

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

2008 Sessions will be held from 6/18/08 to 6/22/08
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

2007

July 25
to
July 29

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2007 - 2008

Presiding Clerk:
Tom Paxson

Asst. Presiding Clerk:
Sue Davison

Recording Clerk:
Peter Lasersohn

Asst. Rec. Clerk:
Margie Haworth

Co-Treasurer:
Roger Laughlin

Co-Treasurer:
Dawn Amos

Field Secretary:
Maurine Pyle

Admin. Coordinator:
Sharon Haworth

Youth Coordinator:
Javaughn Fernanders

Teen Friends Co-Clerks:
Monica George
Rose Dennis

Teen Friends Recording Clerk:
Emily Wills

Stewards:
Richard Ashdown
Carol Bartles

Meetinghouse Phone: 815-882-2214
IYM Website: www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2007

Blue River Quarterly							M			
B-N	CC	Co	P-G	St.L	SoI	U-C	DG*	Du	Ev	57
							<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>			
							Average Attendance:			
6	14	21	5	57	8	26	Adults	30	6	60
2	3	1	2	17	3	4	Under 18 years old	3	1	12
							<u>Membership Statistics</u>			
6	29	13	5	65	5	33	Resident Adult Members	51	12	64
2	3	0	2	5	6	8	Resident Young Friends	3	4	20
12	38	31	1	57	5	57	Non-Resident Adult Members	52	2	32
0	1	0	0	3	0	8	Non-Resident Young Friends	1	0	33
20	71	44	8	130	16	106	TOTAL	107	18	149
18	67	44	6	122	10	90	Total Adult Members	103	14	96
2	4	0	2	8	6	16	Total Young Friends	4	4	53
							NEW MEMBERS			
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	By Birth or Adoption	0	1	0
2	2	1	0	3	0	6	By Request	2	1	6
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	By Certificate of Transfer	1	0	0
3	3	1	0	3	0	7	TOTAL	3	2	6
							LOSSES			
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	Deceased	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	0	1	0	Released or Withdrawn	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Transferred	1	0	2
0	1	2	0	1	1	0	TOTAL	1	0	2

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	395
Metro Chicago	687
Wisconsin	<u>120</u>
TOTAL	1202

*Note: These meetings include the Blue River Quarterly as well as IYM.

**Note: Milwaukee area includes the Milwaukee Area Meeting (Friends General Conference).

Please note: We are not including the totals for the Wisconsin area. The totals represent the Illinois area only.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

Metropolitan Chicago							Wisconsin		TOTALS
7*	LF	NoS	OaP	RoV	SB	UFV	Mil**	Osh**	
28	35	12	22	6	23	9	60	8	436
5	6	4	6	0	5	2	15	4	95
16	68	24	17	13	25	11	87	6	550
0	7	3	1	0	8	2	2	0	76
07	71	10	1	1	9	8	24	0	518
0	0	4	0	0	4	3	0	1	58
23	146	41	19	14	46	24	113	7	1202
23	139	34	18	14	34	19	111	6	1068
0	7	7	1	0	12	5	2	1	134
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1	1	0	2	0	5	0	2	1	35
3	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	12
4	1	0	4	4	6	0	2	1	50
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
1	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	8
0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
2	3	5	0	1	1	0	2	1	23

gs are affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting)

and Oshkosh Meetings have dual affiliation with Northern Yearly
(General Conference).

no longer reporting half-membership for dually affiliated meetings.

the entire membership of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

Gweneth Christina Seuss (BI-Norm) 9/06
Faith Badgley (Duneland) 8/06
Eli Nathaniel Hannah (Urb-Cham) 10/06

BY REQUEST:

