME —Registration	+940.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,326.50	EXPENSES —Camp Fee	-255.00
BALANCE 6-30-06	-\$6491.01	Food	-137.44
YOUTH FUND		Remit balance to FWCC	-547.56
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$5,609.97	BALANCE 6-30-06	0
INCOME -Contributions – Meetings	+1927.00	PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT FUND	
Contributions – Individuals	+354.00	BALANCE 6-30-05	-\$22,522.51
TOTAL INCOME	\$2281.00	INCOME - Contributions - Mtgs.	+4600.00
EXPENSES —Travel, food, postage	-2854.05	Contributions—Individuals	+125,051.35
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$5,036.92	Loan from Duneland	+12,000.00
STAFF FUND		Transfer from Gen. Fund	+2682.50
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$14,662.18	Sale of Calendars/Cards	+1610.00
INCOME -Contributions - Mtgs.	+21,784.00	Sale of scrap	+971.10
Contributions – Individuals	+615.00	Registration– retreat	+1891.00
EXPENSES - Salary	-26,500.00	TOTAL INCOME	\$148,805.95
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$10,561.18	EXPENSES - MEETINGHOUSE	
SPECIAL GIFTS		Replace SE Sill	-5459.01
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$17,651.82	Final Pay Termite Problem	-3504.25
INCOME - Tr. from Gen’l Fund.	+3000.00	Supplies/calendars/cards	-480.05
EXPENSES - Legal Counsel	-7905.00	Porch Repair	-353.69
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$12,746.82	Misc.	-846.90
RETREAT FUND—merged into PIF		TOTAL EXPENSES —MTGHSE	-\$10,643.99
WOMEN’S WEEKEND		EXPENSES —OTHER BLDGS.	
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$263.71	Move Jr. YMhouse	-\$12,515.42
INCOME —Registration	+795.00	Dismantle Dorm	-7757.18
EXPENSES - Camp fee	295.00	Leadership Retreat	-1981.20
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$763.71	Survey, Zoning Fee, Debris Remov.	-1520.00
WORLD GATH. OF YOUNG FRIENDS		Misc.	-476.59
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$2831.08	TOTAL EXP. - OTHER BLDGS	-\$24,250.39
EXPENSES - Plane Fares	-2010.82	BALANCE 6-30-06	\$91,389.06
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$820.26	*05 SESSION	
Ken Ives Memorial Fund (QVSTWC)		INCOME —Registration	+12,790.50
BALANCE 6-30-05	\$1954.56	EXPENSES - Prepaid	-4101.65
INCOME —Contribution—Indiv.	+101.00	*05 Session	-5745.25
EXPENSES —2 Burundi reps	-1300.00	Balance 6-30-06	\$2943.60
Misc.	-170.60	(surplus—shown as income in General Fund)	
BALANCE 6-30-06	\$584.96		

Monthly Meeting Contributions

Meeting	Total	General Fund	Site Fund	Youth Fund	Staff
Bloomington-Normal	1175.00	490.00	265.00	35.00	385.00
Clear Creek	4205.00	1740.00	725.00	145.00	1595.00
Columbia	3240.00	1120.00	560.00	80.00	1480.00
Decatur	0	0	0	0	0
DeKalb	0	0	0	0	0
Downers Grove	4125.00	1750.00	875.00	125.00	1375.00
Duneland	1650.00	700.00	350.00	50.00	550.00
Evanston	9570.00	4059.00	2030.00	291.00	3190.00
57 th Street	1096.55	465.00	232.55	33.00	366.00
Lake Forest	11,880.00	5040.00	2520.00	360.00	3960.00
Milwaukee	3400.00	1443.00	721.00	103.00	1133.00
Northside	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Park	2310.00	980.00	490.00	70.00	770.00
Oshkosh	100.00	100.00	0	0	0
Peoria Galesburg	480.00	203.00	102.00	15.00	160.00
Rock Valley	990.00	420.00	210.00	30.00	330.00
St. Louis	8180.00	3240.00	1820.00	260.00	2860.00
South Bend	3960.00	1680.00	840.00	120.00	1320.00
Southern Illinois	825.00	350.00	175.00	25.00	275.00
Upper Fox Valley	1375.00	560.00	335.00	40.00	440.00
Urbana-Champaign	4785.00	2030.00	1015.00	145.00	1595.00
Totals	63,846.55	26,870.00	13,265.55	1,927.00	21,784.00

RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

FUND BALANCES	CASH IN BANKS
General	\$35,694.21
Site	-6491.01
Youth	5036.92
Staff	10,561.18
Special Gifts	12,746.82
FWCC Triennial	2583.23
Women's Weekend	763.71
World Gathering of Young Friends	820.26
QVSTWC	584.96
Peace Resources Committee	-180.42
FWCC Midwest Gathering	0
Property Improvement	91,389.06
Couples Weekend (no activity)	64.11
Environmental Wknd (no activity)	367.92
Sufferings (no activity)	100.00
Prepd. Expenses for '06 session	-4,026.50
Total Fund Balance	\$150,014.45
	First State Bank Ck. Acct. \$128,167.81
	First State Bank CD 11,846.64
	Friends Meetinghouse Fund 10,000.00
	Accounts Total \$150,014.45

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Laughlin, Treasurer

2006-2007 BUDGET

Amount to Budget for 2006-2007	\$35,694.21
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Committees:	
Environmental Concerns	200.00
Faith and Practice	100.00
Handbook	100.00
Indexing	100.00
Peace Resources	0
Publications	5,000.00
Religious Education	<u>600.00</u>
Total Committee expenses	\$6,100.00
Office	1,400.00
Insurance	4,400.00
Travel	5,500.00
Triennial Travel, FWCC	<u>1,200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$18,600.00
Transfer for Staff travel	4,000.00
Subtotal	\$22,600.00
Contributions to others	6,480.00
Subtotal	\$29,080.00
Transfer to Staff Fund	3,000.00
Transfer to Site Fund	3,114.21
Not committee	500.00
TOTAL BUDGET	\$35,694.21

Recommended for 2006-07	Per adult resident member
General Fund	70
Site Fund	35
Youth Fund	25
Staff fund	<u>72</u>
Total	202

ANNUAL REPORTS Yearly Meeting Committees

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY IYM FINANCES (See Minute 34)

This report is the outcome of the ad hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances, convened last year in response to an IYM Finance Committee request to form an ad hoc committee tasked with seeking clarity on "... questions regarding the current method of budgeting and the best ways of supporting Quaker organizations."

The ad hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances considered financial statements that best reflect our witness as a yearly meeting.

Cathy Habschmidt of FWCC said, "If we are faithful in discerning the work we are called to do, then our expenses are a witness to the world." Accordingly, the *ad hoc* Committee understands IYM to be a unified body seeking, in community, the way of the Spirit.

The yearly meeting has evolved over the last 125 years. Since the 1960s, the number of monthly meetings has more than doubled. The number of standing committees has tripled. The ad hoc Committee has found that the old financial processes and approaches are being stretched to try to accommodate our new activities.

Budgeting for Friends is the discernment process that helps guide our finances toward our witness to our faith. Currently, an IYM budget is created only for the general fund or about 30% of our expenses. The exceptions which the treasurer calls "special funds" each follow their own system of raising and spending money.

The ad hoc Committee makes the following recommendations to the 2006 annual sessions:

Recommendation #1 that we have one process for all financial activity following standard accounting practices. This would be accomplished by the following:

Have a balanced budget: budgeted money raised equals budgeted expenses during the fiscal year. If there are excess funds at the end of the year, they can be left in reserve to be seasoned by the Finance Committee during future budgeting processes. Their recommendation would be brought forward to Continuing Committee or Annual Session.

The treasurer records IYM's financial picture using the following documents: a statement of financial position (balance sheet*) with details of net assets by fund, along with an income/expense statement**. All the information currently in our financial report will be included, but in a more articulated format. *A *balance sheet* lists the assets and liabilities of an organization. It shows a net worth (the difference between assets and liabilities). This document would show fund balances, the value of our building/land and any loans (e.g. a mortgage) or outstanding bills. **An *income & expense statement* lists revenue that has come in and expenses that have gone out in a given budget year. The difference between actual revenues & actual expenses lets you know if you have a surplus or deficit. These statements could be done monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Currently the Youth, Site and Staff funds are separated from the general fund. Though it is possible to have funds restricted by donors, we recommend that the Youth, Site, and Staff funds be incorporated into the general fund.

Recommendation #2 concerning “Donations to Others”. We recommend:

- As a general guideline, donations made by IYM are to be to organizations with formal Quaker ties. This is currently practiced by the Finance Committee.
- It is just fine if IYM, Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and individuals all give separate donations to the same organizations as we have been doing.
- Accord more weight to those organizations to which we are members (FGC & FWCC) when considering amounts to give. We consider that we are members of these organizations because as a yearly meeting, we are actually part of them.
- Continue to give donations, as we have been doing, even during the next few years when we will be raising funds for the Property Improvement Fund.

We are led to be stewards to our yearly meeting. Our financial statements should be clear to Friends and the needs understandable. In our continuing efforts to be transparent, we are seeking a way to make our financial statements more straight forward and open to all.

DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 18)

Our focus this fiscal year has been encouraging Friends of the need to support our making full use of our existing buildings through gifts to the Property Improvement Fund. We had the wonderful opportunity of a \$50,000 challenge from an IYM family for gifts of \$500 or more received in this fiscal year. We exceeded the challenge with qualifying gifts of over \$53,000 from IYM Friends (43 families, plus total sales of cards and calendars) and Monthly Meetings (Bloomington-Normal, Columbia, Downers Grove, Lake Forest, Oak Park, Rolla). Additional indispensable gifts to the Property Improvement Fund have come from 13 families, 2 Monthly Meetings (Duneland, Evanston), the young Friends car wash, sale of scrap materials from the dormitory and an outright gift from the donor family. In addition, we anticipate the receipt of the \$30,000 concluding the match on the IYM challenge. Thank you, Friends!

The Property Improvement Fund income and pledge gave IYM the confidence to proceed with building renovations on schedule, and to enter into an agreement to construct six camping cabins, with an option for two more. We will need additional Property Improvement Fund gifts to complete the extra cabins and return the funds loaned to Illinois Yearly Meeting by Duneland Meeting. This need totals about \$35,000, beyond what has been given and pledged to date. More details will be available at the annual session.

Our work as a group has been limited this year, due to members stretched by multiple responsibilities in the immediate work of property rehabilitation and legal issues. We look forward to continuing discussions by the committee and our helpers to scout potential donor interest and sources for the feasibility of proceeding with the new buildings, and planning together for how to structure that fund raising.

- Cathy Garra, Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) met four times in 2005-06 in connection with other Quaker organizations and communicated by email, telephone, and mail. With the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Midwest Region, we helped plan a Midwest Regional Gathering of FWCC at the IYM site

September 9-11, 2005. Since the theme was on Peace, Roy Treadway discussed the connection between “The Environment and Peace.” Bill Howenstine introduced attendees to the environmental opportunities and challenges of the yearly meeting site. In October, the committee met at the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) annual meeting at the Indiana Dunes and helped hosts Noel and Sarah Pavlovic with various aspects of the meeting. Noel presented the plenary address on sense of place of the Indiana Dunes. Steve Walsh, Nancy Halliday, and Roy Treadway explored the spiritual and practical basis for their environmental involvement. In late April, we met again at QEW in Chicago. Finally we joined the IYM Memorial Day Work Weekend in May to further our business. In all these meetings, members of our committee helped lead nature and bird hikes.

The committee helped publicize Marshall Massey’s walk for the environment involving meetings in Monmouth, Bloomington-Normal, and Champaign-Urbana. Individual members presented workshops on environmental issues for monthly meetings, yearly meeting, and the Friends General Conference Gathering.

For the IYM leadership retreat, the ECC developed a “vision” to guide its work, as follows:

The ECC of IYM seeks to involve members of IYM with the joys and preciousness of our environment and with ways to protect and care for the earth. In doing so, we will encourage all to respect God’s creation and to live in a way of simplicity, sustainability, and balance with the earth that enhances peace and social justice throughout the world, as Quakers have tried to live for centuries.

In the coming years the ECC will undertake the following activities.

At the yearly meeting site, we will explore:

1. improving the natural setting with trees, prairie flowers, and other plants, enhancing the nature sanctuary of the site;
2. developing a nature trail on the boundary of the site for meditation, education, enjoyment, and exercise; and
3. creating a natural labyrinth as a sacred place among small hills, rocks, plants, bushes, trees, and walking paths for meditation.

In the surrounding countryside of the yearly meeting site, we will:

1. undertake bicycle rides at yearly meeting sessions inviting adults, youth, and children to enjoy the surrounding natural areas and the thrill of traveling without engines, thus conserving fossil fuel and enjoying the sounds of nature and
2. lead other nature experiences, such as, early-morning bird and nature walks and trips to nearby prairies, wetlands, woodlands, farms, and other natural areas.

For the buildings, new and old, at the IYM site, we will work with others to consider:

1. making them as energy efficient (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design [LEED] certified or “Green”) as possible;
2. adding wind turbines and solar panels to generate electricity and capture heat;
3. conserving and reusing water; and
4. continuing to develop and support recycling and composting.

For wider outreach at yearly meeting, regional gatherings, and monthly meetings, we will conduct spiritually-centered workshops focusing on our care of the earth:

1. in a time of destructive consumption, global warming, habitat loss, declining availability of fossil fuel, dangers of nuclear energy, and environmental stresses due to global population, and

2. in a time with great opportunity to foster development of renewable energy, thoughtful population choices, helpful agricultural practices, and simple sustainable living that will enhance our personal spiritual growth and societal peace and justice in our world.

More specifically, we agreed to move forward on five concrete activities.

1. Develop a nature walk around the periphery of the Meeting grounds and possibly incorporate into our work concern for all the landscaping of the grounds, in cooperation with other IYM committees and with support of the yearly meeting. Some work has already been done to enhance the overall natural aspect of the grounds, such as planting of trees, a prairie, and nature garden. Native plants should be used. We assisted the Site Envisioning and Building Committee (SEB) in siting the eight new cabins in the campground area. We realized the possible nature path along the edge of the campground should keep intact the brush and trees home to many birds and other wildlife.
2. Make the proposed kitchen-dining and dormitory buildings to be as “green,” energy-efficient, and sustainable as possible. We have already explored many ideas and alternatives. We will discuss with the SEB committee and the yearly meeting how best to involve the ECC.
3. Organize a bicycle ride planned for Friday, July 28, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at yearly meeting.
4. Explore ways in which canoeing might be added to our activities. We could sponsor a canoeing outing at the yearly meeting time in 2007 at the Hennepin wetlands (or other nearby area), similar to this year’s bike trip, or organize a float trip not during yearly meeting for two or three days.
5. Consider other ways to bring urgent environmental concerns directly to IYM.

- Roy C. Treadway

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minute 15)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met seven times since our last yearly meeting. Most of our attention this year has focused on a draft section on marriage. We believe the text for this section is now nearly in final form; it is attached to this report (See OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSION section) so that Friends may consider it at yearly meeting and during the coming year, and send us comments. We are also conducting two workshops at yearly meeting, at which Friends may read, discuss, and respond to this section; and hope to conduct similar workshops at local meetings. Our plan is to make revisions in response to comments we receive before next summer, and submit the revised version to yearly meeting in 2007 for provisional approval.

During the coming year we also plan to return to work on a section dealing with meeting organization and structure. Other topics for the near future include peace, meeting for worship, and environmental concerns.

The committee expresses its thanks to Sharon Haworth, who printed and assembled a large number of copies of those sections of *Faith and Practice* which have been approved so far, for distribution to meetings and individuals. Each monthly meeting, preparative meeting, and worship group in IYM was sent one copy in a three-ring binder, with a second copy for larger meetings; and 100 copies bound in paper folders with fold-down metal tabs were produced for distribution to individuals. We asked Ministry and Advancement Committee to help distribute these during

their visits to local meetings, and have also made them available at gatherings such as quarterly meetings, Women's Weekend, Continuing Committee, and yearly meeting. We are especially concerned to get these sections into the hands of Friends who may be active in their local meetings but not the yearly meeting. Our plan is to make future sections also available in three-hole format, so that meetings and individuals can add them to their binders or folders as they are approved.

We remind Friends that approved sections are also available on the IYM website < www.ilym.org/pubs.html >, and in the 2003 and 2004 minutebooks. We urge Friends to use these sections in whatever ways you already use existing books of Faith and Practice, and to communicate your experience with them to the Faith and Practice Committee, so that we can make appropriate revisions as their provisional periods of approval expire in 2008 and 2009.

In Twelfth Month 2005 we received a request to make a comparison of the 1997 and 2002 editions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, so that Illinois Yearly Meeting might consider approving the use of the more recent edition. This comparison was made, and the results were forwarded to the Handbook Committee for their discernment on this issue.

We continue to seek Friends' discernment about what should be included in future sections. We also still welcome any quotes or queries which Friends feel may be appropriate for inclusion in *Faith and Practice*. Quotes should be accompanied by citation information, if possible.

- Peter Lasersohn

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minute 28)

The Finance Committee has worked very hard this year. We met 4 times this year as a committee. Some of us met with members of Clear Creek, Site Envisioning, Trustees and our clerk to work on some issues of inter-committee decisions. There was an additional meeting to work out the many proposals we bring before Yearly Meeting. Two of our members met many times with our attorney, Kathryn Vanden Berk to fine tune the details of our incorporation (see attached report). We heard a report from the Ad Hoc Committee and are proposing some changes in accord with their suggestions and consistent with suggestions coming from the Dream Fest leadership retreat. We have developed formal by-laws and circulated them for review by monthly meetings.

We have worked and supported our treasurer and assistant treasurer as they work on ways to make our financial picture clearer and to make contributing to Illinois Yearly Meeting more convenient for people. We also worked out a process to accept no-interest loans such as the one from Duneland Friends Meeting

Our work has been done in an environment of change and some of us, both on the committee and elsewhere, are finding this hard. We hope that our work is going to make the coming years easier for those who come after us. We know that there are still issues to be addressed but hope that our work will serve as a foundation for dealing with these issues.

The "Breakdown of Employee Costs" was submitted as a guide in helping Friends accurately access the cost of adding employees or adding hours for an employee.

Breakdown of employee costs

½ time employee

Salary	1000 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$15,000
Taxes etc.	Approximately \$1,350	1,350
Admin. fee	\$400	<u>400</u>
Total		\$16,750

¼ time employee

Salary	500 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$7,500
Taxes etc.	Approximately \$675	675
Admin. Fee	\$400	<u>400</u>
Total		\$8,575

Approximate cost of adding 200 hours to the Field Secretary position:

Salary	\$200 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$3,000
Taxes etc.	Approximately \$270	<u>270</u>
Total		\$3,270

It can be assumed that there would also be an increase in the staff travel expenses.

We currently budget \$3,500 for staff travel.

Our contributions per year to the Staff Fund have been decreasing steadily each year.

Last year's contribution was under \$22,000. Even if there are no additional hours approved this year, the Finance Committee will have to increase the suggested contribution from meetings.

FINANCE COMMITTEE LEGAL WORK ON INCORPORATION ISSUES, 2005-2006

Minute 33 from 2005 approved the Finance Committee working with an attorney familiar with not-for-profit organizations to refine issues of bylaws from Illinois Yearly Meeting's 2004 incorporation, to be paid for from the Special Gifts Fund.

We have worked successfully with attorney Kathryn Vanden Berk of Chicago, who is well versed in church situations. She has stressed that what we do should reflect our continuity of operations as a church since 1875 and our Quaker process.

Records Search

Finance Committee members looked up records of the founding of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1875 as a religious corporation. Jonathan Plummer, Clerk, filed the affidavit on this with Putnam County in 1876, reflecting that Illinois Yearly Meeting was established for "religious and school purposes." A trust is a device for holding property, in this case our land and buildings. A trust was established for the ownership of our property in the same era.

We also looked up the courthouse records on our land parcels. The original 2 acres for the meetinghouse were acquired in 1875, the campground in 1970 (re-recorded in 1977) and the west acre in 2001. We also discovered a few surprises, which have taken work to resolve. Our 1960 minutes reflect a gift of a small triangle of land given to IYM by the Turner Mills family, for the site of the dormitory. There was no county record of the transfer of this land to IYM. In addition, the county tax assessor's office had never split off the campground from the farmer's field as a separate tax parcel (now corrected) and our neighbor has continued to pay a (small) amount of tax on it ever since. He is eligible to apply for a refund from the county, due to the assessor's error.

Property Issues

Corrective steps were taken with the help of Helen Jean Nelson and the Mills/Nelson family to survey the 0.2 acre dormitory parcel, to reflect her parents' gift to IYM. A quit claim deed was signed in March transferring the land from the Mills Estate to the Illinois Yearly Meeting Corporation. This will be filed with Putnam County after this year's business sessions, when we update the ownership of our other 3 parcels, see below.

An Affidavit of Exempt Ownership and Exempt Use was filed for tax exemption on the campground parcel (with its new tax PIN number) with Putnam County, in time to be picked up by the current assessment cycle last February. This will be forwarded to the Illinois Department of Revenue by the county. When the process is completed, it will serve as a prototype for correcting our records on all of our parcels in the coming year. As a church, we have been paying no tax on the Meetinghouse 2 acres and a token amount on the west acre, as it used to be in farm land.

The business session needs to direct the Trustees to transfer the 3 parcels to the corporation by 3 quit claim deeds [A], essentially moving the land from ourselves to ourselves as a Yearly Meeting. The original trust document did not specify how many trustees we have nor how many have to sign documents. Originally we had 3 trustees; most recently we have 4. After the 3 quit claim deeds have been signed, all 4 of the quit claims deeds (these, plus the Mills family gift) will then be filed with Putnam County, and we will be up to date on our land ownership.

We learned of several zoning issues that apply to our property, which are designed to preserve farmland and the rural character of our neighborhood. The Trustees were able to pursue these as part of our building projects.

Incorporation Issues

Although our 2004 incorporation is correct and legal, we are in a "cart before the horse" situation in having started the corporation before laying down the trust. Our attorney recommends our filing an affidavit with Putnam County reflecting our continuity of operations since the 1876 religious corporation to our modern corporation, to have a clear record of our organization on file. [B] This will also serve to dissolve the old religious corporation, which has been succeeded by our modern corporation. We will have clarity in our minutes [C] who holds our titles to our property, for purposes congruent with the original religious corporation.

In the future, when the property has been transferred from the trust to the corporation (that's from ourselves to ourselves) we can file an affidavit formally laying down the trust, since it will have no assets. This would be part of our work at the 2007 session.

Our attorney observed that we are clearly not a start-up organization and have operated in a clear and orderly fashion, as shown in our minutes, minute books, Handbook and use of several versions of Faith and Practice. The emphasis in our bylaws should be on continuing to operate the way we operate as Friends. We obtained copies of several other yearly meeting bylaws. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting incorporated recently and provided a clear, 3-page model for us to use. It was adapted to include Illinois-specific requirements. [D] The emphasis is on reflecting established Quaker business methods and the decision-making practice of the annual business session by the body of Friends present. The work of the board of directors reflects the decisions and direction of the larger body. We have endeavored to keep the bylaws simple and not be proscriptive. Our business session, minutes, applicable

Faith and Practice documents and Handbook will continue to guide our operations and be used as they always have. We do not need a separate “annual meeting” of the board of directors. Monthly and Quarterly meetings, although allowed by Illinois Yearly Meeting, are separate legal entities. The cemetery is a separate legal entity, which predates the yearly meeting and will remain unchanged by all of these actions.

Charitable Status

In Internal Revenue Service (IRS) language, Illinois Yearly Meeting is a church, not a religious organization, which is something different. Churches, by law, are tax-exempt organizations, under Section 501.c.3 of the tax code, and eligible gifts to them are considered tax deductible to the donor. A separate “letter ruling” from the IRS recognizing our 501.c.3 status may be applied for at any time and we will not currently bring forth a recommendation on whether or not to proceed with that.

Illinois law requires us to register as a charitable organization, since we ask for money. There are three brief applicable forms to do this, to file with the Illinois Attorney General. We will proceed with the administrative work for this filing, which will be considered a late application.

In Closing

Our work turned out to be more complicated than we envisioned. We have been blessed by a skilled attorney, attuned to Quaker values and the needs of churches. We have also been well served by the helpful staff of the Putnam County Courthouse and their care for the property and other records of our county. We have gained a deeper appreciation of the history and continuity of Illinois Yearly Meeting and are endeavoring to get all of the elements ready for an orderly transition to our corporation.

Finance Committee requests that Friends become versed in these issues and the proposed minutes we bring to resolve these legal matters. We welcome questions in advance of the business session. Mindful and prayerful preparation will help us do our business together.

- Cathy Garra & Judy Jager

A. Proposed Trust Property Transfer Minute

We direct the trustees of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, Richard Ashdown, Carol Bartles, Helen Jean Nelson and Jerry Nurenberg, to promptly transfer all of our property currently held in trust to the corporation of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. This will include land and buildings on three parcels: the Meetinghouse (acquired 1875), the Campground (1970/1977) and the West Acre (2001).

If any of the four trustees are unable to execute the transfer documents, the remaining trustees will do so.

To support this transfer we authorize expenditures of associated fees, legal costs and transfer costs from the Illinois Yearly Meeting Special Gifts Fund.

B. Proposed Affidavit of Continuity Minute

Upon completion of the property transfer to the current corporation, the 1875 religious corporation of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, established in Putnam County, Illinois, will be dissolved. The current articles of incorporation of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends were applied for from the Illinois Secretary of State and recorded by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds in April, 2004. This continuity of operation of Illinois Yearly Meeting since 1875 will be documented in an affidavit to be filed with Putnam County (see p. 34).

C. Proposed Corporation and Property Minute

We direct the corporation to hold papers, deeds and titles to the property of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and to execute deeds and transfer property whenever so directed and empowered by a Minute of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

The premises will continue to be used by Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends for religious and school purposes, and other purposes consistent with our religious beliefs and principles.

D. Draft Bylaws of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Article I

Name, Background Information and Intention

1: Name - The name of this corporation is the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (hereinafter Illinois Yearly Meeting).

2: Background Information and Intention - The Illinois Yearly Meeting was first established in the year 1875, and has been in continuous existence as a religious body and charitable trust since that time. It was incorporated under the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act on April 15, 2004 as a regional church. These bylaws are adopted by the incorporated entity with the intention that its members may continue without interruption the principles, practices and organization of the Illinois Yearly Meeting as they existed at the time of its incorporation and as they may evolve in the future. It is not the intention of these bylaws to change, alter or amend the principles, practices and organization of the Illinois Yearly Meeting, and for this reason these bylaws are intentionally brief.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of the Illinois Yearly Meeting is:

- a. To practice religion in the manner of the Religious Society of Friends;
- b. To continue the principles and practices of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends as they existed at the time of its incorporation and as they may evolve in the future;
- c. To promote the religious interests and welfare of its members and constituent Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, together with the boards, committees, institutions and instrumentalities affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends, as well as to maintain relations with other religious fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced;
- d. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, and to own, invest, reinvest, or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such religious, educational, philanthropic and other related work as the Yearly Meeting may undertake; to purchase, own, receive, sell, assign, care for, rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purposes of the Yearly Meeting and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Yearly Meeting.
- e. In general to exercise any, all and every power which has heretofore been exercised by the Illinois Yearly Meeting and which any nonprofit religious and charitable corporation can be authorized to exercise, but no other power.

Article III

Membership

1: Membership - The membership of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall consist of all those individuals who are members of one of its constituent Monthly Meetings.

2: Monthly and Quarterly Meetings - The Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are those independent religious bodies currently or hereafter recognized by the Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Article IV

Governance, Officers, Committees and Employees

1: Governance - The Illinois Yearly Meeting shall continue to be governed according to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends as they now exist and as they may evolve in the future.

2: Officers - The officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall be a Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerks, a Treasurer, and such additional Clerks as the Illinois Yearly Meeting may appoint as officers.

3: Committees and Employees - The Illinois Yearly Meeting may appoint committees and hire employees as needed to carry on its work. Such committees and employees shall serve with the powers and limitations prescribed by the Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Article V

Liability Protection and Indemnification

1: Participating Members - The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by persons hereinafter known as Participating Members. Participating Members are those members who attend Yearly Meeting business sessions, or are members of any Illinois Yearly Meeting Committee or Working Group.

2: Liability Protection - Participating Members shall not be personally liable, as such, for monetary damages for any action taken unless: (1) the Participating Member has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office under the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended; and (2) the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness; provided, however, that the foregoing limitation of liability shall not apply to (a) the responsibility or liability of a Participating Member pursuant to any criminal statute; or (b) the liability of a Participating Member for the payment of Illinois Yearly Meeting taxes pursuant to federal, state or local law.

3: Indemnification - All members of the Meeting, Standing Committees or any other Committee or Working Group that is part of the structure of The Illinois Yearly Meeting, its employees and officers shall be entitled to the full benefit of the indemnification provisions of the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, including, but not limited to, section 108.65 (805 ILCS 105/108.65)

4: Repeal - No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article shall be given adverse effect with respect to any person who would have been entitled to benefits hereunder prior to the amendment or repeal without reasonable prior written notice to such person, and no such amendment or repeal shall be given adverse effect with respect to the conduct of any such person occurring prior to the approval of the amendment or repeal.

Article VI

Corporate Powers and Limitations

1: Distributions - The Corporation may make distributions only to organizations that qualify as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or its successors.

2: No Inurement - No part of net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its Members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II above.

3: Political Activity - No substantial part of its activities shall attempt to influence legislation, and the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

4: General Limitations - Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall not carry on activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or its successors or (2) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or its successors.

5: Dissolution - Upon its dissolution, the officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, dispose of its remaining assets solely to entities organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or its successors.

Amendments

The Illinois Yearly Meeting in annual or called session may alter or amend these Bylaws, except as limited by law or by the Articles of Incorporation, at any time provided that written notice of the substance of the proposed action and of the meeting at which the action may be taken shall be given to the Clerks of the Monthly Meetings at least 120 days in advance of that meeting.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF _____)

The undersigned, as the duly elected Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, an Illinois corporation organized and operated under the laws of Illinois, hereby affirm the following.

- 1. That on or about September 16, 1875, the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends was formed as a religious corporation under the Illinois Religious Corporations Act (currently cited as 805 ILCS 110/0.01 et seq). At the same time, a Trust was created and three Trustees appointed for the purpose of holding in trust certain papers, deeds and titles to property, and to execute deeds and transfer property on its behalf whenever so directed and empowered by a minute of the Meeting. A duly executed Affidavit to that effect was filed on June 1, 1876, by Jonathan W. Plummer, Clerk of the Meeting, in the office of the Putnam County Recorder of Deeds, where it was recorded in Miscellaneous Record Book 1, Pages 50 and 51. This affidavit remains in effect at this time, and a copy of it is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
2. That subsequent to that time, the Trust has acquired three parcels of land in Putnam County to serve the needs of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends.
3. That on or about August 1, 2003, the Illinois Yearly Meeting, at a duly convened meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing the organization to incorporate under the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act as the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Articles of Incorporation were duly filed with the Illinois Secretary of State on April 15, 2004, and the filed Articles were recorded on April 29, 2004 by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds as Document No. 0412049160. A copy of the recorded Articles of Incorporation is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
4. That the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends now recognizes the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends as the religious body politic, and all rights and responsibilities, corporate powers, assets, liabilities and other instances of corporate existence have been transferred to the new corporation
5. That on July ____, 2006, the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends directed the Trustees of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends to transfer all properties held in the name of the Trust to the new nonprofit corporation.
6. That on July ____, 2006, the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends adopted a resolution to dissolve the religious corporation when the transfers have been completed.
7. The undersigned hereby declare(s), under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing statements are true.

Dated this __ day of _____, 2006.

Presiding Clerk

Recording Clerk

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for the State and County first above, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that _____ and _____, personally known to and by me to be the same persons whose name are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day and signed the said instrument act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal, this ____ day of _____, 2006.

(seal) _____, Notary Public

This instrument was prepared by Kathryn M. Vanden Berk, 203 N. LaSalle St, Suite 2100, Chicago IL 60601.

Mail recorded affidavit to:
Law Offices of Kathryn M. Vanden Berk, LLC
203 N. LaSalle Street, Ste. 2100
Chicago, IL 60601-1226

Affidavit of Transfer and Dissolution2006.wpd

HANDBOOK (See Minute 6)

The Handbook is a compilation of the current policies, procedures, practices, and organization of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The Illinois Yearly Meeting handbook is descriptive rather than prescriptive in that we make changes in the handbook as a result of changing the way we do things. 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.

The Handbook Committee recommends the following changes to the Handbook. The page numbers refer to the Handbook approved at the Fall Continuing Committee (2005 October) and distributed at the Spring Continuing Committee.

a) Illinois Yearly Meeting description (p. 4)

Add the following paragraph at the end of the opening description.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends is the resident monthly meeting at the yearly meeting site in McNabb, Illinois.

Change the listing of monthly meetings under Blue River Quarterly removing Macomb worship group and adding Decatur worship group.

b) Quarterly Meetings (p. 6)

Change the title of the page to read Quarterly and Regional Meetings.

Add the following description of Quarterly Meetings.

Quarterly meetings conduct business, are mutually accountable to the yearly meeting, and are a time for the gathering of Friends. At this time, IYM has only one quarterly meeting.

The following monthly meetings are affiliated with Blue River Quarterly: Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek, Columbia, Decatur WG, Peoria-Galesburg, St Louis, Rolla Preparative, Southern Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Springfield WG.

Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting does conduct business and is a gathering of Friends, however, it is not a quarterly meeting and is not accountable to the yearly meeting. Meetings affiliated with Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting are: Chicago Monthly Meeting**, DeKalb, Downers Grove*, Duneland, Evanston, Fifty-Seventh Street*, Lake Forest, Oak Park, Milwaukee, Northside, Oshkosh, Rock Valley, South Bend, and Upper Fox Valley. (*also affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting; ** only affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting)

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Regional Meeting consists of monthly meetings from the area who gather periodically for fellowship and programs. There are monthly meetings from both Illinois Yearly Meeting and Northern Yearly Meeting.

Clear Creek Extended Meeting for Worship and First Day School meets the first Sunday morning of each month at the meetinghouse in McNabb. Families from smaller monthly meetings and worship groups gather to have worship, religious education, and fellowship.

c) Update *Faith and Practice* description (p. 8)

Change at the end of the first paragraph is underlined.

Until it is complete, we affirm the use of the 2002 version of *Faith and Practice of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting* as an interim working document to be used as a guide for our process, except where IYM past policy differs significantly.

d) Changes in Policy or Practice by the Yearly Meeting (p. 9)

Changes are underlined.

For a new policy or a change in policy: When an Illinois Yearly Meeting member (or Monthly Meeting) feels that some policy or practice needs revision, the proposed revision should first be taken to the Monthly Meeting. If the Monthly Meeting feels that the issue is substantial and approves the submission of the revision, the Monthly Meeting Clerk will send the proposed revision to the Quarterly Meeting if there is one or to the Continuing Committee before it goes to the Yearly Meeting.

The proposed revision should be circulated with the help of the administrative coordinator to the Clerk of each Illinois Yearly Meeting Monthly Meeting, allowing adequate time for consideration and response before the next Annual Session. A written response will be encouraged from Monthly Meetings.

Other paragraphs on the page remain the same except at the end add the following paragraph.

Individuals may also season a concern by approaching Friends in neighboring meetings, the Field Secretary, or an appropriate committee.

e) Presiding Clerk and Assistant Clerk descriptions (p. 13)

Replace descriptions with the following, in which changes are underlined.

Presiding Clerk

Presides over the meeting for business of the yearly meeting at the annual sessions and the Continuing Committee.

Carries on correspondence relating to the business of Yearly Meeting.

Keeps informed of ongoing activities of the Yearly Meeting during the year so as to be responsive to issues as they arise.

Prepares the agenda for the annual session and the meetings of Continuing Committee with the help of the Clerk's Committee early enough so that copies can be sent to monthly meetings several weeks in advance.

Attends committee meetings as needed.

Assistant Clerk

Assists the Presiding Clerk in presiding over the meeting for business of the yearly meeting at the annual sessions and the Continuing Committee Meetings.

Assists the Presiding Clerk with correspondence and oversight of ongoing activities of Yearly Meeting committees.

Substitutes for the Presiding Clerk as needed.

Attends committee meetings as needed.

f) Reading Clerk (p. 14)

Replace the description with the following.

Chooses excerpts from the epistles we receive from other yearly meetings and from our own epistle from the previous year. Reads selections during annual sessions.

Serves on the epistle committee for Illinois Yearly Meeting.

g) Standing Committees (p. 19)

We recommend the addition of the following paragraph to the introduction to all standing committees.

Standing Committees exist to carry out the work of the yearly meeting as assigned.

They are expected to give a written report to the Administrative Coordinator at least two weeks prior to annual sessions. They may also make a formal report to the Continuing Committee. The clerk of the committee is a member of Continuing Committee and expected to attend or send a representative from the committee. A request for a time on the agenda at Continuing Committee meeting or annual sessions should be made well-in-advance to the Presiding Clerk for consideration by the Clerk's Committee.

h) Sources of Additional Resources (p. 32)

We recommend that this page be removed and that Friends check meeting libraries or the internet for up-to-date resources.

i) Appendix B: Rates for use of IYM Facilities (p. 44)

We recommend adding the following.

Arrangements need to be made in advance with the Administrative Coordinator to be sure there is an opening on the Clear Creek Monthly Meeting calendar and for instructions to start up and close up the site for each event.

MAINTENANCE & PLANNING (See Minute 25)

M&P oversaw several improvements and upgrades to the IYM facility in 2006-2007. A new well was dug, which will ensure an adequate and virtually maintenance-free source of fresh water. This well will meet the requirements of any future building, and will give Dick Ashdown some spare time in winter months as he will no longer have to worry about the well pipes freezing. Many thanks are due to Dick for his vigilant watch over the years which prevented the old well from freezing.

Several projects were completed relating to existing termite damage and its future prevention. Trillium Dell Timberworks replaced the remaining termite-damaged sill under the Meetinghouse's South bay window with a new 8"x8" white oak sill. All known termite-damage has now been fully addressed, restoring the structural and historical integrity of the Meetinghouse.

M&P also oversaw several projects aimed at preventing further termite damage. Since termites thrive in moist conditions, new gutters were installed to drain roof water away from the building. Similarly, High School and Junior High School Friends (HSF/JrHSF) volunteered during the Memorial Day Work Weekend to raise the grade around the foundation, encouraging drainage away from the building. Finally, the building was scraped and painted, minimizing water infiltration and maintaining the beauty of the Meetinghouse. Periodic termite inspections and treatments will continue.

There were also several other projects worthy of mention. Dick Domanik made three new screen doors for the Meetinghouse's two large front doors on the North side, and for the smaller door on the East side. Also, several new screen windows were made and installed for the Meetinghouse to replace those beyond repair. Volunteers at the Memorial Day work weekend installed a new screen door at the West entry, and added additional handrails in the same location. Two "new" temporary showers were added to the North side of the dormitory by reusing the stairs, deck and

showers from the old dormitory. These showers will offset the loss of showers in the old dormitory until IYM builds additional facilities. Volunteers also carted scrap metal from the old dormitory to a recycling center in LaSalle. In addition to the grading work, HSF and JrHSF scraped and primed the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse in preparation for use in its new location on the North side of the campus. Throughout the work weekend, Nancy Duncan's savory cooking kept us all going strong.

One possible improvement M & P is asked to consider each year is air-conditioning the Meetinghouse. This request is typically made by individuals whose health prohibits attendance at Annual Session without air-conditioning. M & P would be happy to serve in a fact-finding capacity to determine the costs, feasibility, and best method of air-conditioning. M & P has secured two quotes for air-conditioning, but is not confident that the quotes reflect mechanically feasible or cost-effective methods. It may be necessary to hire a mechanical engineer to determine the best way to air-condition the Meetinghouse. However, M & P does not wish to further pursue this fact-finding project without a mandate to proceed from Illinois Yearly Meeting. Accordingly, we ask, *Does Illinois Yearly Meeting wish for M & P to provide an assessment of methods and costs for air-conditioning the Meetinghouse?*

This assessment would only be a fact-finding project. Once Illinois Yearly Meeting has had an opportunity to review this assessment, M & P would proceed with air-conditioning the Meetinghouse only if air-conditioning were approved by Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Throughout the year, M&P's efforts have been complemented by and, in some cases, made possible by, the efforts of Clear Creek and SEB. Though each group has led its own initiatives, close communication and cooperation among the groups over the past few years has made many small works add up to a well-maintained, much improved campus. M&P believes that this great facility has never looked better, and that it will continue to serve Friends for many years to come.

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 5)

Over the past year, Ministry and Advancement (M&A) has tried to discern our role more fully and live it more effectively. Given that we lack the resources to minister to all 22 of our meetings as well as we would like, we have pondered, prayed about, and discussed how best to achieve our goals. The Dream Gathering Project has been very helpful in making us more aware of the needs of our meetings. We are encouraged and energized by some of the initiatives proposed by the Dream Gathering Project, such as the proposed ad hoc committee on the Discernment of Gifts, and we hope that we can support such efforts and be supported by them. With respect to the matter of ministering to each of our monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups, we have decided that for the coming year we will maintain contact with, and try to provide resources for, all our meetings but will focus most of our continuing attention on those meetings for whom our care appears most needed. We also intend to preserve the effective relationships between individual members of M&A who are continuing on the committee and the particular monthly meetings that they serve as M&A representatives, which represent about half our meetings.

One of the responsibilities of M&A is to provide for the care of the attenders at our annual session. To this end, a Committee of Care is appointed. The heart is this year's designation of the members of the Committee of Care. If you have any needs for which you'd like care or attention, look for the Friends with a heart on their name

tags. M&A has also developed a policy concerning Sexual Abuse and Misconduct, as described on page 33 of the 2005 IYM Minute Book. If you have any questions about this, or any concerns relating to sexual abuse or misconduct during the Yearly Meeting, you are welcome to speak with David Finke or Margaret Katranides.

Our longtime pastoral counselors, Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, have requested that their endorsements be continued for the coming year. Beth has returned to the Chicago area and has been hired by VITAS Innovative Hospice care to start a new Clinical Pastoral Education program in their three programs in the Chicago area. Carolyn continues in private practice, although in “retired” status as designated by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. The decrease in her number of pastoral-counseling clients has allowed Carolyn to devote more time and energy into her personal life-coaching practice and her heartfelt witness to the environment. The Yearly Meeting has endorsed these Friends as pastoral counselors for many years, and we regard these endorsements as ongoing, not a matter for annual decision. As ever, we ask that you hold them in the Light as they continue in their very important service to the Yearly Meeting and the world.

M&A is charged with support and oversight of the Field Secretary. Our new Field Secretary, Maurine Pyle, is now completing her first year in that position. She has asked me to read her report, which follows.

Field Secretary Annual Report

The essence of Quaker life can be reduced to one word – relationship. The primary relationship is between each of us and the God-Spirit. Yet there are other relationships to consider within that context. How do the members and attenders of our monthly meetings relate to one another in community? How do Quaker meetings relate to each other? What is the relationship we call Illinois Yearly Meeting?

As your Field Secretary, I am called to nurture these relationships. This past year I have visited the farthest corners of our yearly meeting. Rather than riding on horseback as was the conveyance of early Quaker traveling ministers, I usually ride the “iron horse” (a train). I am a visitor and support person for IYM Quakers who are spread thinly over a wide expanse of prairie land. When I arrive, Friends greet me with warmth and enthusiasm which enables me to do my work with them in the Spirit.

Here are a few observations I would like to offer for those who do not travel to other meetings. IYM has many small meetings and worship groups who struggle to keep their hopes alive. On the other hand, we also have some large vibrant meetings with elders trying to cope with too many duties. Who will teach first day school, offer hospitality, lead the business meetings? Who will care for the sick and encourage the dying? These are concerns of meetings both large and small. Some meetings have an eye toward the future, while others focus on the past. My work helps them to center on their core values, hopes and dreams.

This past year has been a year of envisioning for two meetings—Columbia and South Bend. Vision retreats enable the entire community to enter into a deep dialog concerning the present and future of their meeting. I introduce myself as a “spiritual midwife” who has come to coach, encourage and support growth and change. It is up to the meeting family to carry out their own dream. When the “baby” arrives (i.e. their vision), I place it in their arms and ask, “What do you plan to do with this new baby?” My role is to initiate their dreaming, and their role is to carry it out.

When meetings choose to grow, they will most likely encounter stress from the changes they are making. There are increasing needs for outside support during a growth phase. Dedicated elders are essential to this process. Who will prepare the next generation of elders? Too many of our current elders are carrying a dual role within their monthly meeting and the yearly meeting. “Elder burnout” is a very real problem that is not being addressed by the whole body of Friends. I place this before you for your consideration.

Like a tide pool, which must be refreshed by the ocean tide in order to remain vibrant, our monthly meetings need visitors who can nurture them. Too many of our Quaker meetings are isolated and struggling to carry the burden alone without outside support. This is our challenge in the 21st century of the Religious Society of Friends. Who is called to nurture, heal and support the monthly meetings? The Field Secretary is only one person engaged in this effort. In the past year I was only able to visit half of the meetings and worship groups in Illinois Yearly Meeting. Clearly, one person will not be sufficient to answer the need. As God in the Book of Isaiah asks, “Whom shall I send?”

- Maurine Pyle

Ministry and Advancement’s support of the Field Secretary has taken several forms. We have created a revised position description, one that we believe more accurately reflects the qualifications, responsibilities, and expectations of the Field Secretary than the existing description. None of the previous description has been annulled or reversed; our revision consists of reorganization and clarification. We ask that the Yearly Meeting approve this revision so that it may be included in the next edition of the IYM Handbook.