Christina Schulz & Kevin Seuss
(Bloomington-Normal) 9/06
Ruth Raffensperger (Clear Creek) 2/07
Todd Kuzma (Clear Creek) 6/07
Laura Hans (Downers Grove) 9/06
Sarah Sainsbury (Downers Grove) 10/06
Ethan Julian Cobb (Duneland) 8/06
Dana DesJardins (Evanston) 11/06
Susan Thursman (Evanston) 12/06
Carol Moschandreass (Evanston) 12/06
Jason Orloff (Evanston) 12/06
Karen Carney (Evanston) 1/07
Mary Theis (Evanston) 5/07
Judith Wolicki (57th Street) 9/06
Beth Tartar (Lake Forest) 2/07
Alexander J. Holmes (Oak Park) 10/06
M.G. Bertulfo (Oak Park) 12/06
MaryAnn Rolloff (Oshkosh) 3/07
Steve Hinson (St. Louis) 9/06
Blair Forlaw (St. Louis) 10/06
Kurt Thoroughman (St. Louis) 4/07
Jessica Tannenbaum (South Bend) 10/06
Dan Hungerman (South Bend) 1/07
Javaughn Fernanders (South Bend) 6/07
Julie Ferrer (South Bend) 5/07
John Kindley (South Bend) 5/07
Kim Thoren (Urbana-Champaign) 10/06

Deborah Jadhav (Urbana-Champaign) 11/06
Lark Wentworth (Urbana-Champaign) 1/07
Will Wentworth (Urbana-Champaign) 1/07
Barbara Kessel (Urbana-Champaign) 3/07
Charlotte Green (Urbana-Champaign) 3/07
Andrea Jehly (Milwaukee)
Chris McLaughlin (Milwaukee)
Elizabeth Miller (Milwaukee)
Ann Newcomer (Milwaukee)
Susan Perkins (Milwaukee)
Alan Shucard (Milwaukee)
Elizabeth Skroch (Milwaukee)
Judy Stankewicz (Milwaukee)

BY TRANSFER:

To: Clear Creek: Rebecca Conant, 9/06
To: Downers Grove: Susan Gilmore,
from Mountain View, CO, 4/07
To: 57th Street: Janet Marcus, Michael Sells,
and Ariela Marcus-Sells,
from Lansdowne, PA, 7/06
To: Oak Park: Tom Dix,
from Northside Meeting, 11/06
To: Oak Park: Marcia L. Matthews,
from Northside Meeting, 12/06
To: Rock Valley: Dori Berg, John Hepperly,
Jesse Hepperly & Jody Hepperly,
from Dekalb Meeting, 1/07
To: South Bend: Chris Morrissey,
from Santa Monica, CA, 9/06
To: Milwaukee: Roger Hansen & John
Payton, from Evanston Meeting, 9/06

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Helen Jean Nelson (Clear Creek) 8/06
Marianne Thomas (Columbia) 9/06
Richard Boyajian (57th Street) 12/06
Alice Hayes (Lake Forest) 10/06
Marie Stoops (Oshkosh) 5/07

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Nan George (Columbia) 9/06
Susan George (removed - 57th St.) 6/07
Susan Ware Wennemyr (57th St.) 12/06
Michael Olson (Northside) 11/06
Drea (Pedisich) Gallaga (Northside) 6/07
Frank S. Seever (Northside) 6/07
Mary Jane Bicksler (Rock Valley) 4/07
Jessica Tannenbaum (South Bend) 5/07
Karla Klueter (Southern Illinois) 2/07

BY TRANSFER:

From Downers Grove: Laura Hans, to
Evanston Meeting, 1/07
From Evanston: Roger Hansen & John
Payton, to Milwaukee Meeting, 9/06
From Lake Forest: David Godfrey, to
Eastside Friends in Bellevue, WA, 9/06
From Lake Forest: Hillary Mills,
to Hanover Meeting, NH, 9/06
From Northside: Marti Matthews,
to Oak Park Meeting, 7/06
From Northside: Tom Dix,
to Oak Park Meeting, 9/06
From St. Louis: Danielle Short,
to Mountain View, Denver, CO, 6/07

IYM 2007 Schedule

Theme: Answering *That of God*

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
 7:30-8:45 Address by Lucy Duncan
 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 Attendees 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 / Children's Program
 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:30 - 3:45 Craft, Tent/Recreation for children
 1:30 – 2:15 Worship Sharing Groups
 2:30 – 3:45 Workshops
 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 Panel of Friends speak of how God has led them to Answer That of God through service
 7:30 - 9:00 Campfire & Hayrack ride
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

1:00 Environmental Concerns Canoe Trip
 3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for worship, business and discussion
 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 IYM Planning Groups meet
 4:30 - 5:30 Variety Show
 7:30 - 9:00 Young Friends Service Project
 7:30 - 8:45 Address by Paul Lacey
 9:00 - 9:45 Snacks

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 Margaret Katramides
 11:30 - 12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting
133rd Annual Session
July 25 - 29, 2007
McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Minute 1 We opened the 133rd annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting with silent worship.