We have come to recognize that, given the expressed needs of our meetings, the Field Secretary’s work cannot realistically be completed in the 500 hours currently allotted by the Yearly Meeting. We have therefore composed and approved the following minute:

Ministry and Advancement has united in requesting an increase in the hours for the Field Secretary. In the past year, the position has taken about 550 hours for nine months work, so 700 seems appropriate for a 12-month period. Without an increase, either requests will be unmet or the Field Secretary will be doing unpaid work. We feel strongly led to fulfill the requests of our meetings, but not at the expense of our Field Secretary.

We are therefore introducing the request for an increase in the Field Secretary’s hours to 700 annually, contingent on additional funding, at this time. We will ask the Yearly Meeting to consider this request formally, in conjunction with the budget for the coming year, later this week.

The members of Ministry and Advancement are asked to guide the spiritual development and unity of the Yearly Meeting. This is a weighty task, and in accepting nomination to this committee we accept that responsibility. Each of us who has served on the committee during the past year has had our successes and our failures, and we have shared them candidly with each other in an effort to better serve the Yearly Meeting. Our appreciation for the work to which we are called has led us to a deepening awareness of the need to hear, with the aid of divine guidance, the voices that express the needs of our meetings. We hope to respond meaningfully, effectively, and lovingly to those voices in the coming year.

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 16)

The 12 months since we last gathered at McNabb have been an enriching time for the Peace Resources Committee, an experience the committee now hopes to share with Friends throughout IYM.

Last fall our initial discussions focused on these questions:

- How can we better serve Friends and Monthly Meetings of IYM as they struggle with how to witness for peace?
- How can we help nurture and develop the vision of the Peace House on the Prairie as a peace and environmental retreat center, a vision that encompasses the exploration of what is peacemaking and environmental stewardship and the training of future peacemakers and stewards of the environment?
- What is our role in the DreamGathering process?

Much of our early discussions came back to the Peace Testimony and Friends' relationship to it. We sensed that Friends often are at a loss when it comes to the Peace Testimony and how it might manifest in our lives. For some, the Peace Testimony is manifested through political action, while others are uncomfortable with this expression. Unfortunately, a split often occurs between those who believe one manifestation is more effective than another. We agreed that there very well may be myriad manifestations of the Peace Testimony, all of them crucial in helping us discern the road to peace. More important is that these expressions of peacemaking arise from a deep spiritual connection to the Peace Testimony. We then asked ourselves how to feed and nurture that connection. From that question came the idea for a workshop on the Peace Testimony that we could offer Monthly Meetings throughout IYM.

Over several months, ending with a retreat in March, PRC put together the workshop. As said earlier, it was an enriching, deepening experience. We took care to follow our own admonition, that this be rooted in our own spiritual practice. Because it comes from that ground, we believe the Peace Testimony Workshop will help other Friends not only deepen their connection to the Peace Testimony, but also help them clarify how they might express it in their lives. PRC is offering a portion of the workshop at the annual gathering and making it available to Monthly Meetings upon request.

The Peace Testimony Workshop is but one of the resources PRC hopes to provide Friends of IYM. Over the next year, PRC plans to develop a variety of materials – online, written, and in other formats – that will help Monthly Meetings and individual Friends express their sense of the Peace Testimony.

As we put together the Peace Testimony Workshop, always present in our minds and hearts was the Peace House on the Prairie. It is the sense of the committee that our role is to nurture and help shape the vision of the Peace House on the Prairie as a peace and environmental retreat center. The Peace Testimony Workshop is but one example of the many peacemaking tools that can be developed by the Peace House on the Prairie.

PRC also is cognizant of the DreamGathering process and the need to work in conjunction with other standing committees of IYM as the vision of the Peace House on the Prairie takes shape. Several PRC members took part in the DreamGathering retreat held at Menno Haven in March. During the retreat, PRC members gravitated toward members of the Environmental Concerns Committee and found kindred spirits. It is our hope in the coming year to connect further with the Environmental Con-

cerns Committee, as well as with other standing committees, to develop the vision for the Peace House on the Prairie.

PEACE TAX FUND

In 2006, a new clerk for the Peace Tax Fund was named. The previous clerk had been running the show for many years. The transfer of documents and information wasn't done until May 2006, and administrative operations with the bank are taking longer than expected, so the Committee has not been able to do its 2006 work yet. As of March 31, 2006, there was \$6600.85 in the fund. \$55.36 of this is accumulated interest from July 2005 through August 2006, which, in accordance with the tradition established in past years, we plan to distribute to two nonprofit organizations that promote peace. These organizations have not yet been chosen. As soon as we get the signature cards straightened out with the bank, we plan to move the majority of the fund into Certificates of Deposit, which will double or triple the annual amount of interest available to spend.

PUBLICATIONS (See Minute 9)

We hereby report our activity of the past year, and our intended work for the upcoming year, seeking some advice of the Yearly Meeting.

As has been our custom and mission, we produced 2 editions of *Among Friends*, the MinuteBook, and a Plummer Lecture, all provided at no additional cost to each of our Meetings. We also, through the IYM website, have created on-line full-color versions of each edition of the magazine in advance of the print versions being available, and expect that pattern to continue. Due to the unanticipated involvement of Columbia Friends in memorial arrangements for our dear Friend Gary Walden, we were unable to distribute the MinuteBook at the fall Continuing Committee, which occurred a week earlier than some other years. However, essential documents for that session were provided by the Administrative Coordinator. The completed books were shipped out in November. (We take this opportunity to remind Friends to inform our committee when we should change local shipping addresses or quantities.)

The Plummer Lecture from 2005 is still in production as this is written. Though we expect to distribute it to these annual sessions, there have been additional steps in the process due to the method of its compilation and delivery. We don't usually have posthumous presentations of the Plummer Lecture, but were pleased at how many people helped make it happen for Clance Wilson.

Some progress was made in putting old Plummer Lectures on-line, specifically the one by Elizabeth Watson. As per our reports and request in 2003 and 2004, we still need much more volunteer time to achieve our goal of having all of them available. Please contact our WebServant for details of how you can help this happen (scanning, editing, seeking permissions.)

A word about technology: On the negative side, we experienced some of the effects of using older printing-production equipment, which increasingly provides technical challenges—even as we prudently keep our costs down. (The Treasurer has been advised of Omega Graphics' costs compared to competitive bids.) We also found previous suppliers ceasing to furnish what we've come to expect, bypassing film as they move to "computer-to-plate" or "computer-to-press" methods. On the positive side, we can announce that *all* of our publications have now been provided to the printer entirely electronically. We no longer need such a thing as "camera-

ready copy.” This saves time and, sometimes, expense. Our Administrative Secretary and our magazine's Editor have superb skills in copy preparation and layout. Please let them know your appreciation!

Looking to the future, we have begun experimenting with a participatory approach to having committees of IYM make their information available on our Internet site (a “Wiki”), not having to depend so much on the WebServant’s limited volunteer time. She explained this prospect to the Spring Continuing Committee, and will give a workshop demonstration of how easily we all can post and edit the web-content. We would like to continue experimenting and developing this during the next several months. We propose giving authority to the Fall Continuing Committee to consolidate and move the various components of IYM web-publication to a site which we would then actually own. The cost of owning/hosting our own site (rather than using “quaker.org”) would increase from \$16 a year to around \$30-50 annually. We are asking Finance Committee to include such increased expense into our appropriation.

A request has come to us that IYM help to produce a biography of our founder, Jonathan Plummer, a manuscript of which has been submitted. After consultations involving the YM’s present clerk and several other knowledgeable Friends, our recommendation is that IYM give its blessing and encouragement to this project, but that funding and oversight be handled by one of our Monthly Meetings when they become clear that that is their leading. Actual publishing and marketing would be handled outside our normal channels and budget. However, via our website we could feature its availability when and if a book is produced. If your Publications Committee receives future such requests, we would need more guidance from IYM as to our authority to print beyond what is currently budgeted. We do not request establishing an additional IYM fund, nor anticipate receiving earmarked contributions to the Publications budget for additional projects. We will consult with the Presiding Clerk and/or Continuing Committee when such opportunities may arise.

Finally, we have become aware from several sources about concerns over privacy of personal contact information as it appears in our publications. We intend to have a statement included in upcoming MinuteBooks and directories that information such as phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail accounts are provided *only* for use within Quaker circles, and not at all for commercial purposes. We welcome suggestions for wording that will give assurance to all, while realizing that Quakerism has always been a public movement and our corporate actions are undertaken in full view of the whole world. Nonetheless, we wish to help protect Friends against exploitation or solicitation from non-Quaker sources.

- David Finke

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS

Our committee has met four times this year; twice by phone conference.

Our biggest enterprise of this year was to try to organize a trip for High School Friends to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, to work in the Intermountain-AFSC Joint Service Project Work camp. We did not succeed in carrying this out. We did not get enough response from our one mailing to the teens. In the process of our planning on this, we worked to inform ourselves about the separation of Project Lakota from the Joint Service Project. Perhaps we’ll try this workcamp trip again next year.

We've begun to write up an article for each issue of Among Friends interviewing Friends who have done volunteer service as part of their spiritual practice and Quaker witness. We will be interviewing Friends here at Yearly Meeting who would like to share with us about either their Quaker work camp experience or other Quaker volunteer service.

We gave scholarship money this year out of the Kenneth Ives Memorial Fund to Adult Young Friends Trevor Munroe of Milwaukee Monthly Meeting and Madelyn George of Evanston Monthly Meeting to assist them in participating in the African Great Lakes Initiative Workcamps. Trevor is now in Kenya and Madelyn is in Burundi. We look forward to their sharing with all of us about their experiences.

One of our members, David Finke, spoke at Blue River Quarterly on the theme of "Faith through Service," which is the focus of our committee. This next year we hope to work on a contribution to Faith and Practice on this theme.

We have suggested to the High School students a possible trip to New York City over their spring break to work in a Quaker volunteer program with the poor in NYC and to visit the United Nations. The visit to the U.N. would be part of our focus on Quaker leadership development. We already have two teens who have expressed interest in this, so we hope we may be able to carry out this plan.

We will continue to sell bumper stickers and accept donations to keep the coffers filled for our Kenneth Ives Scholarship Fund to support Yearly Meeting members who would like to participate in Quaker volunteer programs.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Committee met in October 2005 and in March 2006 in the home of Neil and Grayce Mesner in Lacon, IL, to discuss topics and concerns regarding RE in meetings and for individuals in IYM.

At IYM 2005 a workshop focused on reading and discussing Margaret Hope Bacon's Pendle Hill pamphlet *Henry J. Cadbury: scholar, activist, disciple*. Copies of the essay were distributed to participants. This spring copies of the 2005 publication from FGC *Whispers of Faith: Young Friends Share Their Experiences of Quakerism* to meeting libraries in IYM. Young Friends from the US and from the UK offered contributions in response to the query "What does Quakerism mean to me, in my heart?" This book has a potential to bridge Friends across generations in a discussion of the topics and issues described.

Grayce Mesner has decided come off the committee to work on other projects and concerns. She served as the guiding hand for discussions, projects, and hospitality for this committee with many clerks over several years. Her skills and insight served well the RE contributions for IYM. We thank her for her continuing involvement and numerous contributions to the committee's mission.

- Chris Jocius, Jeannie Marvin, Grayce Mesner, Scott Searles, David Wixom

SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING (See Minute 26)

At IYM 2005 Friends approved "moving the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse to the southeast corner of the campground and renovating it for sleeping and meeting space." The meeting also approved "dismantling the dormitory and using the materials to build 6-8 summer cabins in the campground."

During this past year the SEB Committee has focused its work on these projects. Proposals were sought from potential contractors, inspections and time schedules

arranged, and supervision of the actual work carried out. Throughout this process our committee has emphasized the importance of an environmental ethic which conserves both materials and energy.

Dismantling of the dormitory was sensitively carried out by a crew of workers from Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage in Rutledge, Missouri. Because of their experience in salvaging building materials for their own homes and community buildings, they were able, efficiently and carefully, to dismantle and sort the dormitory components for reuse and recycling. Metal materials from the dormitory that could not be used on our site were hauled by Friends to a scrap dealer in LaSalle and sold for approximately \$1,000. Two shower stalls were moved across the road and attached to the campground washhouse to provide extra shower facilities. Toilets have been taken to Bloomington for use by Habitat for Humanity. Concrete blocks and foundations have been removed for use in road work. And so on.

A contract was awarded to Key Builders Construction of Princeton, IL to construct 6 summer cabins in the campground, utilizing 12' x 16' sections of the old dormitory floor for the floors of the new cabins. There are platforms for 2 or 3 more cabins, but funds are not yet in hand to build with them. The Environmental Concerns Committee worked with SEB members in determining the precise locations for the cabins.

The move of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse across the road was an exciting event witnessed and photographed by a number of IYM Friends. Two nearby contractors, Balagna and Kudela Builders, completed the move and the subsequent remodeling, respectively. For the safety of the building a large, hollow silver maple was removed and sawed into pieces to be recycled as benches and firewood at the campfire site.

Several IYM Friends deserve special appreciation for all their efforts in these projects. Carol Bartles contacted contractors, reviewed estimates, and made repeated site visits. She was, in effect, the project supervisor for the dismantling of the dormitory and the move and remodeling of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. Chip Rorem drew the architectural plans for the cabin construction and carried out the essential oversight of the work contract. Throughout all the work, Dick Ashdown, by his presence, provided an ongoing sense of security, whether in contacting local companies, working on zoning and permitting issues, or using his equipment to haul materials or remove a dangerous tree next to the new bunkhouse (formerly Junior Yearly Meetinghouse.) Robin Johnson drew the plans for remodeling the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse in 2003 and finally was able to see those plans fulfilled. Robert Foulkes constructed the forms for the bunkhouse piers and together with Robin tracked down and supplied doors and other materials for the remodeling. Though they had support from many other Friends, without the expertise, energy, and enthusiasm of these individuals the building projects simply would not have materialized.

The SEB Committee had hoped to do more with landscape plans for the McNabb campus than it did. Happily, the Environmental Concerns Committee has had the same interest and useful dialog between the committees has been initiated, as exemplified by the joint effort in siting the summer cabins. Likewise, as in previous years the SEB Committee has worked closely with the Maintenance and Planning Committee in mutual concern for our historic Meetinghouse and the care of our existing and future facilities as envisioned by IYM Friends.

- Bill Howenstine, Clerk

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 20)

The Youth Oversight committee met three times in person and twice by phone conference this year. The High School clerks met as part of our committee and this year the clerk of the Adult Young Friends also joined our meetings. We began the year with a major phone effort to update our list of High School age Friends associated with all the monthly meetings. We found ourselves with a list of about 50 teens. We've worked to develop a database that we can keep up, including birth dates so that we can see when a young person is no longer of age to be on our mailing lists. We've encouraged the monthly meetings through emails and Continuing Committee to let us know of new High School young people who come occasionally to Meeting. But not one Monthly Meeting has given us information on new teens. We also began to develop an information list of Junior High age Friends.

Several different attempts were made to establish Internet communication among High School Friends, though to our surprise they are not as regular using this form of communication as we had expected.

In January the annual Quake That Rocked the Midwest was held at Evanston Meetinghouse. This Quake was begun by Greg Woods of IYM and Kri Anderson Noel, the paid Youth Coordinator of Ann Arbor Meeting; it is for High School Friends of several yearly meetings. Seven of our High School Friends attended. Zachary Moon of North Carolina Yearly Meeting was the invited leader for this Quake; he presented several workshops on the theme of "Prophecy," beginning with the Biblical stories of prophets, continuing through Quaker prophets such as George Fox and Rufus Jones, and then the teens were invited to think about what they might want to stand up for in their world today. Our teens held a Meeting for Business at that Quake in which they began their plans for their next Quake and for Yearly Meeting. At that Meeting for Business, they decided to invite the Friends World Committee for Consultation Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to join them this summer at Yearly Meeting.

They also decided to begin a clearness process for high school students entering ninth grade. This age level has always had the option to continue one more year in the junior high program or to join the high school program. The purpose of the clearness committees was intended to help ninth graders understand the difference in these programs and see where they fit best.

Through our representative to the national YouthQuake planning committee we learned that this year the usual third year gathering of YouthQuake will not be held. There is hope that an adult planning session may be held instead, though Evangelical and FUM enthusiasm for continuing YouthQuake is less than before. Controversy over homosexuality is breaking up adult commitment. YouthQuake has always been one of the few national Quaker activities occurring across the branches of Friends, so this would be a great loss to the Religious Society of Friends.

In May over Memorial Day Work Weekend at McNabb, Youth Oversight held another Quake, as well as a Tremor for Junior High Friends. Preparation for this Quake was very elaborate, as High School Friends had decided to have a Native American sweat lodge experience. Saturday the teens worked with the adults doing grounds and building work; they scraped and primed the Junior Yearly Meeting-house, making it ready to move across the street for Yearly Meeting. On Saturday, they also did clearness committees for three Junior High Friends.

On Sunday after worship, they participated in a sweat lodge, led by Quentin Young (a Lakota Pipe Keeper and Sun Dancer) with the assistance of his wife Ginger, Paul the fire keeper, and four singers of the Lakota prayer songs: Tim, Frank, Ben, and Mick. In the morning we helped them cut willow branches and build the sweat lodge; then in the afternoon we experienced the prayerful ceremony. All of us made it 2 ½ hours through all four doors of prayer! To quote one of our High School Friends, “The sweat lodge is a very spiritual experience. It’s pitch black, and at first you can’t see anything. However, when I let my “negative spirits” go, I started to see little lights (5). It sounds corny, but it’s not. At first you can get a tad scared, but here’s some advice. If you are too hot, breath through a cloth. If you are still too hot, lay down on the floor or ground, break a piece of grass and smell it.” (Dylan Hyle) We also had two Adult Young Friends participate with us. We feasted together afterwards and gave gifts to those who had given us this beautiful experience.

Meanwhile, the Junior High went on a canoe/kayak trip. Here’s a report from a participant. “I was in Junior High so I went on a canoe/kayak trip. First we had the water pretty smooth and easy. Then on the second part there were many obstacles to go around. And then on the way to our landing zone, the wind picked up in huge gusts causing waves that went up farther than the sides of the canoe. It was pretty tough, but the ride home was nice enough to grant me a nap.” (Mason George)

Business that Youth Oversight would like to develop: Our biggest need is for a part time paid Youth Coordinator. Our committee feels the need for an ongoing consistent program and as parents and volunteers, we find it very difficult to coordinate the plan and execution of a reliable ongoing program. A part time coordinator could make good use of all of us, but someone needs to coordinate the plans and activities. It’s time-consuming and requires some skill in planning events (See Proposed Plan below). We would also like to do an inventory of the interests of High School Friends, and develop a yearly field trip to Earlham College for any High School students and parents who’d like to have a weekend visit together.

This Yearly Meeting is special and exciting to us on two accounts. High School Friends will have their own sleeping quarters together for the first time since the dorm was taken down. We are happy to make the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse our new home during Yearly Meeting. And there is great excitement to welcome 24 High School Friends from western Europe and from other parts of the United States to be with us for three days. We will be doing an Outdoor Adventure program on Friday, with obstacle courses to do together and high ropes courses. We expect this to be a very rich experience.

Proposed Plan for Part-Time Youth Coordinator

The Dream Gathering and Youth Oversight have identified that a major barrier to getting/keeping HSF involved in meeting is the lack and consistency of our involvement. Many of the suggestions to involve HSF in more different kinds of teen activities (e.g., facilitating quakes/tremors) and other aspects of meeting (e.g., participating in standing committees) required more expertise, time and/or coordination than was regularly available. Many parents and other volunteers are interested in helping, but did not know what to do. This has become even more important with the laying down of the national Youth Quake and our increased reliance on our own or regional programs. One model that has worked in Lake Erie, Ohio Valley and Northern Yearly Meeting was to hire a part-time coordinator who would help parents/other

volunteers to develop and run programs targeted at HSF at yearly meeting, quakes, tremors and during the year. In response to the requests of the March 2006 continuing committee about how to season this idea, we have 1) obtained job descriptions, contracts, and budgets from Erie, Ohio Valley and Northern Yearly meeting, and 2) reviewed the youth fund contributions and expenses for the past five years and developed a budget proposal. Here is where we are on costs:

- In the past five years we have requested \$5 per adult resident member and averaged just under \$4 or about \$2,000 per year
- Our expenses have been running \$2-3000 per year and are covered by a decreasing savings account from prior donation that is at approximately \$5,871 right now including the funds for the coming year.
- The cost of labor, taxes, accounting fees, and travel for the coordinator would be \$9,075.
- Combined with our other regular expenses, this would raise our total annual costs to \$11,575 per year.
- We would require an additional \$4,600 this coming year and \$9,589 in each subsequent year.
- This is based on the youth's agreement to use the rest of their savings fund to help get this started – roughly \$2,800. They have also offered to pay fees to help cover the costs of quakes and IYM participation and to help raise money.
- This is the equivalent of asking for approximately \$22 per adult resident member.

We are requesting that IYM approve the request and that it be referred to the finance committee to determine how to best pay for it.

Potential ways to raise revenues we have talked about:

- increase charge to monthly meetings
- charge HSF for IYM attendance
- charge HSF for quakes
- invite HSF from other meetings to quakes
- combine with service projects (e.g., memorial day weekend) to help adults and HSF see the good of it
- solicit special contributions (\$1000 to sponsor a teen?)

Ways to reduce expenses we have talked about:

- Have quakes in Downer's Grove, Evanston, 57th Street, McNabb, St. Louis or other places where we have meetinghouses
- Hold quakes in collaboration with youth coordinators in yearly meetings covering Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, & Wisconsin and/or FUM

Ways to increase participation:

- Organize car pool to go from major cities (Chicago/St. Louis) to quake
- Organize work and recruit parents/other volunteers to help
- Move location of the meeting – reaching out to new meetings/teens
- Having a clearer presence on the IYM website
- Having teens help in “engaging” new teens identified by YO.
 - Mike Dennis (incoming YO clerk), Marti Mathews (out going YO clerk), Ashlee Miller-Berry (HSF clerk)

2006 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11am in homes
Business: varies

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb IL 61335
11am 815-882-2214
<http://clearcreek.quaker.org>
Business: 3rd First Day, 10:00 am

DECATUR WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
10am in homes (call) 217-877-0296

FRIENDS MEETING OF SPRINGFIELD

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
First Day worship, 10:30am in homes

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East,
Columbia MO 65202 10:00am
<http://quakers.missouri.org> 573-474-1827
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:30am except August

DEKALB MONTHLY MEETING

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove IL 60516
10:30am 630-968-3861
<http://www.gramma9davis.hometead.com/meeting.html>
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 every other month
(call ahead: 219-462-9997 or 219-926-7411 or
email clerk)

EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
10am 847-864-8511
<http://evanston.quaker.org>
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

57th ST. MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637
10:30am 773-288-3066
<http://www.57thstreetmeeting.org>
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above
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
<http://lakeforest.il.quaker.org>
Mail to: PO Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEETING

3224 N. Gordon Pl, Milwaukee WI 53212
10:15 am 414-263-2111
<http://www.milwaukeequakers.org/>
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:45am

N ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640 10:00am
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
<http://www.quaker.org/northside> 773-784-2155
Business: 1st First Day 1:00pm

OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park
10am 708-445-8201
<http://oprfl.com/opmmf>
Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL
60303-3245
Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

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

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

326 N. Avon St, Rockford IL 61101
11am
Business: 2nd First Day after worship—quarterly

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104 10:30am
<http://www.stlouisfriends.org> 314-588-1122
Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
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
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
10:30 am 574-255-5781
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
Business: 2nd First Day, 9:00 a.m.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FRIENDS MEETING

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
Carbondale IL 62901 10am
<http://www.siquaker.org/>
Business: 4th First Days, 10:00 a.m.