Minute 2 We welcomed first-time attenders and Lucy Duncan traveling under the care of Friends General Conference.

Minute 3 Sue Styer read epistles from the intergenerational Quaker Camp at Stillwater in Barnesville, Ohio, and from the FGC Gathering of Friends' Workshop on Eldering.

Minute 4 Pam Kuhn for the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances reviewed what their charges had been during the 2006 annual session and reported on what they have accomplished (see p. 27). The committee will be providing a workshop "Reading Financial Statements" during annual sessions this year. They have assisted the Treasurers to have a new, easily understood presentation format, and have developed a budgeting manual which will be updated as needed by Finance Committee.

The committee recommends the formation of a Review Committee, under the care of the Finance Committee, that can make immediate and sound fiscal decisions between annual sessions, especially for expenditures in excess of 10% of the committee budget or \$5,000. The committee recommends that the members appointed to this committee be two who are very familiar with IYM finances (Clerk of Finance and Treasurer) and one who is very familiar with committee charges and IYM initiatives (Presiding or Assistant Clerk, or Recording Clerk). Friends approved forming this committee.

The committee also recommends that its charge to develop guidelines regarding donations to other organizations be laid down. After prayerful attention, the committee found no unity regarding these guidelines so recommends laying down the charge at this time.

The committee feels that its work is done and recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances be laid down. Friends approved laying down this committee.

Thanks were given to members of the committee, Bruce Kanarek, Nancy Wallace and Pam Kuhn, for their hard work.

Minute 5 Handbook Committee brought forward several recommendations for changes to the handbook. See page 43 for details of these recommendations.

Friends approved: #3, 4, and 6 - 13.

Friends approved #1 with recommended changes.

Numbers 2, and 5 will be taken back into consideration by the Handbook committee to clarify.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, July 26, 2007

Minute 6 We opened the session in worship.

Minute 7 Excerpts from epistles were read from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns and from Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

Minute 8 We welcomed newly-arrived Friends and visitors, including Jim and Ginger Kenney, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation. A letter of introduction for Lucy Duncan, representing Friends General Conference, was read.

Minute 9 Nominating Committee gave the first reading of the nominating report. The final report will be given on Saturday. The following nominations were made for the Exercises Committee: Melissa Skinner, Casey Kashnig, Jinny Laughlin. For the Epistle Committee: Sue Styer, Ted Kuhn, Caryn Wixom, Dawn Amos.

Minute 10 The Naming Committee report was given, proposing the following names for the Nominating Committee: 2008: Elke Narkiewicz, Ruth Raffensperger. 2009: Elizabeth Mertic (Clerk), David Wixom. 2010: Sue Styer, Judy Erickson.

Minute 11 Tom Paxson for the Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee brought forward several recommendations for consideration and approval. (See p. 28 for complete details.) The committee's recommendations are:

1. Revise the proposed corporate Bylaws so that Article IV #2 reads: The officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall be a Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, a Treasurer, the Stewards, and such additional Clerks as the Illinois Yearly Meeting may appoint as officers. Friends approved this recommendation.
2. Stewards may be thought of as analogous in the new structure to the trustees in the earlier one. At the direction of IYM, stewards will have responsibility and authority to manage the real estate and tangible property of IYM and shall appoint and/or employ persons as required. Stewards will represent the YM in renovating the buildings and grounds, in securing insurance, and in dealing with easements or leases and other management needs as they arise. Among these may be property tax matters and planning, zoning, and building permit issues. IYM may direct others to assist the stewards in specific matters. Friends approved this recommendation.
3. There will be three stewards, at least two from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting; the three stewards will serve as corporation officers, with staggered six-year terms, renewable indefinitely in accordance with our nominating process. Friends approve.
4. The Nominating Committee will consult with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in its process of discerning nomination of the stewards from that meeting. Friends approve.
5. Stewards consult with the relevant yearly meeting committees and the clerk of the yearly meeting prior to signing any major contracts. Care is to be taken that decisions made between annual sessions are in accord with the spirit and direction of decisions and policies approved by the yearly meeting at annual session. Friends approve.
6. Committees considering making changes to yearly meeting buildings and/or grounds are expected to consult with Clear Creek MM concerning these changes and *vice versa*. Friends approve.