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake and Woodstock)
10 am
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:15 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
11am 217-328-5853
<http://www.quaker.org/urbana>
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:30pm

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

During the last year:

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: An assessment team went into the area, a number of staff traveled in the region. They met with New Orleans Friends, and community groups. Many citizens are facing the issues of the "right of return." A large grant was given to Interfaith Ministry of Greater Houston, plus a grant to a minority organization to help provide food and resources. A five-year program is planned for Gulfport and New Orleans to help the affected communities advocate for their own rights.

Grants were given to 17 Friends Meetings and groups for helping refugees. St. Louis Friends Meeting and Clear Creek Friends Meeting were two of the Meetings receiving these grants. St. Louis Meeting provided support and relief to a Louisiana community of Houma Indians. Clear Creek worked with the Westwego, Louisiana, Library to help restore library services.

General Secretary: Mary Ellen McNish was invited this spring to speak at Nobel Peace Laureates' gathering, held in South Korea. She spoke about the threat of atomic war, and the total world risk of atomic weapons.

Eyes Wide Open: This exhibit highlights one pair of boots for every U.S. soldier lost, and many civilian shoes to represent the thousands of Iraqis who have lost their lives. Friends have provided spiritual guidance and practical help as the exhibit moves from community to community. We partnered with 6 military family organizations and "9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows" in a silent march in May, 2006.

Recruitment: Our staff is supporting young people as they struggle with stepped up military recruitment in their schools and communities. They have been networking with many Friends groups who help support and give guidance to concerned youth.

Government Surveillance: Civil liberties have been threatened by increasing U.S. government surveillance. Friends and AFSC staff and volunteers are being targeted for engaging in peaceful protests especially if it concerns counter-recruitment. Staff is trying to educate the public as we challenge the premise that sweeping surveillance is not an appropriate use of tax dollars and will not bring security.

Immigration and migration: AFSC has been a major partner in supporting immigrants by bringing their message to cities and towns all over the U.S. Each immigration rally has been an incredibly joyous occasion attended by a diverse group of people. We are a nation of immigrants and we work best when we all work together in common cause.

The issues are complex and we do need to be aware of them. Salaries have been affected by employers who pay low wages to new immigrants. We believe everyone deserves a living wage and adequate services regardless of how they entered the country. Housing, health, and education for all children and families will strengthen our communities for the future.

For more details please speak to any of us serving as IYM representatives to AFSC. - Robert Godsey, Linda Sizemore, Carol Bartles, Nora Vera-Godwin

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

Friends General Conference, an organization in the unprogrammed tradition of Friends, continues to provide active and innovative support for the yearly meetings and monthly meetings affiliated with it.

Youth Ministries. At last October's Central Committee meeting a Youth Ministries Committee was formed to develop activities, programs, and resources to nurture the spiritual journeys of Young Friends and Young Adult Friends and to provide ways for them to connect and communicate with each other. By the end of April the new committee identified three areas of focus: (1) working with the Traveling Ministries Program to identify and nurture youth ministers in our meetings, (2) organizing relevant conferences and events in cooperation with other FGC programs where appropriate, and (3) developing a special website for Young and Young Adult Friends.

QuakerFinder.org, a project of the Advancement and Outreach Committee, has added a registry for isolated Friends. Hundreds of isolated Friends have already signed up. There is hope that this service will help Friends locate one another and enable them to form communities, even if linked only electronically. It may even lead to the formation of new meetings. The meeting locator function of QuakerFinder continues to be heavily used.

Ministry on Racism. FGC's Committee for Ministry on Racism continues to help Friends wrestle with racism. Illinois Friends who heard him will remember well the presentation by Christopher Sammond at our annual sessions in 2004. The Committee works not only with yearly and monthly meetings in response to invitations, but also supports dialogue and a People of Color Center at FGC's Gatherings.

Traveling Ministries Program. The TMP has been found to have had a major impact on monthly and yearly meetings through its making available gifted Friends carefully selected to fit the needs of a meeting requesting a visit. The Traveling Ministries Committee is composed of representatives from other program committees, enabling it to call on a wide spectrum of experience and expertise.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Work. The Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee is responsible for ecumenical and interfaith work, especially that done at national and international levels on behalf of FGC member yearly meetings collectively. For example, it is through CIRC that FGC Friends participate in the World Council of Churches and in several of the Commissions of the National Council of Churches. At the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, held in Brazil last February, Friends worked with Brethren and Mennonites to help shape the last half of the Decade to Overcome Violence. This was the first Assembly that used a consensus process, instead of voting, for most decision-making. Friend Eden Grace played a key role in this change. Last Fall the clerk of CIRC was led to resign for personal reasons and this position is still vacant. Please suggest to Tom Paxson persons skilled in clerking and with an interest in ecumenical and interfaith relations whom you think would be worth consideration as clerk of CIRC.

New Development Campaign for FGC. Many of the activities mentioned in this report were greatly facilitated by the Nurturing Quakerism Campaign of the 1990s. With the resources that campaign made available FGC has been invigorated and has identified even more opportunities to serve FGC Friends. A feasibility study was made for a new development campaign. The study showed that the Nurturing Quakerism Campaign (in addition to providing resources for FGC programs) had itself helped educate Friends regarding the nature and purpose of FGC and its potential to serve constituent yearly and monthly meetings. An even more energetic Friends General Conference, according to the study, could contribute to strengthening our Quaker culture by increasing an awareness that the Society of Friends is not just a society that supports social justice, but has a spiritual base, a history, and unique

processes that shape our understanding of ourselves and our world. See www.fgcquaker.org for an overview of Friends General Conference.

-Tom Paxson

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

As a representative to FGC, I am on the Long Range Conference Planning Committee, and its Site Selection sub-committee. As understood by IYM, I was unable to attend FGC's Central Committee, but was able to keep up with my LRCP work and meetings.

LRCP met from March 23-25, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA to conduct business. Our major work was to deal with the Quaker Sweat Lodge at the gathering. After many hours of intense worship, it was decided that the issues that come along with the Quaker Sweat Lodge (cultural appropriation, racism, health concerns, etc.) are much bigger than LRCP, and that we felt it necessary to ask FGC's and some of its other committees for help in finding a route in which to pursue the issue; other groups mentioned to be part of the decision making were Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMR), Ministry & Nature (M&N), and youth groups. We did iterate that the final decision of whether or not the Quaker Sweat Lodge would be allowed at the Gathering would still remain with LRCP.

Much work was also done in the Site Selection sub-committee. This is a sub-committee that is in charge of finding a location for the Gathering each year. It was noted that our previous decision to return to River Falls, WI (original year: 1998) would be for the 2007 Gathering and that the return to Johnstown, PA (original year: 2003) would be in 2008. It was previously decided that the 2 sites would fill the '07 and '08 slots, but it was not determined in which order. We decided that due to the incredible response to the Western Gathering of 2006 (sold out), we must bring the Gathering back within 6 years (by 2012). We also decided that in the years following we would like to head south and either go to the South East YM or South Central YM in 2009, and the other one in the year following next Western Gathering. Other thoughts for possible areas in 2010 and 2011 were Ohio region and New England. It was noted that we might choose to return to the west before 2012 as well. A major concern was raised that some yearly meetings that have never hosted the Gathering, or have not done so in a long time, might be upset if we choose to go to an unaffiliated meeting or return to Pacific YM before choosing a site within their YM region.

- Casey Kashnig

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

The Midwinter Gathering of FLGBTQC took place in Fenton, Michigan, in February. In this beautiful Midwest setting, Friends met for worship, business, and Worship-sharing. Activities ranged from broomball and tea to a consideration of the ways in which racism affects our community and broader world. Friends gathered again for worship and business at FGC in Tacoma this July.

The 2007 Midwinter Gathering has been scheduled for Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2007, at the Summit Retreat Center in Brown Summit, North Carolina (just north of Greensboro). Following is the announcement for Midwinter Gathering as announced in June: The theme for the gathering is "Many Voices, One Spirit," reflecting the spiritual and religious diversity among Friends,

especially the multi-faceted expressions of Quakerism in North Carolina. North Carolina has the second largest Quaker population in North America and is home to FUM, FGC, EFI, and independent meetings, all of which can sometimes be found within a few miles of each other. The theme of the gathering also embraces the deep history of North Carolina Friends that dates back to the founding of the Religious Society of Friends in North America and may be unknown to many Friends. The story of Quakers in North Carolina has long been one of diligent and courageous work toward equal and just treatment of all people. That story continues to be written even today. Preliminary plans include a plenary session led by Max Carter, director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College in Greensboro; a panel of speakers from each yearly meeting represented in and around North Carolina; worship in the manner of semi-programmed Friends; and, breakout sessions around such topics as the paths individuals have taken to arrive at their current Quaker practice. There will also be a lot of fun, including fireside chats, folk dancing, and field trips to local historical Friends sites. This is the first ever gathering of FLGBTQC in any location between northern Virginia and Florida. We are excited to share the stories and histories of NC Friends and hope that you will be able to join us!

- Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

It's been a wonderful year for Friends Peace Teams. Through interviews with Burundian participants we have learned how the Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC) program has changed their lives and the lives of family and community members as well. Read their stories in our report, *After the Guns Have Stopped: Searching for Reconciliation in Burundi*. Reference copies and copies for sale are available at the FPT Display table.

Mpawenayo Dennis, a HROC participant in Burundi told us, "I wish to have HROC teachings in all the villages and in the countryside. There are some who still have the spirit of revenge because they don't know the causes of their anger and hate. HROC can help them see their hidden self. If these teachings reach others I think it will help bring reconciliation and peace." Planning is underway to take HROC to other regions in need of healing from war.

Our Latin America/Caribbean program sent a team to Colombia to conduct more AVP workshops. While there, we are also reaching out to local community peace initiatives to learn how FPT can further support their work. The response is overwhelming; these communities want to experience HROC for themselves.

Through the support of a grant from the United States Institute for Peace, African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) has been able to expand (HROC). A training manual is in the final stages. With our partners we have developed an advanced training program to prepare more community facilitators and have developed a training program for "Healing Companions." "Healing Companions" are former HROC participants who will offer trauma healing support in communities in Burundi and Rwanda.

AGLI continues to advance and support AVP workshops in Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya. This year a team conducted AVP at the Congo-Rwanda border to help peacemakers working in this region. Through AGLI we are also supporting the hiring of Getry Agizah for the AVP-Kakamega Lubao Peace Centre.

The importance and significance of the work we do in our workcamps continues. Work campers are completing the Kakamega Lubao Peace Centre in Kenya, building

a clinic for the Friends Women's Association in Kamenge, Burundi, and continuing to work on classrooms in Rwanda and Uganda. Two young people, Madelyn George and Trevor Munroe, from IYM participated in these projects this summer. They were generously supported by scholarships from the Ken Ives Memorial Fund, administered by the IYM Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee.

AGLI sponsored speaking tours in the US and England. Our African colleague Adrien Niyongabo recently addressed Friends in England. David Bucura recently returned to Rwanda after attending the FGC Gathering, several Yearly Meetings and conferences in the US. Soon Elie Nahimana will be visiting and Adrien Niyongabo, and Cecile Nyiramana will tour in 2007. You will be encouraged, inspired and transformed when you meet our Friends from abroad. Make it a priority to hear these messages whenever you have the opportunity.

We are excited that this year we opened our home office at the Friends Meeting-house in St. Louis, MO. What a tremendous resource for Illinois Yearly Meeting! Anna Sandidge has been hired as our full-time coordinator and will be working to support our current programs and help expand our work as Way opens. We continue to discern in Spirit and work within Quaker testimonies. It is gratifying that representation and participation from Yearly Meetings is growing. Your support is invaluable as our work with communities in conflict expands. Together we are creating more programs and reaching new communities with peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. Thank you for joining us in work that is changing lives and healing communities.

- Julia Pantoga

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), a North American Quaker organization, continues its program of environmental education. Those that work with this group and support its goals regard placing respect and protection of the environment on the same level as we do respect and protection of human life. We work toward finding positive ways to solve environmental problems, put our energies into doing so, and then educate Quakers and others in hopes that they will do the same.

Our voice to the Quaker community at large comes in the form of "BeFriending Creation", a bimonthly, usually 12-page periodical, that is sent to Monthly Meetings on request. There are copies available here at IYM at the Quaker Earthcare Witness table. We encourage individuals to make donations to support the work of this group.

The organization is run by a Steering Committee with the guidance of Ruah Swennerfelt, our Executive Director. The Steering Committee is composed of yearly meeting representatives plus a number of members at large. It meets twice a year, with many sub-committees holding conference calls and communicating by e-mail during much of the rest of the year.

Last fall we met at Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore, under the expert guidance and planning of Noel and Sarah Pavlovic. It was an enriching experience for all of us.

Each May the Steering Committee meets in the Chicago area at a retreat center easily accessible by public transportation. Our annual meeting is held each fall, and the group meets elsewhere in the U.S. or Canada (often in a national park) to give some of the Steering Committee members a chance to meet closer to their own homes and also for the rest of us to get to know other parts of our natural world. Any friends or supporters of QEW are welcome to attend. This October we will be meeting at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

The Quaker Earthcare Witness Statement puts into a few words what we feel all Quakers should be aware of in their tasks of daily living:

- “WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.
- WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God’s Creation is to be respected, protected and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth’s ecological integrity.
- WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.”

It is not only Quakers that feel this concern for the environment. I would like to quote Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is one of those in the forefront among senior religious leaders in his concern for Creation: “To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God’s Creation . . .for humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands for humans to contaminate the Earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances. . .these are sins.”

- Alice Howenstine

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL

Fourteen seniors graduated from Scattergood in May. All had plans for the coming year (all had been accepted to a college, but at least one planned a year off before going). With 34 students returning in the fall, the goal for enrollment is 55 students.

Jan Luchini, who took over last year as interim Director of Scattergood, was chosen to remain as Director. She had been at Scattergood for nearly 20 years already, as business manager, which made the transition relatively smooth. She has been doing an excellent job as Director for more than a year now and will hopefully stay for a much longer time.

The campus has been undergoing some physical improvements recently. An addition to the Main Building has added a lounge to the girls dorm as well as an apartment for faculty. Flooring improvements to the girls’ dorm (unexpectedly including some asbestos removal) were made. The sound wall by the interstate was painted. Part of the Main Building roof was replaced. The list goes on. The campus is looking better all the time and many much-needed improvements are being made.

The Farm has a growing CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), which supplies food to 35 families and the local coop. Scattergood also recently got a grant to do some rehabilitation to their prairie.

Thank you to everyone who responded to my plea for people to complete the Scattergood Image Survey. They got lots of responses and are awaiting the results.

For more information about Scattergood Friends School, visit its website:

<http://www.scattergood.org>

- Sharon Haworth

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

DREAM GATHERING PROJECT (See Minute 23)

The Dream Gathering Project has had two missions: clarifying and forwarding the *mission* of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and reaching a sense of unity about the *future* of the Yearly Meeting. Dream Gatherers visited each monthly meeting in the spring of 2005 and synthesized the hopes of monthly meetings. The Dreamfest Report was presented at the annual session in July '05. In September '05 a subcommittee of the Dream Gathering Project met in Urbana, studied the Dreamfest Report, and formulated several recommendations, which were presented to Fall Continuing Committee in October '05.

Among the recommendations presented at Fall Continuing Committee '05 were:

1. The creation of an Advancement Committee, separate from Ministry Committee, charged with deepening relationships between monthly meetings and between monthly meetings and IYM, developing leadership in monthly meetings and yearly meeting, reaching out to monthly meetings and educating our newcomers in creative ways.
2. The enlargement of Ministry Committee to include traveling ministry to monthly meetings, ongoing spiritual growth, and discernment of leadings of the Spirit.
3. Discernment by Site Envisioning and Building Committee and Maintenance and Planning Committee of the role of planning for systematic, scheduled inspections of each system of the IYM facility, to insure its safety and well being, and also planning and development of new functions of the facility and land acquisition.
4. The support of Youth Oversight Committee and Adult Young Friends through the hiring and supervision of a part-time paid youth coordinator.
5. The support of Peace Resources Committee's recommendations for our Quaker response to a militarized world.
6. Formation of an ad hoc committee with representatives from Peace Resources, Youth Oversight, Ministry, Site Envisioning and Building, Maintenance and Planning, and Development Committees, to design uses for the proposed year-round Retreat Center at McNabb: peace events, environmental events, youth programs.
7. The holding of an annual Winter Retreat for sharing who we are and who we want to be; Winter Retreat '06 was to further season these recommendations for consideration at Spring Continuing Committee in March.
8. The Dream Gathering Project officially laid down its charge as of Fall Continuing Committee '05.

During the months of November-mid-January, IYM Standing Committees met, either in person or by conference call and email, and responded to the Dreamfest Report. These responses were collated and presented at the Winter Retreat, February 11-12, 2006. At the Winter Retreat, Standing Committee members and others formed interest groups and reviewed the report and noticed the synchronicities and serendipities in the work of the various Standing Committees. They looked at the *value* of the reports, the *trends* in the reports, and made *recommendations* as their gift to the Standing Committees. The interest group reports from the Winter Retreat were summarized and presented to Spring Continuing Committee March 4, 2006. The report from the Winter Retreat marks the beginning of IYM's process of now responding to the felt needs of the monthly meetings.

It was the sense of the Winter Retreat participants that their recommendations should be sent to the Standing Committees for further discernment, and that the Standing Committees should each report back to the monthly meetings by Fall '06, so that the monthly meetings can see the responses of the Standing Committees to their felt needs.

An important synchronicity/serendipity that turned up at the winter retreat was the number of interest groups that felt called to provide training, spiritual nurture, and outreach to monthly meetings through workshops and retreats at other times than the annual sessions. We're learning it isn't just teens that want midwinter Quakes!

Discernment of Gifts is one piece of the Dream Gathering findings that needs further study. This piece isn't happening, and the Quaker conversation needs to continue. There's a huge interest from our monthly meetings, and IYM Ministry and Advancement committee is overburdened and understaffed already. We asked our monthly meetings what their needs were, and now we can't just drop this vital concern.

The Dream Gathering *Ad Hoc* committee recommends the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to consider Discernment of Gifts in cooperation with Ministry and Advancement committee. We recommend holding four face-to-face meetings of this committee in Urbana, which is sort-of central to our widely separated meetings. The task of the Discernment of Gifts *Ad Hoc* committee is to identify the barriers to discerning of gifts and putting them to use, and to recommend ways to do it better.

The Dream Gathering *Ad Hoc* committee also recommends another Visioning Retreat on Discerning Gifts, possibly at Menno Haven or another central location, over the Christmas break so that our Young Friends and Adult Young Friends will be able to attend and help shape IYM's vision for the next half-century. We want to take the findings of the Dream Gathering process and ask, "Where are we, who are we, who do we want to become?" Think of the opportunities for likeminded Friends in our monthly meetings to meet, interact, and learn together at a winter retreat – many of them discovering for the first time the visceral relevance to THEM of the yearly meeting. Think of the opportunities for Friends with different interests to interact during social times and discover how they want to know these Friends better.

An outgrowth of the Dream Gathering process has been the construction of several snail mail and email lists of Friends in our various monthly meetings who have some common interest – spiritual nurture, peace, or the environment. We dream of the targeted outreach our Standing Committees can do, drawing these Friends together to participate in yearly meeting functions. These lists are still under construction, but have helped us learn of several prospective new IYM attenders. Lists of likeminded Friends will be invaluable in drumming up interest in that Winter Retreat '07, and will see multitudinous other uses once they exist. The IYM listserv is limited to those who have some direct connection to IYM's annual sessions. These new lists, organized by common interests and concerns across monthly meetings, will help us convince Friends in our local meetings that IYM is important to their spiritual lives.

- Mariellen Gilpin

FAITH AND PRACTICE—Preliminary Draft Section on Marriage

Marriage, being an ordinance affecting all the relations of life, it is affectionately advised that, before any purpose to enter therein, they do humbly ask the counsel of the Lord: and if they have a clear evidence of Divine ap-

proval, that they acquaint their parents or guardians with their intentions, and give due heed to their deliberate advice, so that they may be preserved from the dangerous bias of uncertain affection and from the bitter fruit of improper marriages.

- Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting, editions of 1878 and 1892

Marriage, as understood by Friends, is a relation involving two individuals, God, and the religious community that witnesses, recognizes and supports it.

For the individuals joined in marriage, it is a religious vocation; it is a commitment of their subsequent lives to serve one another equally and with earnestly sought divine assistance to be loving and faithful marriage partners as long as they both shall live. The couple, in effect, calls on God to bless and support their union. But more than this, Quaker procedure requires that they have sought divine guidance as to God's approval of the marriage. Marriage is then a covenant among the two persons who marry one another and God: God's participation sanctifies the union.

The love of one another to which God calls us is neither a feeling nor a static relationship that one either has or doesn't have; like life, like self, it is always a journey, a work in progress, a project. Marriage involves a mutual commitment to share your lives with another, a taking together this journey of love, a spiritual journey requiring growth, integrity, and mutual respect. The religious dimension of marriage is found not only in the understanding that God sanctions the union and strengthens it when we humbly seek together unity in God, but also in the experience of marriage as a special arena for the practice of that love to which we are more generally called.

A marriage also has a social and public dimension, since it represents a way of living in community; marriage under the care of the meeting establishes a new relationship between the individuals marrying one another and the meeting community that recognizes and cares for it. The wedding is at once the occasion for the couple to enter into matrimony and the meeting's act of witness and loving support of this covenant. There are two important implications that flow from this: First, the meeting needs to be involved in a timely way in the discernment process that leads to the meeting's taking the marriage under its care, and this in turn to the procedures that Friends have established for this process. Second, the responsibilities of the married couple to the meeting and the meeting to the couple do not end with the completion of the wedding.

The meeting, working through a clearness process, explores with the couple proposing marriage whether to allow the marriage to proceed under its care. Originally, such clearness processes were intended to ascertain whether there were any impediments to the marriage, for example other marriage commitments that would be incompatible with the proposed marriage, and any impediments to the meeting's taking the marriage under its care, for instance failure to accept Friends' discipline. In 1682 the Uppside of Bucks Monthly Meeting (England) did not allow a marriage under its care because the young man involved refused to appear before the women's meeting for business, contrary to the order of Friends then established. These two aspects of clearness remain: whether there are any impediments that would preclude a proper marriage and whether there are any impediments to the meeting's taking the proposed marriage under its care. A third function served by the clearness process is to discern whether the two individuals wishing to marry understand that the relationship into which they would be entering has a religious dimension. Recently, clear-

ness committees have come to assist the couple to examine, fourth, whether they have reservations they have adequately acknowledged or examined, or whether there are problem areas that they, as a couple, have not carefully considered together.

The wedding itself, conducted under the supervision of a designated committee of the meeting, to describe the traditional pattern, is a meeting for worship called for the purpose of marriage. In the unprogrammed tradition of Friends, to which Illinois Yearly Meeting belongs, there is no minister whose office is to marry the two persons entering matrimony. Instead, the two with all those gathered for the occasion settle into silent, waiting worship. When the two are moved by the Spirit they rise and taking one another by the hand proclaim their commitment to one another “in the presence of God and these our friends,” as the traditional language has it. They sign a certificate that relates the taking of their vows and worship continues, with those present offering such messages suitable to the occasion as are given to them. At the conclusion of the meeting, all those present are invited to sign the certificate in witness thereto.

There are two aspects to the meeting’s role in the marriage after the clearness process: oversight, and assistance in the planning, of the wedding itself, which will be discussed later; and care of the marriage following the wedding. Ideally, the couple married under the care of the meeting would be active participants in the life of the meeting subsequently, as long as they both shall live. Today’s society is far too mobile for such an expectation, and it is doubtful that many of the marriages of thirty years or so in Illinois Yearly Meeting are ones in which the couple still attends the meeting under whose care they were married. Nonetheless, meetings continue to bear responsibility to support the marriages under their care and the individuals who married. Thus it is expected that the meeting know well at least one of the two who have applied for marriage, and typically that at least one be a member of the Religious Society of Friends, if not of the meeting itself. (State law may require this for the Quaker wedding to have legal status.) When a couple moves to a different location it is customary to write to the meeting in the location to which they have moved, asking them to take the individuals under its care while they live in their area and attend their meeting. It would be appropriate to ask the meeting to take the marriage under its care, not just the individuals.

Marriage Procedure

The process for marriage under the care of the meeting starts with a letter from the couple, signed by both, to the meeting stating the intention of marriage and asking to be married under the care of the meeting. The letter may include a tentative date; couples are cautioned that Friends process typically takes several months.

The clerk may refer this request to the meeting’s ministry and counsel committee to name a clearness committee or the monthly meeting may appoint a clearness committee directly. In either case, business meeting hears the letter of request.

The clearness process may take several meetings. In it the clearness committee meets with the couple and explores with them the issues of a life together. It also has the responsibility of seeing if there are impediments to proceeding with the marriage. Since the vows come out of Friends principles and the couple’s understanding of what they are agreeing to in marrying, it is appropriate for the content of the vows to be considered with the clearness committee. Suggestions on questions and issues to consider in the clearness process are given in the next section. The section afterward has examples of vows.

When the clearness committee is ready it reports back to monthly meeting or to the ministry and counsel committee, which makes its recommendation to the monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting then approves the marriage under its care it appoints an arrangements committee which is charged with working with the couple to see to it that the wedding is conducted consistently with Friends principles and to help with the many details. At this point the date can be finalized and the arrangements can be made for the wedding.

The meeting needs to be aware that they may work with couples where one of the individuals may not be a member of the meeting or even a Friend. Sometimes the wedding is to occur far from the home meeting or it may include multiple monthly meetings. Care should be taken in coordinating the various responsibilities among those involved. Situations like this may make the process take longer and require that the meeting prayerfully discern how to assist the couple.

The wedding celebration should reflect Friends testimonies of simplicity, community, integrity, and equality. In light of this, the arrangements committee reviews the couple's wording of the vows and the certificate. When there are other traditions to be incorporated (for instance if only one of the couple is a Friend), the arrangements committee needs to be sensitive both to Friends principles and to others' needs.

The arrangements committee helps the couple with plans for the ceremony and celebration. It assists the couple in arranging for preparation of the certificate using archival quality materials, making sure that there are pens with acid free indelible ink for use in signing it, supervising the signing of the certificate and making sure that it gets back to the couple after the wedding. The arrangements committee should assist the couple in handling legal issues related to the wedding. The couple and the arrangements committee should make sure someone is designated to read the certificate and to close the meeting.

The wedding itself is a meeting for worship. While members of the Meeting (who should be welcome) will know what to expect, invited guests may not, so care should be taken to let them know what is going to happen.

Right after the wedding there are often some refreshments for those at the wedding. Some also have a more formal reception which may or may not include all those at the wedding. Many meetings have a potluck dinner.

The arrangements committee should report back to the monthly meeting that the wedding was successfully accomplished and see that a copy or transcript of the certificate is placed in the meeting's records.

After the wedding the meeting has a responsibility to care for the marriage, continuing to hold the couple in the Light.

Questions and issues for the clearness for marriage process:

The queries provided below may be used to assist Friends who are seeking marriage under the care of the meeting as they prayerfully consider their decision. It is up to the clearness committee to discern which questions to ask in their discussions with the couple. These questions below are meant to serve as examples. The entire list of queries may be provided to the couple to encourage communication between them on topics relevant to aspects of their relationship.

Marriage Queries

- Do you see marriage as a sacred and lifelong relationship? What do you understand this to mean?
- How do you nurture your relationship? How will you uphold and strengthen the relationship with the passage of time?
- How do you communicate with each other? What are sources of potential conflicts between you? When conflicts arise, how do you handle them?
- Have you discussed whether you want to have children? How large a family do you envision? How soon do you anticipate having children? What are your expectations about how you will raise, discipline, and educate your children?
- How will you balance the needs of your marriage with your friendships and responsibilities outside the home (for example, work, volunteer activities, education)?
- Have you discussed how your finances will be managed?
- Do you have similar expectations about income, saving, spending and borrowing?
- How will you support each other through times of trial, unexpected life changes, or unfulfilled hopes and dreams?
- Have you discussed with each other your religious beliefs and the role they will have in your life together?
- What do you expect your relationship with the meeting to be in your life as a couple?
- How could the meeting support your marriage in the years to come?
- Do either of you have emotional or other commitments to a third person which would interfere with this marriage?
- What are the views of your families regarding the marriage?
- If either of you has children have you considered the impact of this marriage on them?
- If this is not a legal marriage, have you discussed how to protect each other's legal rights?

Wording for vows and certificate, both traditional and less so:

In keeping with Friends testimony of equality both parties in a marriage make the same promises. The vows are not elaborate, stating clearly that the couple are marrying each other. The vows acknowledge the role of God and the gathered community.

Traditional: "In the presence of God and these our friends, I, _____, take thee, _____, to be my wife (husband), promising, with divine assistance, to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband (wife) as long as we both shall live."

Or: "In the presence of God and these our Friends, I, _____, commit myself to you, _____, in marriage, promising, with Divine assistance to be loving and faithful to you as long as we both shall live." (modified from South Eastern Yearly Meeting, p.6)

Suggestions for the certificate:

The certificate needs to have the names of the individuals being married, date and location of the wedding, meeting under whose care it is occurring, the substance of the vows, and space for signatures of the couple and of those attending. This is an important record of the marriage, not just a keepsake.

Traditional (From Philadelphia Faith and Practice 1972 p.174):

Whereas, A.B., of _____, son of C.B. and H.B. of _____, and D.E., of _____, daughter of F.E. and M.E., of _____, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other to _____ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at _____, their proposed marriage was allowed by that Meeting.

Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this ____ day of the ____ month, in the year of our Lord, _____, they, A.B. and D.E., appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, held at _____, and A.B. taking D.E. by the hand, did, on this solemn occasion, declare that he took her, D.E. to be his wife, promising with Divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful husband so long as they both shall live; and then, in the same assembly D.E. did in like manner declare that she took him, A.B., to be her husband, promising with Divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife so long as they both shall live. And moreover they, A.B. and D.E., she according to the custom of marriage, assuming the surname of her husband, did, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set their hands.

A.B. _____
D.E.B. _____

And we, having been present at the marriage, have as witnesses hereunto set our hands.

Or: Having felt the call to marry each other, A.B. and D.E. whose parents are C.B. and H.B. of _____ and F.E. and M.E. of _____, sought and received the permission of _____ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends to marry under the care of that meeting. To accomplish that end a meeting for worship was held on the ____ day of ____ month, ____ at _____. During that meeting A.B. rose and said that (insert wording of vow here). D.E. then said that (insert wording of vow here).

A.B. and D.E. signed here witnessing their promises to each other:

A.B. D.E.

and we, being present, signed as witnesses:

Care of Marriages

Strong marriage relationships contribute to the strength and spiritual growth of the meeting community. At the same time, “marriage is recognized to be not an easy bond, but a high calling,” as William Wistar Comfort noted. Friends are aware that care for a marriage, therefore, goes beyond the clearness process and the wedding to include an ongoing relationship with the couple.

Married Friends have testified to the value of their participation together in the life of the Meeting, of the opportunities provided by a supportive community to deepen their spiritual fellowship and love. In keeping with Friends’ understanding of marriage, it is helpful for a meeting to be careful to treat each partner in a marriage as a valued individual and to honor equality in the union of the two.

There is no formula for proper care of marriages nor any tradition of formal mechanisms for doing so. Meetings are encouraged to be mindful of the importance of marriages, children, and families to the meeting community and to seek ways to support them, as it seeks ways to support and nurture the individuals within the meeting.

Meetings need to be aware that there are a variety of life changes that may create stress in marriages. Couples may encounter serious illness or disability of one of the couple or a child, employment transitions, religious differences, changing financial circumstances, aging, death in the family, and others.

Care of a marriage may be in the form of regular interaction with the couple by designated members of the meeting (a marriage care committee). This committee may be the regular Ministry and Counsel or Pastoral Care Committee of the meeting, the couple's marriage clearness or arrangements committee, a specially designated committee, or a group of couples providing mutual support. A marriage care committee could meet regularly with the couple. They could celebrate the growth of the marriage relationship with the couple and nurture the couple's spiritual growth. These celebrations would be an acknowledgment of the many small events that contribute to a strong relationship. The connection between the marriage care committee and the couple would provide an opportunity within the meeting community for the couple to obtain pastoral assistance about any problem before it became overwhelming.

Another aspect of this relationship is that it would provide contacts within the meeting community who are knowledgeable about life changes that impact a marriage. These individuals could assist the couple during the various stages of a marriage. Some on the committee may be parents and will be able to share with them about the impact of children on a marriage. If none on the care committee have experience with a particular life change, the committee may be able to assist the couple in connecting with meeting members who are knowledgeable or appropriate counselors.

In addition, meetings can support couples by having books in meeting libraries about marriage, encouraging participation in marriage enrichment workshops, and maintaining a relationship with couples so they feel comfortable to seek meeting assistance. Called meetings for worship at the request of a couple to celebrate their marriage on an important anniversary are one way that they and the meeting can lift up and support an enduring marriage.

Today couples that marry often move away from the monthly meeting that had the care for their marriage. This means that they are not close to those that have helped them with determining clearness about marrying. The meeting's responsibility for the marriage does not end when the couple moves away. If there is a meeting close to their new residence, the meeting could write to that meeting and ask them to take the marriage under its care. If there is not a meeting close to them, then the marriage care committee that has worked with them could maintain long distance support for the couple.

Meetings will also need to take on the care for marriages of couples that join the meeting or begin attending because of moving into the immediate area. This can become a part of welcoming the couple into participation in the meeting community.

Same Sex Marriage

Traditionally, Friends considered marriage to be between a man and a woman. In recent times, many meetings, including several in Illinois Yearly Meeting, have felt led to allow marriages or analogous celebrations of commitment for same-sex couples. As of this writing (early 2006), Illinois Yearly Meeting has not minuted a decision on this issue. Same sex couples desiring marriage are advised to investigate their monthly meeting's position.

Friends are urged to approach this question with tenderness and care, to seek understanding, and to recognize the depth and sincerity of one another's convictions, which may nevertheless be in conflict. Meetings contemplating the approval of same sex marriage should consider the religious, social, and legal ramifications of whatever decision they may reach.

Separation and Divorce

Clearness committees for divorce could serve the same purposes as clearness committees for marriage. If couples in love may be blind to their incompatibilities, couples in trouble may be blind to latent possibilities in their relationship ...

- Bob Blood, 1972, In New England Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, 1985

In today's society many marriages result in separation or divorce. These situations present challenges to Quaker meetings as they seek to show care and support for the couple and their children.

If there is a conflict within a marriage, the couple is encouraged to seek assistance early, long before differences become irreconcilable. This may take the form of a request to meet with the marriage care committee, the establishment of a clearness committee, or counseling. Meetings are advised to recognize their role as providing spiritual support. If there is a need for professional counseling this assistance should be sought outside the meeting.

It is important that the meeting be open to both sides when there is conflict in a relationship and ensure that both partners feel welcome at meeting for worship. Members of the meeting and especially Ministry and Counsel or the marriage care committee should make every effort to keep lines of communication open between the parties and to avoid blaming the individuals. The meeting's role is to support the couple as they grow in God's love, but not to determine whether the marriage will be terminated.

When there are children involved, special care needs to be taken to ensure that the children are welcome and feel the loving support of the Meeting. Be aware that children may feel bewildered, blame themselves for the difficulties their parents are experiencing, or feel caught in the middle. If a child asks for a clearness committee, this should be provided. If the child attends First Day School, the teacher is encouraged to listen to the child's concerns. If it seems advisable, the teacher may recommend counseling for the child to the parents or seek assistance from Ministry and Counsel in supporting the child.

If following a period of separation, and seeking spiritual support from the Meeting and professional counseling, the couple recognizes that the most loving response is a divorce, the couple may want to meet with a clearness committee to consider how the meeting can support them after the divorce. This could include a called meeting for worship during which they could individually rise and ask God's support in releasing each other from their marriage commitment.

Queries (adapted from New England Yearly Meeting's pamphlet "Living with Oneself and Others")

For the Meeting:

- Does the meeting have open discussions about marriage and divorce in which all can share their views?

- Does Ministry and Counsel actively and sensitively reach out to persons or couples who may be troubled?
- If a couple so desires, can Ministry and Counsel provide a list of professional counselors who understand Friends' views?
- Does Ministry and Counsel know divorce mediators or lawyers who will seek to avoid adversarial positions and assist the couple in finding the least detrimental and most economical means to legally end a marriage, if that is their decision?
- Can the meeting, as a community, reach out in love to all persons involved, accepting the couple's decision without being judgmental, helping them to grow past their animosities, and providing practical assistance (such as locating new housing, childcare arrangements, etc.)?
- If the meeting finds itself too emotionally involved to help, will it consider calling on another monthly meeting, quarterly, or yearly meeting for resource persons?

For the couple:

- Do you seek to keep God's love as a vital force in your life to help you deal with the changes that come with divorce?
- Do you try to avoid hurting your former spouse in your relationships with others, either in or out of the meeting?

If there are children:

- As individuals, are you committed to the reality that you are both still parents of your children and must continue to find creative ways of living this responsibility?
- Are you mindful of your children's pain and suffering? Can you avoid both shutting your children out of your own pain and leaning on them too much?
- Are you mindful of the needs of your children for a continuing loving relationship with each parent?
- Are you mindful of the special love between children and grandparents or extended family and do you endeavor to further strengthen these ties?

For relatives:

- If you have a warm relationship with an in-law can you preserve it with patience and creativity during and after the separation without exerting undue pressure on anyone involved?
- Do you try to give loving support and encouragement, and avoid giving unwelcome advice?
- Are you mindful of the needs of each member of the couple?

Source for Quote: Comfort, William Wistar, *Just Among Friends: The Quaker Way of Life* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1941) p. 49.

MINUTE FROM THE ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Illinois Yearly Meeting seek to help smooth the transition of IYM from a Trustee structure to the Incorporation structure. We ask that an "Ad Hoc Committee" be formed.

The duties of this committee will be to:

1. Identify duties and responsibilities formally and informally administrated by Trustees.
2. Outline how these duties can be administrated within the incorporated structure.
3. Present to Continuing Committees for review and seasoning, ways that the duties will be administrated.

4. Work with the Handbook Committee to develop a draft version of these duties and responsibilities and how they will be integrated into IYM.

5. Submit to the 2007 IYM Annual Session the recommended revisions of the duties and roles for consideration and approval.

Recommend: Committee membership be based on previous experience in administrative roles for IYM and be appointed during the IYM Annual Session 2006.

Recommend: Committee is under care of the Clerk of IYM.

Recommend: The Committee serves for one year with renewal for a second year considered only if necessary.

Recommend: Dick Ashdown and Carol Bartles continue the role of signing contracts for IYM during this interim period. The signing of contracts for IYM will be done with the same criteria used for the last three years.

Potential Committee members might include: Administrative Coordinator, former Clerk, former Recording Clerk, the current Treasurer, the current Trustees, the current Handbook Committee Clerk and the two people who have worked on the incorporation of Yearly Meeting.

- Respectfully submitted by Richard Ashdown and Carol Bartles, IYM Trustees

MINUTEBOOK INDEXING PROPOSAL (See Minute 7)

Friends,

I come to you with a leading. The minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting are our historical and corporate record. I learned last fall that someone was being sought to index those minutes. I would like to be considered for that task.

I have taken my leading to my monthly meeting and have their spiritual support. In the initial year, financial support from the Yearly Meeting would include \$60 for a copy of "Information Retrieval Design: Principles and Options for Information Description, Organization, Display, and Access in Information Retrieval Databases, Digital Libraries, Catalogs and Indexes," which is the current authority on indexing, plus perhaps \$20 for supplies. The Yearly Meeting may eventually want to consider a computer program to assist with the management of the database, but I have yet to find one designed for serials (annual publications such as our minutes) so cannot give a cost estimate for that. I cannot give a time estimate for completion of the retrospective indexing of the minutes other than to say it will most likely take several years.

I would also like to have a committee of support comprised of Friends I know to have particular gifts and knowledge that would be valuable to the project.

I ask for the Yearly Meeting's blessing to move forward with this project.

- Beth Schobernd, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

MEMORIALS

CHRISTINE DAVIS

Christine Davis, a long time attender and member of Northside Friends Meeting, passed away Twelfth Month, 29, 2005 in Seattle, Washington. She was 59 years old.

Chris began attending Northside Friends in Chicago, Illinois, in the late 1970s at a time when our Meeting was still gathering for worship in homes. She applied and was accepted into membership in August, 1979. Sometime after this date she stopped attending our meetings; she became lost to the Northside Friends community. In September, 1998, the Business Meeting released her name from the roster of Northside Meeting members. Subsequently, toward the end of her life, she sometimes returned to worship with us again.

Chris Davis was a quiet, retiring person. All through her adult life she dealt with a number of significant, chronic medical problems. In spite of these challenges, she dedicated her career to working with children at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Christine once explained to a Friend of this Meeting that, although issues of health and responsibilities for the care of family members kept her from fuller participation in the life of the Meeting, she did her best to live by Quaker principles.

PAULINE VON ZECH FORSYTHE

Dec. 30, 1927 - Feb. 19, 2006

During her life, Pauline von Zech Forsythe had moments of darkness, deep sadness, and turmoil, but her beauty, strength of character, and zest for life have taught those who knew her so much about the miracles of the Spirit.

Pauline von Zech was born on December 30, 1927, in Philadelphia to German-American parents, Paul and Ethel. Early on she developed a lifelong love for music, playing the cello as a girl, and singing with her family, Girl Scouts, and friends. Friends from Downers Grove and Illinois Yearly Meetings, the Downers Grove Oratorio Society, her family, and companions in the nursing home in the final years of her life, all were inspired by her absolute joy in singing or hearing music.

Pauline's children, grandchildren, and First Day School youngsters all relished her ability to bring to life the characters when reading a story. She always made the characters come alive with her marvelous facial expressions, lively voices, and sharp twinkling brown eyes. Perhaps one of the most touching things was knowing that for as long as she was able she read aloud to Mark in the nursing home.

With Pauline, one always needed to be prepared for a spontaneous hike. She loved to share her passion for the natural world, in each of its glorious seasons and moods—the constellations in the sky at night, the deepening sky at sunset, or during a raging storm.

Pauline's enjoyed just sitting in silence or chatting with people, drinking coffee and enjoying music. Whether it was on the large porch or back patio at Victorian Manor in La Grange, amid the cornfields of Illinois Yearly Meeting site in McNabb, or upon the grounds of Downers Grove Friends Meeting, Pauline enjoyed sharing the blessings in quiet.

For the last forty years Pauline was always involved in Downers Grove Friends Meeting. The co-op, First Day School, singing were all important to her—and her occasional zaniness inspired many youngsters. The Downers Grove Friends

Meetinghouse was even her home for several years and many family celebrations were held here. Dear Friends in Downers Grove Meeting continued to visit her until her last days. The constant love and attention of these Friends made her days in the nursing home more bearable. The nursing home staff loved and cared for Pauline, and were also amazed at the presence of Pauline's Quaker friends until the very end.

The world will miss Pauline's rare spirit, but those of us who knew her will carry it on. When we stop to pause at the beauty of growing things each spring, see planets and stars twinkling at night, or hear, create, and share the music we are continuing to celebrate her life and the gifts of the Spirit she shared with us. Pauline left this earthly realm on February 19, 2006, but we can be assured that she is now singing with the heavenly angels, and tromping around the galaxies!

MARY ENDRES FYFE

1914-2005

Mary P. Endres Fyfe had lifelong concerns for education, creativity, and justice. She was born Mary Pollock on Feb. 16, 1914, in Macomb, Ill., and grew up on a small dairy farm. Her family was poor; her dresses were made from discarded clothing, and she did not have a dress made from new material until she received the first paycheck of her working life.

She attended high school at the Academy at Western Illinois University. At the age of 18, she began teaching in a country one-room school with 1st to 8th graders in McDonough County near Macomb. Mary's regional supervisor thought she was doing such a good job she asked her to take her class to a two-day demonstration at the University of Illinois. Attending the demonstration was the McHenry County Superintendent of Schools, who thought Mary was so exceptional she asked her to come to McHenry County to teach, which Mary did in 1941, in a two-room school in Island Lake.

When the county superintendent of schools went off to war, Mary was asked to fill in the position. After the war, she led the movement to consolidate 24 one-room schools surrounding Woodstock, one of the first large consolidations in the state. In 1946, she was named superintendent of the consolidated district. When the U.S. War Department wanted to make a documentary to show the Japanese how democracy works in this country, they came to the district to film the story of the consolidation. Woodstock Community School District 200 honored her achievements in 1998 by naming a new school after her.

She received a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University in 1943. While superintendent, she commuted to the University of Chicago, from which she received a master's degree in education in 1946 and a doctorate in the field in 1952. When Purdue University needed someone to develop an elementary program in their education department, Mary was called to do that and she founded the Department of Elementary Education. She also created child development and family life programs and became the first director of the Purdue Educational Research Center. During her years at Purdue, she spent one year developing a teacher enhancement program at the University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. Later she served as primary school specialist advisor to the Ministry of Education in Nigeria, supervising training for 26,000 primary school teachers. Mary was also instrumental in starting day schools in Cleveland and Lafayette, Ind. In Whiting, Ind., a preschool was named for Mary. From 1966 to 1968 she served as educational consultant to Head Start in Mississippi, a

dangerous assignment for which she volunteered. She advised the Associated Communities of Bolivar, Miss., with 17 centers, and the Mississippi Action Program, with 25 counties.

When the Illinois State Legislature created Governors State University, with a program aimed at minority students, Mary applied for and received the position of vice president for academic affairs. She served there from 1972 until her retirement in 1981.