7. The three stewards will be *ex-officio* members of the Maintenance & Planning committee. Friends approve.
8. The stewards will name one of their number to be a representative to the Finance Committee as an *ex-officio* member and to serve as a contact person in the budget process. Friends approve.

The committee recommends a set of guidelines regarding the signing of major contracts for the IYM buildings and grounds. (See attached p. 33 for details of guidelines.)

Friends recommend changing #3 to read... e.g. "Maintenance and Planning."

Friends also recommend changing #3.b. to read "... have contract reviewed by attorney" instead of "have bid reviewed."

Friends approve the guidelines with the recommended changes.

The committee also presented recommendations regarding Personnel Issues, Management Issues, and Decision-Making between annual session. See page 33 for details.

The committee recommends:

1. That the yearly meeting establish an ad hoc exploratory committee to identify personnel issues and to consider the advisability of a personnel committee.

Friends approve the formation of this committee. Volunteers are asked to speak with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

2. The formation of a small committee to address the concern of records management.

Friends approve formation of this committee. Volunteers are asked to speak with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

3. That the yearly meeting consider the issues of authority and responsibility regarding decision-making between annual sessions.

No action was taken.

Thanks are given to the members of this committee for their work. Friends expressed their belief that this has been an example of our "best practices."

The committee feels that their work has been completed and Friends approve laying it down.

Minute 12 David Shiner for Ministry and Advancement read the description of the function of M&A to assist Friends to better understand the role of this committee. This year's Committee of Care is made up wholly of members of M&A. David also reminded Friends that one role of M&A is to oversee the Field Secretary. Thanks were given to the YM for expanding the hours for her work.

Maurine Pyle, Field Secretary, was unable to be with us today, so David Shiner read her report in her absence. Her many activities over the past year were shared as well as a series of her own observations to challenge Friends to discuss the future of our monthly and yearly meetings.

Friend Bill Brown, although having planned to attend, was unable to. A poster card was created for Friends to sign to send to Bill and Sandra.

The committee was asked to describe how they will work to support the Adult Young Friends group that at the moment is fairly strong. It was reported that this strength is growing nationwide as was reflected in the Epistle read on Wednesday from the Quaker Camp at Stillwater. The committee will continue to support those Friends whenever possible through conferences, workshops and Quakes.

Friends accepted the reports of M&A and the Field Secretary.

Minute 13 The Faith and Practice committee reported that they have met numerous times over the past year and have received feedback from individuals and monthly meetings regarding the proposed section on marriage. The committee presented the text on marriage proposing that the yearly meeting adopt the text for a five-year provisional period.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the committee was able to obtain copies of the book *Living with Oneself and Others*, by the New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee, for every monthly meeting and worship group in IYM.

The Faith and Practice Committee reports that it has also been working on a section on meeting organization and structure. In the coming year the committee will be working more on the general introduction and section on membership and hope to bring a new version to the 2008 annual session.

Following a reading of the section on Marriage, recommendations for revision were given by Friends. The committee will take these under advisement, meet further with Friends this week, make appropriate changes and bring back the revisions later in the week.

The concern was raised that further guidance is needed in this section if the Clearness Committee is not clear that the union should proceed.

Friends approved the first reading of this section, pending revision.

Minute 14 Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee and referred Friends to their printed report in the Advance Documents. (See p. 35) An announcement was made to remind Friends that the canoe trip will be held tomorrow and there are 41 people signed up to go. The committee has new brochures about the nature trail for Friends to pick up and enjoy.

Minute 15 Various Illinois Yearly Meeting representatives to Quaker organizations reported on their work: Janice Domanik for Friends General Conference, and Nora Vera-Godwin for American Friends Service Committee. Dawn Amos rose to thank the yearly meeting for sending her to the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial in Dublin in August, and to remind Friends that FWCC has an ongoing capital campaign. It is going very well and Friends are encouraged to continue to support FWCC.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, July 27, 2007

Minute 16 We opened the session with worship.

Minute 17 Epistles were read from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Minute 18 Announcements were made. First-time attenders were introduced and welcomed.

Minute 19 The report naming the Exercises and Epistles committees first read yesterday was approved.

Minute 20 Peter Lasersohn for Faith and Practice Committee presented their revisions to the section on Marriage and asked that the section be approved for a five-year provisional period. Friends discussed the wording of "intention" vs. "promise" in the vows to be loving and faithful for as long as both shall live. Friends feel that

individuals entering into a union should do so as a promise with Divine assistance. Friends approved the recommended changes and approved the section. (See p. 63)

Minute 21 Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discernment of Gifts. This group made up of Mariellen Gilpin, Martha Turner, Janice Domanik, Marti Mathews and Margie Haworth met under the care of Ministry and Advancement. A statement was presented regarding the purpose of the committee. The committee conceives its mission as:

1. To help monthly meetings and IYM experience discernment, and the nurturing of gifts for the meeting, as these grow out of the history of the Religious Society of Friends.
2. To provide meetings with the resources to use worship-sharing, clearness committees, and the seasoning that results, to be open to how the Spirit moves among us.
3. To assist nominating committees with their work and to help monthly meetings to listen to and nurture individual leadings.

The committee requests that more members be appointed including one to be the M&A liaison. This request was referred to M&A.

Friends approved the report.

Minute 22 Mariellen Gilpin made an impassioned plea to Friends to make IYM more accessible to those with disabilities. She requests that steps be taken immediately, not just to wait for the new building to be built.

Friends echoed her plea and shared their appreciation for bringing forward the concerns. Friends would like a committee to be asked to study the issue of accessibility. Bobbi Trist and Robin Johnson offered to have Friends approach them with ideas or concerns to be addressed.

Minute 23 Maintenance and Planning reported on their full year of activities. Looking to the coming year the committee identified two emerging concerns: One was the need to place more emphasis on long-range stewardship of existing facilities as opposed to “putting out fires.” The other was to better honor Quaker testimonies in their work. A draft mission statement was created to guide the committee’s work (See page 47).

Friends approved the report.

Minute 24 Cathy Garra reported for the Site Envisioning and Building and the Development Committees highlighting the projects they have accomplished over the past year as well as plans for the coming year. It was reported that funds are still needed for the Property Improvement Fund. Their report proposes combining these two committees to become a standing IYM committee called the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Friends approve the formation of this committee and approved the report.

Cathy Garra and Bill Howenstine presented a fun announcement on the special events that will be happening today to inform Friends of all of the work that has been accomplished over the past year.

Minute 25 Roger Laughlin presented the first reading of the budget. The budget is a bit higher this year due to increased travel of staff and IYM representatives.

Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's report including the Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet, first instructing Friends on how to understand the new format. (See pp. 19 - 24)

Minute 26 Fall Continuing Committee will be held on the 20th of October. Location will be determined later.

The dates for the Winter Retreat will not yet be set but Friends hope that it may occur again in February. A suggestion was made for the theme of the retreat to be on Eldering.

Discussion was again opened regarding changing the dates of annual session. Friends raised the concerns of school dates, year-end financial statements, and Memorial Day work weekend. The issue of dates will also be forwarded to the new committee addressing the issues of accessibility.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, July 28, 2007

Minute 27 We opened the session with silence.

Minute 28 Epistles were read from Ireland Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Minute 29 Members of the Finance Committee proposed various minutes for approval. (See p. 37)

- A. Proposed Trust Property Transfer Minute.
- B. Proposed Affidavit of Continuity Minute.
- C. Proposed Corporation and Property Minute.
- D. Proposed Minute to Register the Yearly Meeting as an Illinois Charitable Organization.
- E. Proposed Minute to Designate Officers Authorized to Sign Contracts.

Friends approved minutes A-E.

- F. Financial Distribution.