Upon retiring, she turned to weaving. She became a successful businessperson with her Stitchery Plus Shop. Her creative spirit flowered, and she was an active supporter of the Fine Line Creative Arts Center, looming rugs, blankets, pillows and garments.

She married William Fyfe in 1984 and returned to the Woodstock area, where she had worked 40 years earlier, to live in The Rise, a house designed by Bill, an architect who had studied under Frank Lloyd Wright. She was active in Quaker and peacemaking circles, serving on governance committees for Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, N.Y.; Friends World Committee for Consultation in Philadelphia; and New Call to Peacemaking. She served as clerk of McHenry County Meeting, which is now known as Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting. She delivered the Plummer Lecture of Illinois Yearly Meeting in 1990 on "Creativity and Spirituality."

Mary lived her final years with Alzheimer's disease, which one Friend likened to a "silent retreat" following her lifetime of service. She died at her Woodstock home on Dec. 14, 2005. Survivors include a brother, Alvin Pollock; 12 nieces and nephews; three stepsons, Beye Fyfe, Allen (Jane) Fyfe and John (Linda Mansfield) Fyfe; a stepniece, Mary Fyfe Engelbrecht; two stepnephews, James A. Fyfe and Robert W. Fyfe; and special friends, Alex, Evelyn and Ellen. She was preceded in death by her husband Bill on May 7, 2001. Survivors, former students and many Friends gathered at her Quaker memorial service on April 22, 2006, to give thanks for her powerful example, to remember her flaming red hair and her attentive concern for her family, and to marvel at the way she made a difference for so many around the world.

BARBARA GREENLER

May 9, 1930 – March 23, 2006

Barbara Greenler was formally recorded as a member of the Religious Society of Friends in 1955 by Homewood Monthly Meeting in Baltimore. In 1958 her membership was transferred to Milwaukee Monthly Meeting. For fifty years she served Friends and tended her own spiritual life by participating fully in her Quaker community.

Barbara was born to Leland and Grace Stacy in Waterbury, Connecticut, on May 9, 1930. The family moved several times taking her to cities around New England with time in Kansas City and White Plains, New York. Her only sibling, a brother, died when she was 2 years old. She was a graduate of Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, where she was first introduced to Friends. She then trained in occupational therapy at Columbia University in New York City.

Barbara had become interested in the Quaker faith, and during the summer of 1953 she was a part of a work camp in a poor area of Washington, D.C. She and others were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace for singing on the street. The song was "Jacob's Ladder". The real offense appeared to be singing in a racially mixed group. She and her friends spent a night in jail, and after refusing to accept a

segregated cell, they sang the night away. Barbara's own children loved this story about their mother and understood at an early age what kind of 'peace' was being 'disturbed'.

While doing an internship with children with cerebral palsy in Baltimore, Barbara met a graduate student, Bob Greenler. On May 30, 1954 they married and three years later moved to Wisconsin, near Milwaukee which was their home for the next 45 years. They had three children. After years of being an at-home mother, Barbara returned to occupational therapy and then decided to go back to school. In 1974, she earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She worked as a therapist at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee and later in private practice, retiring in 1990.

Throughout her life, Barbara loved anything to do with nature. She wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty, whether it was showing youngsters what lived in the muck of the river or breaking up earth for planting. In the mid-1960s she was in the first training class for teachers and naturalists at the Riveredge Nature Center. On her own land on Pioneer Road in Mequon, Wisconsin, she planted and tended numerous gardens, a large prairie and a prairie nursery. Barbara also enjoyed watercolor painting and drawing. Often her gardens and the critters who visited them were the subjects of her art.

Barbara offered her time and talents in all areas of the life of Milwaukee Monthly Meeting. She served on Ministry and Counsel, taught the children, served on clearness committees, was a strong supporter of the building and later expansion of the meeting house, and was a welcomed voice in our meetings for worship. Milwaukee Monthly Meeting was often the recipient of the Greenlers' hospitality. They opened their rural home to our retreats, meetings, potlucks and weddings. Their gardens and historical octagonal barn, which held every child's favorite swinging rope, are a precious memory.

Barbara was first involved with Illinois Yearly Meeting and then became a much valued part of Northern Yearly Meeting, dating back to the period just prior to the founding of Northern Half-Yearly Meeting in 1960. Barbara wrote of those early years: "We didn't get together and 'found' Quaker churches as missions. We found each other in our needs and concerns for peace, race relations and other social issues as well as our need to share parenting that emphasized those Quaker Values."

Throughout the years Barbara was an active, faithful attender of Northern Yearly Meeting, sharing her wisdom, compassion and spiritual discernment in meetings for worship and business. She led worship sharing groups, was a member of the Ministry and Nurture committee from its inception in 2000, and attended meetings of the NYM Executive Committee frequently. Barbara's gifts were freely shared and much appreciated in the NYM community.

So many Northern Yearly Meeting Friends will remember her early influence as one of the founding "celestial mamas" of the Nightingales, a group of Friends and non-Friends who gather three times a year for weekend singing retreats. One of Barbara's gifts during singing was to look deeply into other people's eyes. She challenged Nightingales not to become slaves to the songbook, but to learn the words and look at each other.

In the early 1980's Barbara became Northern Yearly Meeting's representative to Friends General Conference and continued on as a member of several FGC committees including Ministry and Counsel, Personnel, and Long Range Conference Planning.

In 1996 she was asked to co-clerk, along with Christopher Sammond, the 1998 FGC Gathering in River Falls. She and Christopher brought complementary gifts and skills to this significant task. She was in her element and fully enjoyed the full and extensive use of her talents that the job demanded and regarded it as a significant accomplishment in her Quaker career.

In 1997 FGC decided to embark on the discernment of a long-range strategic plan for the organization. Barbara clerked the committee that led that effort, the Discernment in Long Term Planning Committee. As such, she was significantly involved in shepherding FGC into a new chapter. She finished her six-year term as clerk of Discernment in Long Term Planning Committee in 2004. At that time FGC minuted their appreciation for her contribution to this committee as well as her more than 20 years of service to the organization.

In 2002 Milwaukee Friends gathered to appreciate and celebrate Barbara and Bob Greenler as they moved from their rural home to Oakwood Village, a retirement home in Madison, Wisconsin. They looked forward to living near their children and becoming a part of Madison Meeting. Shortly after the move, Barbara developed thyroid cancer and died on March 23, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Bob, and three children, Lee (Susan) Greenler, Karen (Penny Majors) Greenler, Robin (John) Greenler, and six grandchildren, Skye, Alex, Scott, Ellie, Corry and Thomas.

On April 15, 2006 a Memorial Service for Barbara Greenler was held in the manner of Friends at the Boerner Botanical Gardens. Nearly 300 people gathered, several traveling long distances to join in. Never have Friends experienced so much joyous, prayerful singing at a meeting for worship. Afterwards, Madison and Milwaukee Friends hosted a potluck at the Milwaukee meeting house.

DOUG TIPTON

Doug Tipton, a member of Northside Friends Meeting in Chicago, passed away October 12, 2005, in Bloomington, Indiana. He was 42 years old.

Doug came to Friends while attending college at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He joined the Society of Friends at the Friends Meeting of Washington in the mid-1980s. Subsequently he sojourned at Madison Monthly Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, before transferring his membership to Northside Friends Meeting in Fifth Month of 2005. At the time of his death, Doug was sojourning at Bloomington Monthly Meeting in Indiana where he had moved to live in an intentional community with Friend Rex Sprouse of Bloomington Friends.

Doug took his participation in the Society seriously. He made time for daily spiritual devotions and spiritual reading, he was active in his Monthly Meeting at both Worship and Business, he attended Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions when possible, and participated in other Friends' organizations. He served Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns as a member of the Ministry and Counsel Committee and briefly as Recording Clerk. In 2000 he helped organize the Mid-Winter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns in Zion, Illinois.

Friend Tipton was a blue grass music enthusiast, a great reader, storyteller, interlocutor and professionally a skillful webmaster. In his youth he enjoyed country dancing – a passion sacrificed as Doug gracefully contended with a chronic debilitating disease, Multiple Sclerosis.

Although Doug admitted that he could sometimes be a challenge, our Friend was a mainstay of the Northside community. His weight of knowledge and experience, his humor, and his commitment to plain speaking were gifts he gave to us freely. He is sorely missed.

GARY WALDEN

Oct. 23, 1957 - Oct. 11, 2005

Late afternoon on October 11th, Gary Walden succumbed to a heart attack at his home. Since mid-September Gary had been struggling with congestive heart failure, but he had assumed he would be regaining his health. Gary had a wonderful sense of humor that carried over into dealing with his condition. As he stated in an e-mail to friends, "...the cardiologist has strongly recommended that we install a pacemaker. Looks like I will be wired for sound. On top of that I am supposed to get an insulin pump in the next month or so. Can we say 'Borg'? Resistance is futile. I'll never make it through airport security again."

Columbia Friends Meeting held a Memorial for Gary on Saturday, October 22. The number of f(F)riends who gathered to celebrate Gary's life and acknowledge the impact he had had on their lives was a testament to his loving presence as a friend to many.

As David Finke said, Gary "leaves both a rich legacy for us and also a large vacant space in our midst." Gary was very active in Meeting. He served as the newsletter editor in the 1980's and again from 2000-2005. Gary served this last year as one of the two Sabbath Year Coordinators, and on Ministry and Counsel. He led a monthly spiritual journaling group and offered occasional classes with such interesting titles as "Radical Abundance." Gary was always friendly and welcoming and could often be found greeting Friends in the parking lot; he was a great hugger.

He valued his spiritual seeking and connection. He was intrigued by his developing spirituality, and after attending a six-week spiritual growth group formed in Meeting, was instrumental in forming an on-going group that still continues. He was always conciliatory and looking for ways to deepen our sense of community. He cherished a vision of Columbia Friends Meeting as a warm spiritual home, vitally alive and nurturing — and having fun!

Gary was a gifted artist and writer. His gifts to us were many. Meeting for worship was a focus for both thanksgiving and frustration. In an article for *Among Friends* in 1993, he wrote:

"I take my seat, and so often find myself struggling to find in the silence where the door can be opened, the inner ear can hear... This is the noise of MY life: the week talks to me, the job frets at me, frustration and anger nag, all around the imagination demands the undivided attention of my inner ear, like young siblings all demanding the attention of a parent. The noise fills my head and God simply has to wait for a turn, a moment to jump in, say what must be said, before the noise demands the ear once again. Despite all this, the Spirit does find opportunity when least expected, and I think that sometimes these leadings are perhaps the most powerful by virtue of the gentleness."

Gary's legacy to us is a life well-lived, a love given generously, faith in the Light, and fun!

EDNA BILLINGSLEY WYNN

July 15, 1925 - April 1, 2006

When South Bend Friends Meeting organized itself for formal memberships in 1993, Edna Wynn was one of our few birthright Quakers. Born in rural Alba, Missouri, she enriched our meeting with her memories of childhood in its Friends Church. Mutual friends brought Floyd Wynn to the church to meet her. She became the wife of this Presbyterian minister and part of a wonderful ministerial team.

Edna undertook teacher training at Friends Bible College in Kansas and Asbury College in Kentucky. After her own two sons, Gaylen and Grant, were school age, she returned to teach fourth grade and later to specialize in pre-school education, all this while following the peripatetic life of a mid-western pastor's family. Edna and Floyd treasured long lasting friendships from their pastoral work. They were also devoted to ecumenical activity, an interest in bringing people together and overcoming barriers that seems to have characterized their lives.

When Floyd retired in the late 1980's, they moved to South Bend to be near their family. But it would be hard to call their life in South Bend retirement. They immediately became active in the chaplaincy at Memorial Hospital. They were on the board that developed the Aging to Saging program of the Leighton Senior Center. Edna heard that an offshoot of the local religious council was trying to develop a "Parish Resource Center." She immediately sought it out, helping to organize the materials it offered and connecting its other volunteers.

In the same way, Edna sought out South Bend Friends when she heard that there was a small Meeting in town. She was delighted to have found Friends again and used her quiet skills to help bind the group together. She somehow kept track of everyone in Meeting and provided recognition and encouragement. She made sure that the children's birthdays were always affirmed. The efforts of adult members were appreciated as well. She knew who was ill and who needed some extra help. She knew how to recycle with Quakerly love and frugality: a little trinket that fell into her hands was used to appreciate a child's efforts, a quotation she loved went to the Friend who made her think of it. She gave us a memorable pattern for recognizing and appreciating one another's contributions.

In 2004, Floyd and Edna moved to the Peabody Community, a Presbyterian retirement community in North Manchester. Still unable to "retire," Floyd became acting chaplain with Edna assisting him. She also volunteered with Peabody's Memory Enhancement Center, trying to connect residents to their own selves. Our last memories of Edna were joyful conversations as she and Floyd returned to South Bend for the Tetzlaff-Laird wedding on February 19. As always, she was making sure that everyone around her knew one another, that they were recognized and could connect.

STATES OF SOCIETY

CLEAR CREEK

Easter potluck signaled the end of another nomadic year for Clear Creek Meeting. This last year seemed a year of movement, both of where we worshipped and where we were led to journey. After moving and carrying boxes back and forth between buildings, moving benches and tables to accommodate changes, it is a welcome relief to be inside the Meeting House again.

The moving and dealing with changes to the buildings is good for us. It makes long winter months disappear more quickly than we expect. Having witnessed the scary beginnings and the gratifying endings of several building projects does not make new ones easier but each project is a journey we are learning to take together.

Our year included a group of “Dancing Rabbits,” an ecological community who quietly and efficiently deconstructed the dorm and set aside reusable materials. They accomplished this task more quickly than expected and finished in about a week.

All winter it seemed we traveled to various places both individually and as groups. Some of us visited prisons and other Monthly Meetings, traveled to Pennsylvania and some of us flew south and west for the winter.

Amid all this moving about our “Committee of Three” gathered financing and supplies to deliver to the Westwego Library in Louisiana. They will travel south to deliver these supplies in person.

New members have joined and jumped into this swirling dance. Their creative energy and willingness to immediately participate in decision-making and creative projects has invigorated the Meeting as a whole.

COLUMBIA

This State of Society report is a brief glimpse into a “Sabbath Year” which started July 2004 and concluded in June of this year, a period in which we have not reported. An adequate account and communal evaluation of our lessons from this Sabbatical will have to await another document.

Our Sabbath Year had four themes: Rest, Celebration, Community, and Spiritual Growth. To facilitate this process, we appointed 2 Coordinators and gave them a budget and responsibility for scheduling offerings of skills and ideas arising within the Meeting, plus looking beyond. Heidi Shafford Bezzerides and Gary Walden brought enthusiasm and joy to this service.

Organizationally, we suspended most committee activity: Religious Education, Library, Nominating, and Budget. However, for Property and Peace & Social Concerns, we appointed “point persons” to keep us informed and act where needed.

While loosening our structures to give more space for growth in God’s Spirit, yet we continued the essentials for a Monthly Meeting: regular meetings for worship and business, trustees, record-keeping, a treasury, the newsletter and e-mails, and a “Ministry & Counsel resource-on-call.” At their request, we did not curtail the activities of Advancement & Hospitality, including Fun Nights and refreshments.

Instead of a regular Adult R.E. program, we had a series of offerings by Friends on topics which they wanted to share, and the “Meeting for Learning” times generally were filled. A wide variety of activities came forth, including a journaling group, silent retreats, outdoor and social activities, Bible studies, a women’s group, and a newcomers’ group studying Quakerism 101.

A small number of us were involved in Quaker organizations beyond this Meeting. But the value of our membership outside Columbia Friends became apparent as we benefited from the loving ministry of IYM's Field Secretary and Ministry & Advancement visitor, Maurine Pyle and Margaret Katranides.

While focusing on our own spiritual growth, this didn't prevent our responding to the needs of the world, including relief for victims of tsunamis and hurricanes, presence at vigils and antiwar events, joining in various ecumenical efforts, hunger relief, leadership in the Sustainability Fair, Earth Day participation, and a financial offering to Christian Peacemakers Teams honoring the sacrificial witness of Tom Fox. We helped send Greg Woods to the World Gathering of Young Friends, much pleased with the leadership he continues to give in the larger Quaker world.

M&C kept busy with various clearness committees, including those dealing with marriage and membership. Heidi Shafford joined Meeting, and she & Nick Bezzerides were married under our care. Also Kevin Webb & Elizabeth Rogers were married here, and Alex Jenkins & Chandra Oleksiewicz were married nearby with our participation. At the very beginning of this Sabbath period we celebrated the marriage of Jeff Brotemarkle and Sheila Chick. Beginning so many marriages under our care gave us hope and joy, wonderful opportunities to work together and know each other more deeply.

We treasure what we gained by a series of retreats: John Calvi spent several days with us. Following the Dream-Gathering visits, we began planning with Maurine and Margaret for what became a series of 3 retreats (2 in Oct. '05, concluding with Apr. '06.) In these, we looked at who we are and then envisioned what we hope to become as a community, in God's leading. We also developed new forms of organizational life, including Groups, Teams, and Point-Persons. Participation in all aspects was widespread throughout Meeting; no one left us during this process.

However, within one month two of our "younger" Friends suddenly died: Gary Walden at nearly 48, and Lisi Bansen (whom we still claimed), just turned 40. Struck with a major sense of loss, yet we came together to meet tragedy, and found God's sustenance even in the "Valley of the Shadow." The vitality that these Friends brought will continue to bless us.

Looking forward, during this Sabbath time we have identified unfinished business and ongoing challenges including:

- to be in fact as welcoming to all as we say or believe we are,
- to find where we as a Meeting stand on the prospect of same-sex marriage,
- to know how we shall relate to the property we now have,
- to become more inclusive to families with children, and benefit from what they may bring us.

And in terms of the larger world, we still have the ongoing challenge of seeking to address violence, injustice, and the seeds of war.

We continue to examine the many aspects of our collective vision and will seek to give positive shape to that. God has given us much in this recent time. May we be faithful stewards of these gifts.

DOWNERS GROVE

The State of Society at Downers Grove Friends Meeting shifts imperceptibly from year to year. The group is about the same size as we have been in recent years

with the greatest want being the number of children who regularly attend First Day School. We have welcomed many visitors to Meeting for Worship over the year and are blessed that a number of them have joined the life of the meeting. The membership of Deborah Davison and associate membership of Isabelle Davison-Arancio were approved in July.

With great heaviness of heart we bid farewell to two very faithful and much loved members who moved away: James Baker, joining his family in Canada; and Martha Davis, whose spouse Jonathan Thron will also be missed. Attender Donna Sprinkle relocated with daughters Samantha and Heather to North Carolina. The Sprinkle family's involvement strengthened our ties to their other congregation, Lombard Mennonite Church.

We celebrated the life of Jesse Baker, long time Downers Grove Friend and Dorothy Moorman's father, who most recently had lived with his other daughter Marie Baker and her family in Wisconsin. Several Friends have met serious medical challenges with grace and the love of the Meeting.

Key to the life of the meeting continues to be much more than Meeting for Worship on First Day at 10:30. Our individual and corporate spirituality is nourished by the many ways Downers Grove Friends Meeting enters our lives. We continue to have a number of small groups that meet regularly in addition to a sewing group, food co-op, and gardening friends. We have a regular Bible study group and an adult religious education group. We have a regular meeting with a concern for peace and a meeting with a concern for healing. Dave Moorman faithfully maintains our e-mail network. The Caring and Sharing newsletter enhances our monthly Meeting for Business minutes as it taps into the heart of our community.

Two special workshops: Ken and Katharine Jacobsen's "Companions on the Way" in October and Benjamin Lloyd's "Vocal Ministry" in May served as important enrichments to our growth individually and as a Meeting. Twice this year we offered Quakerism 101 to help those looking to learn more about Quakerism. Twice this year we found the energy as a group to stage outreach/fundraisers for the New Meeting House: Heritage Fest in downtown Downers Grove for three days in June followed our own Quaker Faire at the meeting house the previous November. In addition to greeting new people and witnessing Friends testimonies, these events deepen our relationships with each other.

Downers Grove Friends continue to be involved in the wider Society of Friends. Sue Davison is now Clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Joe Davison works with those planning Youth Quake 2006. Pam Wolfe continues to travel **with** the Ministers of Spiritual Health and Vitality on visits to monthly meetings in Western Yearly Meeting. Sue Styer and Ruth Marquez work with those planning next summer's Illinois Yearly Meeting. Dave Moorman links us electronically to IYM and other Quaker groups. Andrea Bretl (DGFM non-resident member) and her husband Tim write the newsletter for the San Francisco Monthly Meeting.

Downers Grove Friends witness in the larger society. Joe Davison spoke on Quaker Spirituality at a training seminar on "Spirituality and Sexual Minority Youth" at Linden Oaks Hospital. Brad Ogilvie sponsored a fund raising breakfast to support Canticle Ministries' Kenyan Mission trips. Lillian Moats tirelessly works with the DuPage Peace and Justice Coalition. Betty Clegg helps connect us with the West

Suburban Faith Based Peace Coalition. Ted Anderson is active with Downers Grove Walk-in Ministry.

We labor to find our corporate and individual relationship with Metropolitan General Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Western Yearly Meeting and with various other groups that promote peace and justice in the world.

Being effective stewards of our own meeting is an on-going challenge. The plans for our new Meeting House continue to move slowly toward the time when we can begin construction. Thanks to generous support from Friends and others, we hope this coming year to actually begin.

Other important milestones and events in our meeting this year included:

- The high school graduations of Hannah White, Bridget Anderson and Emily Ostergaard.
- Betty Winker moved to a new home nearer the meeting house after living in Naperville for many years.
- We participated in the poignant Western Yearly Meeting Administrative Council meeting at Fellowship of Friends in November.
- We hosted the Rehard-Nugent family and are following with interest their work for Friends United Meeting among the world's most numerous concentration of Friends, in Africa
- DuPage County approved our zoning request for a new Meeting House.
- As part of the children's religious education program, we created a paper chain to represent every-day expression of Quaker testimonies.
- Adult Friends volunteered to share stories of Quaker historical figures at fourth First Day School assembly.
- The sewing group has many Friends—near and far, as well as members of our community at large—contributing to a project we call our “Crazy Quilt for Peace.”

The state of our society reflects that we hope, pray, and work as a Meeting and as individuals for “Thy Kingdom Come on Earth As It Is In Heaven.”

DUNELAND

During this last year Friends have been given rich opportunities to consider the meaning of membership both in Duneland Friends Meeting (DFM) and in the Religious Society of Friends. With Friends at 57th Street we helped to plan a memorial service for Friend Sylvia Way. Also we helped to plan and host a memorial service for the life of Teri Mitchell, an attender of our meeting who requested a memorial service after the manner of Friends. As we waited with these Friends in hospice and hospital, and as we extended our care to their families, we became more deeply aware that membership commits us to participation in communal worship, to sharing in the work and the service of the Society, and to living in harmony with its basic beliefs and practices. We have loving, poignant, even humorous memories of these Friends.

Following the request for membership from Heidi Badgley, her clearness committee welcomed the occasion to read with her from *Faith and Practice* and other sources, discuss the meaning of membership, share experiences of membership and eventually recommend that her request be accepted. Each participant in the clearness process came to understand more plainly how we all seek a community where we will be accepted and valued for who we are, rather than judged for how we might measure up to some ideal.

On one First Day after potluck, using the pamphlet *Members One of Another*, each person had the opportunity to express what membership meant to them. In Seventh Month, we spent a whole day in retreat considering and reflecting on this pamphlet. Led by Roxy Jacobs, we explored meeting as a place of acceptance, meeting as a place of shared values, meeting as a place of obedience, and meeting as a place of transformation.

We have gratefully received visits from David Shiner representing Ministry and Advancement. As we were being led by Maurine Pyle to consider our dreams for Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) we were amazed by the expression of hopes that arose for our own meeting. Some members were moved to attend the Dream Gathering near McNabb in Sixth Month.

Departures from Duneland Friends Meeting included David White who moved to Tennessee with his new wife Deb, and Lyle and Sue Adley-Warrick who relocated to Raleigh, North Carolina. It warms our hearts to know that both families are in good hands in their new worship communities. We sorely miss their presence.

As a member grows to know some intimation of obedience, he or she often comes into a time of service. Marjorie Crawford has been attending vigils and working against the death penalty. She has felt quite supported by the American Friends Service Committee and has felt led to share her enthusiasm for its work with the meeting. Noel and Sarah Pavlovic, members of Quaker Earthcare Witness, with help from Duneland Friends, hosted a retreat for that committee at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Noel's lecture "Place of Spirit: The Indiana Dunes" was deeply expressive. Worship with fifty people in the beauty of the woodland was a time of wonder. Nathan Pavlovic and friends in Scouting built a boardwalk over a fen in a nature reserve as his Eagle Scout project. The meeting supported his work financially and with prayers. The meeting was also able to contribute financially to the service project at ILYM which assembled backpacks of school supplies for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Emily Pavlovic did a considerable amount of shopping and packing for this project. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business was delighted to receive reports from both these Young Friends. DFM decided to loan most of our meetinghouse fund to ILYM for a year. We felt moved to do this because the historic meeting house in McNabb is our meetinghouse as well.

When members, unified in a sense of purpose, care for one another, we recognize the presence and guidance of the Spirit. As Helen Rowlands says, membership is, or ought to be, about transformation. The transformation of individuals who have experienced the divine Spirit at work in their lives may then affect a transformation in the community of worshipers which may have a role in bringing about transformation in the world.

EVANSTON

Greetings to Friends everywhere from all who work and worship together as members and attenders of Evanston Friends Meeting.

It has been a full year in our meeting community, busy with the unusual work which accompanied our major meeting house renovation, as well as our customary work of bearing witness to God's love in the world and keeping the meeting's life supported by careful attention to discernment and simply "getting it done." The richness of our year was experienced differently by each person among us. To create our State of Society report all were invited to provide written responses to four questions

about our joys, challenges, hopes and the life of the Spirit among us. The following report was prepared under the care of Ministry and Counsel, drawn principally from the thoughtful responses to this invitation.

Meeting for Worship lies at the heart of our life together. For many it offered the greatest joy of the past year. During the time our meeting house was under renovation we met in space at the local Music Institute of Chicago. The smaller space there created an intimacy that was particularly appreciated by some of us, while maintaining our First Day School and other functions created challenges! We continually seek to balance quiet contemplation and “practicing the presence” with vocal ministry. Many are grateful for the spiritual insight received during this time. We have begun offering a time at the rise of meeting for prayers for others and “afterthoughts,” i.e. things that arise during meeting but don’t come with the strength of messages to be shared during that time. We appreciate the added richness of this brief new kind of time together.

Our meetinghouse renovation has been a major focus for the past year. It was an enormous challenge, for never before have we undertaken such a complex, expensive project. It was huge project which gave voice to our confident commitment to our future. For some, participating in this was the greatest joy of the past year. Some expressed that the experiences of working together logistically (packing up, moving, and unpacking), financially, and administratively were very rewarding, strengthening the community as a whole. For some others the planning and decision making experiences gave rise to a concern that the best Quaker process may not have guided our work at every point. We are working to heal these hurts as we move toward the future. Despite some of the disappointment with how we got there, we are now greatly appreciative of our new worship space, library, meeting rooms, and kitchen and of the dedication of many who helped in so many ways to make it happen. One hope for the coming year is that we find new ways to share this space with others in the community such as neighborhood organizations, as well as new ways to use it ourselves.

Children and youth are a vital and cherished part of the richness of our meeting. One member wrote of gratitude for the “fantastic, curious, enthusiastic children who take for granted their place in the community.” A hope for the year ahead is that we find more ways to fully integrate them into the life of the meeting.

A young adult group has also developed, blessed as we are with a significant number of such folks, several of whom are taking leadership responsibility in the life of the meeting. We welcome their fresh perspectives, along with those of all our emerging leaders. Their energy, ideas, and spiritual grounding have brought us new life in many ways.

Working together was mentioned as a significant part of the past year, not just on the renovation. Some wrote of an enhanced sense of belonging to the meeting community through their work in the garden, on committees, and in First Day school teaching. Others noted the work of others in these areas with appreciation, noting we get everything done (almost) solely because of our good volunteers. One Friend noted with gratitude the strong leadership we have been blessed with during this busy year. Another mentioned that contributing to the work of the meeting was not a top priority for some and that is a challenge.

Our outward witness in the past year involved gathering resources for Shades of Praise, an interracial music group from New Orleans whose members lost a great

deal in Hurricane Katrina; participation in the creation of low income housing in Evanston; support for students in Guatemala; a silent auction to support Right Sharing of World Resources; Emergency, an organization that responds to international medical emergencies; and a local church's programs for ex-offenders. We also provided support and materials to meet needs at the Lakota Indian Reservation in North Dakota. We regularly hold a simple meal on the fourth First Days with donations going to Right Sharing also. Voiced hopes for this part of our life in the year ahead include connecting more effectively with other faith communities and "meaningful connections with our black sisters and brothers" as well as maintaining the relationship with low income housing initiatives. One member's response brought to our attention the challenge to also balance our concern for the world with the joy of life.

Opportunities for nourishing our inward journeys in addition to meeting for worship included spiritual formation groups, the annual silent retreat at Lake Geneva, stimulating Second Hour programs/discussions, an inquirers' group, and a Bible study group. Our long tradition of using some of our Second Hour times together to listen to each other's spiritual journeys continues to help us "to know one another in that which is eternal." These enriching times, together with meeting community events such as our annual Christmas Eve service, movie nights, and friendship dinners nourish us as individuals and as a group.

New people have found us and they are a great joy. We average 60-75 on First Days, including our cherished children and youth. Our challenge is to become more skillful in learning how to warmly and effectively welcome and include all who arrive for the first time. We are working on that with a photo directory, regular presence of a greeter, and, we hope, an inclusive presence in all we do. We miss those who have left us, among them Roger Hansen and John Payton who moved to Milwaukee, Judd and Carolyn Thompson who moved to Arizona, and Roy and Leslie Stager-Jacques who moved to New Zealand.

Our hopes for the coming year are many, the flavor of which is best conveyed by quoting directly from some of them:

That we discern God's mission for us.

That we pay more attention to Quaker fundamentals.

That we find ways to help members of the meeting community with gifts of time and attention.

That we pay close attention to one another's spiritual needs.

That hurts will be forgiven.

That we can grow into our space and into one another's lives more.

That we take small steps filled with love and joy in doing what needs to be done.

That we serve a world community.

That we have an increased sense of community, attuned to the Inner Light, increasing in love and understanding.

That we breathe deeply, touch our regard for one another, and move forward with gratitude and joy for the community we are and the Grace we are given.

And...on a practical note...that we improve the acoustics in the meeting room and get better at learning one another's names.

With this State of Society report comes our love and shared hope for increasing joy, justice, and peace in our families, communities, and the world.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

In the past year, 57th Street Meeting of Friends has been blessed with both a substantial increase in members and attenders and a significant deepening in community activity and communal worship. Four new members joined our Meeting, raising our Adult Resident Membership by 40% to a total of fourteen, and our average attendance at Meeting for Worship is just under 30. Several new families moving into the Chicago area have sought us out, bringing us diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints and adding to the number of children in our Meeting—a joyous thing!

Our full committee structure, re-instated just over two years ago, is steadily coming into its own. An amazingly high percentage of our members and regular attenders are serving the Meeting through participating in committee work. In these committees and their work is the best evidence that 57th Street Meeting of Friends is truly committed to Friends' testimonies. While all of our committees deserve praise for their efforts on behalf of the Meeting and all Friends, certain committees have earned special mention this year for displaying new-found energy. Our Religious Education Committee has worked hard and well on a new, year-long **Adventures in Peacemaking** program for children, meeting every second First Day and attracting young Friends from throughout the Chicago area. It is wonderful to have new young Friends joining us on a monthly basis. Other Religious Education initiatives focusing on adult education—Quaker Thought, and Quakerism 101—continue to be well-attended, dynamic, and thought-provoking. These programs have done much to deepen our spiritual community and Friends' understanding of our history, faith, and practice. Also new and exciting, the Library Committee has just begun to make our extensive collection of Friends-related materials a more accessible resource for our Meeting, bringing to light much that has been overlooked in the past. While more discussion of our various committees' work could fill a book, it's also worth mentioning that our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has helped the Meeting witness to Friends' testimonies by working to relieve hunger and address housing issues in our greater community through the Hyde Park Interfaith Council, in addition to facilitating Katrina relief and working closely with AFSC, to begin counter-recruitment work, and FCNL, passing the STEP Resolution.

Friends continue to find spiritual meaning in their weekly experience of Meeting for Worship. Friends agree that the experience of Meeting for Worship provides the core of our Quaker faith. We continue to work together as a community for spiritual refreshment and nourishment, to be led by the Light and the Spirit, to know God. Friends at our meeting have experienced significant corporate spiritual growth over the past year, which involved a firm decision to conduct Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business in a manner that promotes communion with the Light and the Spirit, rather than to provide allowances for excessive behaviors that interfere with this solemn purpose. This decision was affirmed in the manner of Friends, in which we asked ourselves and asked the Spirit, "What constitutes right action?" We were not intent upon movement for the sake of "trying to make things happen." Instead we were content to wait upon the Spirit for guidance, and found while we waited that ways opened in which we were able to remove our resistance to *right action*.

The quality of Meeting for Worship has also benefited greatly from two retreats organized by our Ministry and Counsel Committee. The themes of "Members One of Another" and "Vocal Ministry and Discernment" spoke powerfully to the condition of our Meeting. Friends felt led to create our next retreat ourselves instead of calling

in an outside facilitator. Entitled “Deepening and Strengthening our Meeting for Worship,” the retreat was held on April 8 and was a cooperative effort shared among the members and attenders of 57th Street Meeting.

Twenty attended the retreat. The program included periods of worship and one of worship sharing. The program also included a presentation by a member of the meeting who was chosen because of helpful past vocal ministry. This presentation described the stages experienced by this person before, during, and after Meeting for Worship. We were further aided to know each other better and see ourselves as fun-loving with two enjoyable games. We each have a 20 page pamphlet as a memory-rousing souvenir to use in days and years to come.

With Divine guidance and assistance, we will continue to come together for a profound and nurturing worship experience while giving constant attention to our spiritual responsibilities as a Quaker Community.

LAKE FOREST

In her November message, our Clerk reminded us about spiritual clutter. It is hard not to feel that our activities represent clutter when writing a State of Society since we, as a meeting, are so busy. We will try to enumerate the varied and numerous things Lake Forest Meeting has undertaken this year and then see if and how they relate to each other.

We continue to deepen our spiritual lives with weekly events such as Friendly Bible study, mid-week Thursday morning Meeting for Worship, Premeeting discussion, and now, trying out “Hearts & Minds Prepared” (a 12-week spiritual program developed in England for deepening spiritual growth). Monthly, we host a nurture group, a newcomers group, a men’s meeting and a couple of spiritual formation groups. During the past year we have spent many hours exploring the spiritual side of our finances through threshing sessions and are now undertaking a listening project on that subject. [It is felt that a close correspondence between what we do and what we believe is important.]

For a Quaker meeting, our efforts to promote peace have lacked unified energy, particularly given that we live in a country involved in an aggressive war. To explore why this is, we held a Peace & Social Concerns Retreat to try to ground our understanding of the Peace Testimony in our spiritual life in an attempt to reenergize ourselves.

Members of our meeting pushed for an Illinois law concerning birth certificates after one of our member families lost their infant daughter before a living birth certificate was issued. This issue passed the Illinois House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor.

We have also had fun and experienced community building through potlucks, forums and our annual party at Ragdale, the replica of Lincoln’s log cabin from the Columbian Exposition that was the first home of Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Our fun, however, has not stopped us from considering others in need. Our meeting raised a record amount this year for CROP Walk and also made a significant donation to Katrina survivors and other causes.

We have welcomed three new members, Ted Kuhn, Lukan Paulus, and Peta van Tienhoven, and two new babies, Graeme Lewis Cunningham and Jame Roberta Sewell. Another member, Debbie Schwartz, has returned after spending several years in the Washington, DC, area. In considering membership, particularly child

membership, Ministry & Counsel brought a Minute on child membership which was accepted by the Meeting. This marks a significant step, since child membership has been an issue that Lake Forest has labored over for several years.

Many of our members are actively involved in the wider Quaker world, with many volunteer hours given to organizations such as AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC. Many, many of our members attend Illinois Yearly Meeting's Annual Session each summer and serve on all sorts of IYM committees. This list would be too long to recite.

How do all these things relate without being mere clutter? The firmest thread is our commitment to our shared spiritual life as acted through service. Our struggle continues to be finding ways to connect our social mission with our spiritual guidance. We wonder how to manage First Day School to be of more benefit to our children, their parents, and the Meeting as a whole. We are concerned about how to support F/friends who have needs they don't bring to the Meeting. So many of us are so busy in our personal lives we sometimes find it hard in our brief time together to see the needs of our co-religionists and to simultaneously fulfill the promise of Meeting for Worship to satisfy our spiritual needs. As a meeting, we continue to aspire to meet all these needs by holding each other in the Light.

MILWAUKEE

We continue to be grateful for the Anita Koenen Land Preserve and the peaceful pastoral setting it provides for our worship and community experience. Meeting for worship provides us with many moments in which to feel the love present in our midst. We celebrated the birth of one baby during this time and had no marriages under the care of meeting.

Meeting for worship is Spirit-filled, welcoming many new attenders who continue to find their way to our community, regular attenders, resident and sojourning members. Singing before meeting is well attended each week. Their lifted voices provide a joyful greeting to all who enter into meeting. We happily accepted the membership of two new members. Total number of adult members is 85 (69 resident, 16 non-resident). Attendance on a Sunday is approximately 90 adults and children. We provide oversight and care to two additional meetings in the Milwaukee area.

We have struggled with two significant losses this year. We are very tender over the death of our dear F/friend Barbara Greenler, whom we know was special to many in our yearly meetings as well. As an active member of our meeting and of the Quaker community for many years, Barbara will be missed by all. We have been taught by her example the tremendous impact that one life can make. We were also saddened by the loss of Virginia Corbin, an attender who was an important part of the life of our meeting. We continue to support their families as they grieve this loss and move toward living without these loved ones.

We remain deeply committed to the spiritual health of our community. We are continually open to the Divine that moves among us and are supported by the excellent leadership of our clerks and conveners. Meeting continues to be a place where all are welcome. This commitment to spiritual health has resulted in a deepened commitment to the children in meeting, a renewed understanding of the value of outreach and the creation of concrete actions that make our spiritual practice real.

We continue the presence of the Quaker in the Library, which allows a known place for newcomers and others to go to discuss questions about our meeting, our way of worship and other aspects of Quakerism. In addition, Ministry and Counsel has dedicated 2005 and 2006 to conversations about the children in our meeting. We have worked hard to support the efforts of our religious education coordinators. Their love and care has shaped the lives of the children in our meeting.

The work of maintaining our meeting keeps us all busy. We remain grateful to those who provide leadership to our First Day School and other meeting committees. The teens in MFM are actively engaged in our community, social justice issues and the life of our meeting with six teens attending the 2005 FGC Gathering in Virginia. Teens continue to seek to understand the peace testimony, conscription, and conscientious objection in order to cogently express their beliefs at a time when they are still forming them. Our adult religious education sessions remain active.

We have been unable to find anyone to serve as Shareletter editor and continue to have no current meeting newsletter. Weekly electronic announcements which are reproduced in paper copies keep us abreast of activities in our community.

We happily paid off the smallest of our mortgages on our expanded meeting-house and were able to re-allocate \$12,000 to our membership obligations and donations to local organizations working to further the cause of peace and justice in our community. This removed a burden from the heart of our community as we were all weighed down by our inability to maintain this commitment in the previous year.

We renewed a three-year lease with Lifeways Childcare Center and the meeting-house continues to be used by the Peace Learning Center. Both programs utilize our meetinghouse and the land to its fullest potential. Many other groups use our building, many with reduced or waived fees.

International Gift Shop raises over \$9,000 for AFSC. This split in proceeds is expected to be ongoing. This event requires the effort of our entire meeting. Teens and adults come together to experience community and many relationships are strengthened during this two-day event. While this event is the largest undertaking of our meeting, we remain engaged with local organizations. This April we held the first Spring Gift Shop, to benefit three local groups and three wider Quaker organizations.

We were graced with a visit from Cecile Nyiramana in June. She shared her reconciliation work in Rwanda. We had a lovely gathering in honor of Phyllis and Frank Berentsen, who have done so much for our community over many years.

Our Spiritual Nurture program this year drew more than 35 people into participation in two retreats, a personal spiritual practice and a monthly small group meeting. We began planning for a celebration of Quaker marriages to honor our acceptance of gay couples in our meeting. This effort has given us a way to address our concern over the State's pending anti-gay marriage amendment.

Our participation in the wider community has led us to bi-monthly meetings with prisoners at Waupun. In addition, we provide meals at Casa Maria Hospitality House, holiday gift baskets for children and food baskets for Imani House, and books to Milwaukee County Jail. We also contribute mittens to Casa and Imani House each winter. We participated in Katrina relief efforts by providing thirty backpacks to Baton Rouge Meeting after Hurricane Katrina.

We continue our affiliation with two Yearly Meetings. We continue to seek a more integrated relationship and involvement in the Yearly Meeting experience. Last

year's Listening Project helped us focus our attention on our dual affiliation and led to a minute that we would move toward membership in only one yearly meeting. We have considered this matter several times in Meeting for Business but Friends have not yet found clarity on a decision. The process has required patient listening and open hearts and minds as we move toward clarity in this area.

NORTHSIDE

“The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know from whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one born of the Spirit.” John 3:8

Northside, where has Spirit taken us and where are we going? We made a commitment to listen deeply to Spirit when we undertook the Sabbath Year, which we entered in 2003. During this period we put aside our regular business. We laid down all committees and set up a Sabbath Year Committee. All necessary business was to come to the Monthly Meeting. We have continued to express our desire to be led as we create ourselves anew after Sabbath Year.

A new committee framework emerged from a retreat with Ken and Katherine Jacobsen: to have three committees loosely organized as “Us and God“, “Us and Each Other“, and “Us and the World“. The past year, though not one of growth, has been one of re-building the infrastructure of Northside Friends Meeting with this framework in mind. We worked diligently to create descriptions for these two committees and find suitable Friends to serve on them. This is where we are. We continue to examine the question of where we are going.

Us and God: We now have a Worship and Spiritual Life Committee. This committee has had to struggle to meet, at least partly due to not having a clerk or convener (Nominating Committee has since been asked to remedy this). We experienced some struggle over theological issues involving one of the candidates for this committee. This has been resolved, but a dear and weighty Friend is no longer attending Northside in the wake of this.

Nevertheless, Worship and Spiritual Life has brought us several riches:

1. Quakerism 101, which is happening as a one-on-one phenomenon (though several were interested, logistics reduced actual attender(s) to 1);
2. A well-attended (14) and well-received retreat on “Building the Life of the Spirit at Northside”, facilitated beautifully by Janet Means of Lake Forest Meeting and providing an opportunity to really listen to each other;
3. The return of “telling our spiritual journey” as a vehicle for us to know each other spiritually. Alan Tschetter led us off. Sue Tursman’s spiritual journey was facilitated by Evanston Meeting but Northside members and attenders were there in droves as she often attends our midweek meeting.

In addition, we have brought back a monthly Meeting for Healing, which has been very well-attended and very nourishing.

We also have Midweek Meeting for Worship each Wednesday thanks to Tom Stabnicki who hosts MFW and provides a meal afterward.

Friends continue to find refreshing deep worship at Northside.

Us and Each Other: We now have a Pastoral Care Committee. The committee has a clerk, but Nominating Committee was unable to staff the committee. Currently the clerk works with Nominating Committee to form ad hoc committees as needs arise. We have agreed that we are ready to take marriages under our care at this time.

We have had a clearness committee for marriage for Bernard Hope and Joan Crawford. They now have a wedding oversight committee. We currently have a clearness committee for marriage for Patricia Monaghan and Michael McDermott.

Unfortunately, there was an incident of physical abuse between a member and an attender last summer. None of our committees were in place at that time, and Northside Friends Meeting was unable to bring Quaker Process to bear. The painful memory of this incident remains with us.

A very serious issue for Northside is the decline in attendance at our Meeting that has occurred over the past few years. Some Friends left town. Some left at the beginning of Sabbath Year. Some left at the end. Some left because we have been unsuccessful in establishing a First Day School. Some left with no apparent explanation at all. However, we continue to have a stream of visitors, many of whom are encountering Quakerism for the first time.

Two dear Friends have died this year: Doug Tipton, who fought a heroic battle with Multiple Sclerosis, and Chris Davis, who suffered complications from a fall. A memorial service was held at Evanston meetinghouse for Doug and memorial minutes are being written for both Doug and Chris.

We have had some gains though not enough to offset our losses: 2 new members—Elizabeth Sprague and Patricia Monaghan (though both were very active attenders already). However, Elizabeth Sprague moved to Maine shortly after becoming a member and is now attending Cobscook Bay MM. Patricia Monaghan transferred her membership to Northside from Chena Ridge MM in Fairbanks, Alaska. Beth Burbank and Kyran Esler returned from Port Orchard, Washington. Signe Alice Robinwhite was born to Mark Robinson and Marie White on January 12, 2006. Several new attenders found their way to Northside.

We have started planning for First Day School to start soon.

We have become a small meeting and need to learn how to be a small meeting. We have lost experienced Friends and need to learn how to function without them. We are in financial difficulties because of our small size and need to learn how to address this. We are not able to pay our IYM dues at this time. Yet we are examining our financial situation and may be able to pay part of our dues later in the year.

Us and the World: We still have no committees in this category. Many Friends feel that providing a worship space every Sunday and Wednesday is a significant witness to the world. Northside Friends Meeting did, as a corporate body, hold a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Peace as a part of the peace encampment of Christian Peacemaker Teams in March.

We do have child care available every First Day. It was difficult to find someone for this position but we now have a child care person hired from outside the Meeting for a 3 month trial period, with Bill Esler and Brayton Gray for back-up. This will be re-evaluated at our July Monthly Meeting.