Friends approved this minute with changes in wording.

The committee also suggested changes to the proposed bylaws brought forward in July 2006. (See p. 41) Friends approve the bylaws as presented with the suggested changes. An ad hoc committee will be formed under the care of the clerks to write a Conflict of Interest Policy.

Friends approve the Finance Committee report and thank the committee for all of their work and effort on this project.

A minute of appreciation was read thanking all past and current trustees for their years of dedicated service.

Minute 30 Introductions were made of visitors and first-time attenders including Paul Lacey of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. He is Professor Emeritus of English at Earlham College, clerk of the American Friends Service Committee Board, and our Saturday evening speaker.

Minute 31 The budget was again addressed for questions or comments. Friends approved the budget as presented. (See pp. 25 - 26) Thanks were given to the Finance Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Finances and the Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Issues of Transition for all of their work on the transition to the new financial system.

Minute 32 Bobbi Trist, Ruth Milledge, and Robin Johnson will make up a “working party” to study accessibility issues under the care of the Maintenance and Planning Committee. Friends approve the formation of this group.

Minute 33 Discussion resumed regarding changing the dates of the next annual session. Unity was not reached at this point. We will re-visit this issue later.

Minute 34 David Shiner reported for M&A. They request that the annual session officially recognize the laying down of DeKalb Monthly Meeting. This was done. The Presiding Clerk wrote to their clerk that Friends present at spring Continuing Committee, where their letter was read, were touched by their faithfulness in sustaining DeKalb Monthly Meeting over the years. She expressed Illinois Yearly Meeting’s pleasure that memberships from DeKalb Monthly Meeting had been transferred to another meeting

M&A was charged with appointing Friends to the ad hoc committee regarding Discernment of Gifts. Mariellen Gilpin, Janice Domanik and Margie Haworth have agreed to continue. Brad Laird and Monica Tetzlaff have also agreed to serve on this committee. Friends approve these names and the continuation of the ad hoc committee for another year under the care of M&A.

Minute 35 Elizabeth Evans reported that Milwaukee Monthly Meeting will officially lay down their IYM membership on August 31, 2007, in order to belong to only Northern Yearly Meeting. Friends unite that we release Milwaukee Monthly Meeting with love and support. We welcome those Friends who wish to continue to worship with us and accept these Friends as Participating Members in our business sessions.

Minute 36 It was noted that two representatives of IYM, Carol Zimmerman and Susanna Davison, attended Northern Yearly Meeting’s annual session over this past Memorial Day weekend. They commended Milwaukee Monthly Meeting to NYM’s care. A past IYM clerk recalled with pleasure his attendance at NYM in the 1970s.

Minute 37 The Nominating Committee gave a second reading of its report. Friends approve the nominations listed and appoint the Friends nominated to terms beginning at the conclusion of the 2007 annual sessions.

Minute 38 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (See p. 53). They will work with our architects to address concerns regarding sustainability and accessibility issues connected with new and existing buildings, and request permission to do so even if this requires spending money beyond what has been reserved for development costs in the Property Improvement Fund. The committee proposes to develop this idea in further detail and to report at Continuing Committee. The committee will also offer a workshop on the issues of sustainability and accessibility, details of date and location to be determined later.

Minute 39 Marti Matthews reported for the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee. (See p. 52) It is felt that much has changed since the committee started over ten years ago. Opportunities for service are found much more broadly now. The committee will be developing a new statement of its mission, and scaling back the set of tasks it undertakes. The committee poses several queries to the Yearly Meeting, including whether it wishes to have an organized presence in the

field of Quaker Volunteer Service, and, if so, how the Yearly Meeting can add to the experience of Friends pursuing volunteer service. The committee requests the naming of a new clerk and additional members, and discernment of a name for the committee which reflects its revised purpose. Friends approved the report.

Minute 40 After free and full discussion, it was decided to schedule our 2008 sessions for the third Wednesday of June through the following Sunday.

Minute 41 Friends expressed their gratitude for Sue Davison's service as clerk for the last two years.