We have many individuals in meeting who are faithfully following their leadings on environmental issues (Paz St. John, Steven Walsh, and Charlotte Wood-Harrington), prison issues (Sophie de la Mar), conscientious objection (Elizabeth Sprague and Nathan Parker), witnessing for peace (Paz St. John, Glenn Neumann, Elizabeth Sprague, and Wendy Veith, among others), and spiritual development (Beth Burbank, Joan Crawford, and Patricia Monaghan).

We do have IYM co-representatives, a webmaster, Friends to answer email and telephone inquiries, and mail pickup. We do not have an MCGM representative.

Many feel that we bring ourselves out as Quakers in our communities and witness in small ways in everyday life. One Friend mentioned that he is used as a reference for Quaker belief, testimony, or practice by friends in the world.

This process of re-birth is a difficult one. We are diligent, we continue to listen to each other and, most importantly, we continue to be shaped by the Spirit.

OAK PARK

As a reflection of the times in which we live, the Oak Park Meeting began this year in conflict over the role and primacy of the Quaker peace testimony in our Meeting and in our individual lives. We all continue to work to balance the dynamic tensions that rest at the heart of Quakerism: between the inward spiritual work we do for ourselves and within our community, and the outward work in the world that Friends have always done; and between the needs of the individual and of the group. Yet by diligently seeking guidance from the Spirit, we have continued the Friends' long project of worshiping and working together as a true religious community.

Community: As we continue to strengthen spiritual and social ties among members and attenders, we have added a newsletter and now hold monthly potlucks in private homes. A meeting for reconciliation, facilitated by Maurine Pyle (Lake Forest Meeting) with assistance from Joan Pine (Evanston Meeting), helped provide tools for better communication and understanding among our members and regular attenders.

Our membership remains steady, with two members added and two others resigned. Four attenders have recently applied for membership and our attendance continues to grow, with thirty or more often gathering for First Day worship. Participation in our Meeting for Business and on our various committees and projects remains strong.

Adult Education: This year the newcomers' group completed Quakerism 101 (with guidance from more seasoned Friends). Meanwhile, our Adult Religious Education program continued our "Quaker book group" evening discussions of spiritual books. There was also a monthly First Day book group. Recently a Bible study group began meeting, hoping thereby to learn "experimentally" what relevance it may have for modern lives. Finally, several Friends meet regularly for spiritual formation.

Young Friends: The children's First Day School has benefited from mentoring by several adults who have shared different skills and experiences with the children. The teens planned our Meeting's first-ever overnight teen retreat for April.

Service: Over the 2005-2006 year, members and attenders participated in wide-ranging service activities, including: a work trip to the Oglala Sioux reservation; work with local interfaith groups that serve poor and homeless populations and promote international peace as well as fair trade; and the Meeting is now one of the sponsors of Ten Thousand Villages: Oak Park. We are also active in preservation work in a local forest preserve; provision of information on non-military career options for high school youth; and ongoing food donations to a community food pantry.

We are all grateful for the work our clerks (and all others) have done and continue to do to help our Meeting stay healthy and strong. Peace is worked out first in our day to day relations with others under the influence of the Light within.

OSHKOSH

This has been a busy year – one of striving. We have had no births, marriages, deaths, young regular attenders, or membership applications to the meeting. We have had oversight over various activities: the loan fund and the mailing of the letter asking the community to support the fund, food that was presented to a food pantry, education materials used by members of the meeting who are presenting classes for the benefit of others, and our political activities.

We have strongly supported all peaceful opposition to the war in Iraq and to policies in our country which are biased or less than fair to all. Our opposition has been in the form of legislative contact, protests, and communications and /or support to all those sponsoring the peaceful opposition mentioned. A nation that commits war upon others has to do some serious self-examinations since violence is never an answer or a help towards a lasting solution. Most of the time these countries tend to be out of the light.

We have kept up with local and national political efforts that touch on our Meeting's positions on this and other local, national, and international issues. We have usually managed to find out the facts of a given matter in time to contact our legislatures on these issues and, hopefully, impact legislation concerning them.

We have had prison visitations, and meetings with groups within the Society of Friends. We have encouraged intervisitation and supported both the Illinois Yearly and Northern Yearly Meeting to the best of our ability. When it has been difficult for some of us to do so, we have adjusted and made changes to make it easier for all of our members to attend Meeting whenever possible. This has been an excellent opportunity for the Meeting to increase its tolerance and perception of how the Society of Friends operates. Overall, the elders have been very active in working together to find new and more effective ways to unite the Meeting in striving to be more centered in the principles of Quakerism and in tending to the spiritual affairs of Meeting. While our resources are widely spread and lack the depth they used to have, we have striven and mostly succeeded in covering the issues our Meeting deems the most important.

PEORIA-GALESBURG

Peoria-Galesburg Meeting remains a small meeting of 4 members who meet in homes. A Quaker family of 4 recently moved into the area and will be transferring membership to us soon. We meet in homes and desire for our community to grow and strengthen. We receive occasional visitors, mainly from nearby colleges. We wish to improve our efforts at outreach this year and to become more visible as a Meeting.

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

Friends Meeting of Rolla, a preparative meeting under the care of St. Louis MM, continues its Quaker presence. We are grateful to the United Ministries of Higher Education for the use of their Wesley House for our meetings. We contribute a modest donation towards the costs of the utilities we consume.

The meeting gave support to the American Friends Service Committee for Hurricane Katrina relief as well as to the costs of repair to the meeting house in McNabb, IL. We continue to support the food distribution activity of the Grace Fellowship here in Rolla, MO, now incorporated as the Phelps County Distribution, Inc.

A major Adult Religious Education program for us this past winter was a general study of Quakerism, guided by a Quakerism course designed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We met weekly before meeting. Basic texts included early history of Friends in England, John Woolman's "A Plea for the Poor," "The Place of Universalism" by Daniel Seeger, and Wilmer Cooper's Pendle Hill pamphlet *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends*.

This past year local visitors came to the meeting, some for short terms and some for longer terms. Monthly potluck brings us together for food and fellowship. Three of our local attenders have gone off to college, including our Librarian, who begins medical school in Columbia, MO. Lately, health problems among attenders or among family members added to the shrinking of meeting attendance.

ST. LOUIS

There is a sense among Friends at St. Louis Monthly Meeting that our focus has become more deeply spiritual in the last year. The meeting is growing, both in numbers and in its work in the wider world. Yet challenges have accompanied our growth. Friends who remember a much smaller meeting miss the tightly knit sense of community that smaller meetings have. Though we have many hands, it does not always feel as if our work is made lighter. Friends are struggling with a sense of fatigue—that there is simply more work than our committees can handle or possibly do well—that standing for Friends testimonies in a violent and unjust world can be frustrating and seem to make little difference. Though many of our members and attenders are passionately committed to and involved in specific projects in the meeting, some of our community-wide events have not been drawing a response from Friends. This has led us to wonder if our attention has fractured, or whether we are failing to convey the sense of corporate responsibility that is central to Friends practice.

Our meetings for worship are sound. There are some First Days when no one speaks and we are rejuvenated in the silence. There are other First Days when many Friends speak, and we are nurtured by the messages. We are especially grateful in this difficult time for those who stand for peace, that our meetings for worship have not become overly political—or forums for political debate—but rather that there is a deep sense of expectant waiting upon the Spirit to lead us to speak.

We continue to wrestle with the angel that is our meeting for worship with a concern for business. With the help of Friends General Conference's Traveling Ministries Program, we conducted a workshop this winter about Friends' business practice. We have begun using etiquette guidelines for the meeting for business. We have seen improvements and are better resisting the temptation to do committee work in the face of the meeting. Still the meetings are frustratingly long and often attended by a small group of the same Friends. We are tender to the need to both include more Friends and to better express that the work of the meeting for business is central to our faith. We are confronted with the idea that there may be a culture in our meeting that holds that business prayerfully handled cannot also be efficiently handled.

Our many committees are doing good and important work. The newly formed Social Concerns Committee has been inspiring in its work with the survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, both sponsoring a family of survivors here in St. Louis and working with the Houma Indians in Louisiana. They have also undertaken work to prepare our own neighborhood for disaster response and have reached out to many organizations in our area. We are glad that this work is weaving us more tightly into

the fabric of our St. Louis neighborhood. Our First Day School continues to thrive and expand. Through the work of our First Day School Committee, it is clear that our children are growing spiritually, taking their Quakerism seriously, bonding with older Friends, and that they have a sense of belonging in the meeting as a whole. Our Peace Committee has continued to work against the war in Iraq, and this year drafted a declaration of Peace which was adopted by the meeting. Property Committee has risen to the difficult task of caring for our aging building and we are grateful to report that due to their hard work to rescue us from the depredations of the mold monster we have been able to return to using our meeting room. Although the work of our other committees may be quieter and perhaps less overtly evident, we are grateful for the hard work they do in keeping our meeting vital.

Spiritually we are strong. We give individual members a safe base from which to work as they go out into the world on behalf of Friends testimonies. If there is something we seem to be lacking, it is, perhaps, a sense of joy. With the help of the Spirit we hope that we might stop trudging wearily over the earth and begin answering George Fox's call to "walk cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone."

SOUTH BEND

Our Meeting is in a state of growth, with both the richness and pains that can come with growth.

This year, again, we welcomed several new households as attenders, some from previous Meetings and some new to Friends. Three attenders became members (one through transfer and two through the Clearness process), and two other attenders began the Clearness process. This growth has included many active children, and some weeks children and youth make up a third of our attendance at Meeting for Worship, which varies from 25 to 45 total people. This growth has been widely welcomed as revitalizing, and some feel that even a little more of it could be helpful for a critical mass to sustain healthy on-going committees and First Day school.

Our Meeting is described as alive, strengthening, in transition, fertile ground, pregnant, on the verge of something. Our committees are doing solid work, most of our events are well-attended and we have an active First Day school program (including varied intergenerational field trips) supported by many in Meeting. On the other hand, our Meeting is also experienced as a chaotic hodgepodge lacking cohesive common direction, "like herding cats," with concerns about how we will reach agreement on our future. At least a few of us are intensely critical of areas where the Meeting could be doing better or might be too complacent, and others feel that the weight of this criticism itself threatens to overwhelm our good efforts and lead to burnout, given our moderate size.

In general, our worship together is highly valued and the quality of spoken ministry is very good. Some would like to see a bit more spoken ministry, or a deeper silence—especially in the early centering phase, which is complicated by our physical meeting room situation. Full attendance is challenged by driving distances and by people's level of other commitments or health issues, and we miss those who aren't able to make it to worship. We bring a rich diversity of previous experience with Friends in other places (over 23 other Monthly Meetings!), and are seeking further Light through increased involvement in religious education for both adults and children and in Yearly Meeting. In addition to our periodic Quakerism 101 series

and monthly worship-sharing, this year we have increased spiritual nurturance through before-Meeting seekers' sessions, sharing of spiritual journeys, and reading groups of Quaker writings. We set up a mobile library of 177 volumes, Pendle Hill pamphlets, and booklets and pamphlets. Some still yearn for a more central Quaker identity grounding in Friends faith and practice, and/or Bible study.

Many highly value the friendliness, concern, and support they find among us, and we are currently experienced as quite welcoming of newcomers. This year, we gathered as a community for a wedding of two of our members and for a Memorial meeting after the death of another. We added Fellowship and Outreach to the charge of our Adult Religious Education committee in response to desires for a clearer sense of community, and they facilitated many events to nurture this growing sense, but we are still learning to love and find unity with one another. We likely have differing needs or definitions of community, with some seeking deeper emotional connection and others so committed in other areas of their lives that they are less interested or available in intense community, or even verging on burnout. Like any community we have some interpersonal conflicts, and some of ours stem from old wounds we still carry and hold up to the Light for healing. We need to continue developing listening and conflict resolution skills. This May for the first time we went on an overnight retreat, and it was well-attended. Maureen Pyle led us in visioning exercises, which yielded five working categories of common dreams for the future, and we are planning a part-II retreat this fall to complete this process.

Contributing to some of our challenges in worship and fellowship is the fact that our current rented Meeting space is not adequate in many ways. It was improved this year with a much larger First Day school area and more communication with the landlord agency resulting in both small logistical improvements and a greater sense of mutual mission. However, we still yearn deeply for a dedicated, simple, functional, accessible, calm Meeting space, and the sense of home, identity, comfort, and effectiveness it could bring. We are pursuing a promising possibility in a different and dedicated space with our current landlord, but we still do not have consensus on major aspects of our long-term needs, including owning vs. renting, and staying urban vs. going to a quieter setting.

Although we have many members who are extremely active in peace and social justice issues as individuals, we do not currently have a standing committee on that, so our joint efforts have been somewhat ad hoc. This year we have tried to reach out as a group to collaborate with our landlord, Charles Martin Youth Center, with the local United Religious Community and the Center for Peace and Non-Violence. We collected funds for Hurricane Katrina victims and are hosting a refugee from Chad.

We pray for the energy to continue to spread Light together in meeting the world's aching needs while always seeking, with Divine assistance, to deepen our own worship, fellowship, and unity.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

When all the children, attenders and members of the Southern Illinois Society of Friends (SISF) are seated in one room, we fill about twenty chairs. In worship, we consistently have six to eight, sometimes more. For the past couple of years we have held worship-with-business less than monthly – four to eight times a year – and during our usual worship time, as part of worship. This has worked well for reaching broader unity with more Friends in attendance for business.

Since this fall, we have undertaken a monthly Adult Religious Education series, using Quakerism 101. We all feel exhilarated by these studies and discussions, and it has created a stronger sense of community for us. We are also brought into community by discussing the challenges surrounding our rental space, the Carbondale Inter-faith Center. Funding for the center is collapsing, and drastic changes are likely to occur in the next two years. The IYM Field Secretary has wisely challenged us to use this as an opportunity to clarify our long-term vision for our monthly meeting.

Our First Day School must meet the needs of a 1 year-old, a 4 year-old, a 7 year-old, a 10 year-old, and six teen boys (three of whom just graduated high school this spring). At present, stories and art fill the bill, and in the coming quarter the children will produce another Tom Leverett play, this one based on conscientious objectors in World War II. We hope to take this one on the road, as we did years ago to St. Louis with our play on Lucretia Mott. My, have the children grown since then!

We recently enjoyed a very well attended Saturday pot luck, where we took turns telling the stories of our first experiences with SISF. We also appreciated the visit of Maurine Pyle as Field Secretary, and participated in a foot-washing activity for Easter. Our annual spring camping and worship event was once again rained out, but we made up for it with a graduation party for Adam Alexander, Justin Leverett and Luke Herron-Titus. Our heartfelt congratulations and love go out to these fine young men.

UPPER FOX VALLEY

The Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting maintains an average attendance of seven with an encouraging increase of new attenders in recent weeks. Meeting in the same location each week stabilizes our visibility and enhances our new outreach efforts. In the past year we have taken a position of inclusiveness by stating our openness to attendance and membership of those who are of the same gender, and are in a committed relationship.

Our meeting has agreed to first pay our meeting expenses, and to make our contributions to the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, to Illinois Yearly Meeting, and to Friends General Conference with all of whom we have active involvement. Friends are encouraged to support other Quaker organizations.

Many of our attenders and members are involved with local environmental concerns and educational programs. One of our members is completing her second year of college. Another is in the process of achieving a Masters degree in Social Work at a university. A high school senior has just completed an exchange year living with four different families in Mexico. Two young adults have just completed law school this year: One passed her state boards and had been seeking employment with a Quaker organization. The other is studying to take her bar exams by the end of July and is seeking employment in human rights and labor law.

We are making available spiritual resources to two persons who are experiencing incarceration mainly through sending them the Friends Journal and through the supportive contacts of the family members of our meeting. Some of the adults and our young Friends are involved in music and dance in the community.

Many of our members are increasingly involved with the greater Quaker community which includes Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Illinois Yearly Meeting. A couple of us are deeply involved with the Environmental Concerns Committee and the IYM Site Envisioning and Maintenance

and Planning Committees. One member represents our meeting to IYM and also serves on the Youth Oversight Committee. Another represents IYM on the steering committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Three of our members are affiliated with that group.

This spring our meeting held a memorial service for Mary Fyfe whose release from life last winter brought to completion her physical service on earth as an educator and peace activist. We close this year's State of Society Report in the words of Mary Fyfe who once concluded her State of Society report with these words: "So we continue active and contemplative, typical Quakers and extraordinary Friends."

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Meeting has been in transition – from the small dedicated group who told each other, "If we build it, they will come," and planned and constructed the new meeting-house, to a much expanded group, often three or four times larger than our usual attendance in spring 2004. These new attenders are often new to Quakerism as well as new to our meeting. New Friends are plunging in and helping with responsibilities large and small: hosting Blue River Quarterly; running First Day School; keeping financial records for the meeting; planning monthly silent mini-retreats; conducting meditations for peace; collaborating with other churches on Hiroshima Day commemorations; initiating an interfaith radio show called Acting on Faith; and participating in committees for clearness for membership and marriage.

There are also new voices in the spoken ministry, sharing with one another out of a deep and living silence. Sometimes there is a living sense of the Presence. Worship is often completely silent. The Spiritual Journeys series, with one speaker on Sunday mornings during February and March, drew a group of 10-15 Friends to hear the talks, which featured deep sharing and authentic witness. Questions have been thoughtful, and worship afterwards is deep and reflective. One speaker shared that he had benefited greatly from the effort to prepare his talk. Both newcomers and old-timers have presented a rich array of experiences and reflections.

We welcome new faces in meetings for business. Some business meetings attendance is almost double what it usually was two years ago. We are working to make our business process smoother and more efficient while remaining reflective and centered. We are not always successful at this, but there is an upward trend. We hope this improved process will help all of us, not just new Friends, persist in the work of the meeting.

We have noted with concern that Friends have been leaving the spiritual nurture of our children almost exclusively to their parents. Ministry and Oversight and Religious Education committees have been encouraging Friends without young children to participate actively in our children's spiritual growth. Friends are responding positively to active recruitment and seem to be having a good time. RE recently conducted a lively Intergenerational Sunday, during which Friends had a choice of several fun and meaningful activities shared with the children. Friends had a great time and hope to do similar things again soon. We recently experimented with a four week Tweens Friends class of five ten- to eleven-year-old children. It is good to see their faces in meeting.

New voices, new energies, new thoughts are rippling through the spiritual life of our meeting. We enjoy and learn from each other in a rich symphony of Spirit.

STANDING COMMITTEES

DEVELOPMENT

Clerk: Cathy Garra

2007 Dick Ashdown,
2007 Robert Bartles,
2008 Cathy Garra,
2008 Chip Rorem,
2009 Julia Pantoga

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Roy Treadway

2007 Alice Howenstine,
2007 Bill Howenstine,
2007 Roy Treadway,
2007 Bob Wixom,
2008 Nancy Halliday,
2008 Steve Walsh,
2008 David Wixom,
2009 Sandy Bales
2009 Bob Cordova,
2009 John Hackman,
2009 Hal Mead,
2009 Noel Pavlovic,
2009 Sarah Pavlovic,

COMMITTEE ON FAITH & PRACTICE

Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Sandy Huntley

2007 Cathy Garra,
2007 Sandy Huntley,
2007 Bruce Kanarek,
2007 Elizabeth Mertic,
2009 Judy Jager,
2009 Nancee Miller

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2007 Nancy Jordan,
2007 Margaret Katranides,
2008 Pam Kuhn,

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Tim Narkiewicz

2007 Robin Johnson,
2007 John Knox,
2008 Joe Davison,
2008 John Hackman
2008 Chip Rorem,
2009 William Alsup
2009 Brent Eckert
2009 Bill Howenstine
2009 Tim Narkiewicz
Ex-Officio: Trustees

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT Clerk: David Shiner

2007 Margaret Katranides
2007 Jinny Laughlin,
Janet Means Underhill,
2007 David Shiner,
2007 Martha Turner,
2008 Rebecca Acquisto,
2008 David Finke,
2008 Roxy Jacobs,
2009 Beth Burbank,
2009 Brad Laird,
2009 Joan Pine,

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Margie Haworth

2007 Margie Haworth,
2008 Elke Narkiewicz,
2009 Elizabeth Mertic
2009 David Wixom,
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert,
Rebecca Acquisto,
Margaret Katranides,
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2007 Mark Mattaini,
2007 Breeze Richardson,
2007 Anna Sandidge,
2007 Tom Sandidge,
2007 Chuc Smith,
2008 Bridget Rorem,
2008 Dawn Rubbert,
2009 David Finke,
2009 Chuck Hutchcraft,

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Clerk: John Knox

2007 Chris Jocius,
2008 Nancy Duncan,
2009 John Knox,

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: David Finke

2007 Dawn Amos,
2009 David Finke,
2009 Pat Wixom,
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Chris Jocius

2007 Scott Searles,
2007 David Wixom,
2009 Chris Jocius,
2010 Chris Goode/Kate Gunnell,

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Marti Matthews

2007 Judy Jager
2007 Julia Pantoga,
2007 Carol K. Zimmerman,
2009 David Finke,
2009 Marti Matthews,
2009 Jerry Nurenberg,

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerk: Mike Dennis

2007 Peter Albright
2008 Michael Dennis
2008 Marcia Nelson
2008 Nora Vera-Godwin
2009 William Alsup
2009 Joe Davison
2009 Diane Clark-Dennis
2009 Stephen Domanik
2009 Meg Nelson
2009 Breeze Richardson
Ex-Officio: Teen clerks

AD HOC COMMITTEES

SITE ENVISIONING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE Clerk: Bill Howenstine

Richard Ashdown
Carol Bartles
Sallyann Garner
Bill Howenstine
Jeannie Marvin
Dennis McQueen
Chip Rorem
Beth Schobernd
Matthew Smith
Bobbi Trist

Ex-officio-Clerk

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY IYM FINANCES Contact: Pam Kuhn

Members to be named at Continuing Committee.

AD HOC TRANSITION COMMITTEE Contact: Tom Paxson

Members to be named at Continuing Committee.

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2007 Linda Sizemore
2008 Carol Bartles
2008 Nora Vera-Godwin
Genevieve Wimp-McCann

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2007 Scott Searles,
2008 Grayce Mesner,

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2009 Elaine Meyer-Lee

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2007 Wallace Winter,
2008 Tom Dix,
2009 Betsy Warren,

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER CONC.

2007 Colleen Reardon,

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2008 William Alsup,
2009 Suzanne Siverling,

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2009 Breeze Richardson,

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2008 Olney: Grayce Mesner,
2008 Scattergood: Sharon Haworth,

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2007 Nancy Wallace
Greg Woods,
2009 Dawn Amos,

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

2009 Bob Cordova,
2009 Alice Howenstine,

YOUTHQUAKE

2007 Joe Davison, 1

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2006 CLERK'S COMMITTEE

Janice Domanik, David Finke, Tom Paxson, David Shiner

2006 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Dawn Amos, Nancy Duncan, Pam Melick, Ashlee Miller-Berry

2006 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:

William Alsup, Elizabeth Mertic

2007 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago South

Food and Adult Program: Blue River Quarterly
Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Chicago North

QUARTERLY CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: Peter Lasersohn
Chicago General: Martha Turner

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

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