Minute 42 Mike Dennis reported on the many activities of the Youth Oversight Committee (See p. 56). The tentatively proposed events during the coming year are:

- On 11/9-12/07 (Veterans Day weekend) at 57th Street meeting house to do an Alternatives to Violence Project workshop
- On 1/18-21/08 (MLK Day weekend) at Evanston meeting house
- On 5/23-26/08 (Memorial Day weekend) at Clear Creek meeting house for a work camp
- On 6/18-22/08 (Illinois Yearly Meeting) at Clear Creek / Junior Yearly Meeting house

A Youth Coordinator has been hired: Javaughn Fernanders of South Bend Meeting. She was introduced and warmly welcomed to this new position. Friends thank Mike and the rest of the committee for their work.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, July 29, 2007

Minute 43 We opened the session in silence.

Minute 44 We heard Epistles from the 3-5 year olds, the 7-11 year olds, the Jr. High Friends, the High School Friends, and the Adult Young Friends. Ted Kuhn read the outgoing Epistle and Jinny Laughlin read the Exercises. (See pp.14-18)

Minute 45 Friends were thanked for their service throughout the year on yearly meeting committees.

Minute 46 We recognized Friends in attendance from monthly meetings in IYM.

Minute 47 The 2008 Nominating Committee brought forward two names to serve as Stewards: Carol Bartles - 2013, Dick Ashdown - 2011. They further ask to bring forward a third Steward at the fall Continuing Committee. Friends approved this report and the names of these stewards.

Minute 48 Annual session closed with silent worship.

EXERCISES

“Peace House on the Prairie” was nowhere yet to be seen on the Illinois horizon during our yearly meeting on July 25th-29th, 2007. However the seeds of such spirit are evident in the enthusiastic carriage of our members and attenders. Also evident were a good number of our young and young-at-heart Friends under the enchantment of the final book of the Harry Potter series due to its being released the week before.

We never have to place statues of children playing on our front lawn because our youngsters and young adults were always there playing Frisbee, kicking balls back and forth, strumming musical instruments, or simply lounging around in the grass catching up. Young Friends also found places to swim as well as creating various arts and crafts.

“As the sun set slowly in the west”, many children and “big kids” alike enjoyed the hayrides up and down Quaker Lane while others enjoyed the experience vicariously from their view on the meeting house porch. For one weekend evening, the adults again found their inner child, venturing onto the front lawn accompanying their children for the annual grand ol’ hoedown featuring live music and folk dancing. We also chowed down on watermelon and cake decorated with a photo of our meeting house in celebration of having made progress with building projects on our grounds.

We were blessed with cooler, more comfortable weather than in previous Julys, but our good friend “Humidity” was still ever present. In accordance with what seems to have become another yearly meeting tradition, the rain appeared one night drenching tents and pouring throughout ’til the next midday. A miraculous break then occurred just in time for the canoe crew to delight in their outing through the restored wetlands along Hennepin and Hopper Lakes just east of the Illinois River.

Our Environmental Concerns Committee who planned the joyous boat trip also provided materials for a short self-guided tour around our IYM grounds showcasing many lovely spots in which to contemplate Spirit while appreciating our wildflowers and other native prairie plants. Many explored our area again when we partook in a fun and informative scavenger hunt.

The variety show overflowed with talent. There were singers, a fiddle and banjo duo, a harpist, puppeteers, a flute and hammered dulcimer player, a comedian and a storyteller.

Yearly meeting sessions are not only about conducting business, as important as they are, but we also thoroughly enjoyed the fruits of the labors of a multitude of gifted IYM members and attenders, both past and present.

- Sincerely submitted, Casey Kashnig, Jinny Laughlin & Melissa Skinner

EPISTLES

2007 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Out of his full store we have all received grace upon grace...[John 1:16]

To Friends Everywhere,

We send our greetings of joy and love from the 133rd annual session of Illinois Yearly Meeting near McNabb, Illinois. Our theme, *Answering that of God*, found us walking cheerfully as we celebrated our many blessings.

We were blessed to be gathered under God's presence which allowed us to conduct our business with relative ease. Much of the laboring and seasoning had been done prior to this session as our committees were led by divine guidance and Quaker process to discern the way forward. We were able to complete the transition of legal and financial structures, and move forward with the ongoing renovation and upkeep of our historic site, issues that we had struggled with in previous sessions.

We also celebrated the re-invigoration of our youth program, in tune with the growth of youth programs throughout the wider Quaker world. We were led to find the resources to hire a youth coordinator and to renovate the youth meetinghouse. Our efforts have been rewarded with increased participation and a new cohesiveness and energy for the youth, providing us hope for the future.

Amid our celebration, our joy was tempered by the realization that many of our members were unable to join us at this annual session because of accessibility issues. We would like to lift up the gifts of elders—people who have insights and experiences in a variety of different realms. We have been led to move the time of our gathering not only in hopes that cooler weather will allow more Friends to attend, but also to avoid conflicting dates with yearly meetings in neighboring states. This is one small step that we are taking as we are called to face the challenges of accessibility.

As we are called to answer that of God, our keynote speaker, Paul Lacey, reminded us that answering implies a two-way relationship. We are not only called to answer, but also to listen and wait for answers. The answer that triggers our anger and defensiveness is the hint at the God in us that is in captivity.

We celebrate our renewed commitment to community and to acceptance of growth and change as we form a deeper relationship with the Divine.

Love, peace, and blessings,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Adult Young Friends Epistle

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls of all ages...

Quakers, Shakers, and everyone under the sun...

LET'S GET READY FOR SILENCE!!!

Dear Epistle Diary,

We gathered at these hallowed Illinois Yearly Meeting grounds on the 7th month of year 2007 from 25th day through 29th day.

We gathered as a group for the first time since our AYF "Tsunami" retreat last January at the Evanston Meeting House in Chicagoland. We noticed a significant difference in the "cornstalks to people ratio" between the two locations; this place also appears to have bright dots in the evening sky, which I am told are called "stars."

It has become apparent in discussion throughout the past year that IYM AYFers have entered, or will soon enter, a transition period in their lives. In worship sharing we milled over queries such as a) Where do we find ourselves now? b) What's next? c) What positive aspects are we anticipating? and d) What hardships might we encounter? A common theme that came out of the worship sharing was "community." This community has become a family to many of us over the years. However, a critical thought that resonated throughout the group was the need for a similar community outside of the IYM AYF during the rest of the year. Many of us recognize that this search for a community may lead us to new places throughout the country and the world.

*****INSERT "KICKIN" SEGWAY (and pause for effect)*****

For our out trip, we traveled through the cornfields to find a hidden gem within: Mathiessen Park. To all you "stereotypin' fools" out there that believe that Illinois is 100% flat, Mathiessen Park will prove you wrong...most of us in the AYF community being "stereotypin' fools" ourselves, were incredibly shocked. In the woods at the park, we climbed about 50 feet down stairs just to find ourselves atop a canyon. When venturing another 50 feet down to the bottom of the canyon (that's a total of 100 feet below cornfield level!) we encountered beauties such as caves and even a waterfall!

We spend our evenings by carrying out the traditional chillaxin' methods of the past: jaunts to the railroads and the Quaker grave yard, discussions over classic card games such as spades, hearts, and the newly popularized Crazy 8's...even though the 8's claim that they are the only sane ones of the deck.

Oh IYM AYF, I cannot wait to see you at this January's "Tsunami" retreat, and then, of course, next summer again at yearly meeting. I will leave you with the immortal words of Tom Hanks, "There's no crying in baseball!"

With love,

The Adult Young Quakers of the Corn

p.s. That George Fox fellow is so dreamy, I wouldn't mind getting into those "shaggy, shaggy locks."

High School Friends Epistle

Dear Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting,

When we arrived on Wednesday we found old friends from past years and many new friends. Our new clearness process admitted many entering freshmen into our group, making it larger than normal. We were delighted to have so many people at gathering and see so many new faces. To get to know each other we played our traditional games on the lawn. Bringing together the aging seniors and the nervous freshmen was difficult, but thanks to the endless assortment of games we managed to assimilate newcomers into the collective.

Thursday we enjoyed two workshops led by our own members. One workshop, led by Meg Nelson and based on the Great Books Curriculum, challenged us to read a classic essay and examine our beliefs. The next workshop was led by one of our high school clerks, Ashlee Miller-Berry. We learned stress breathing and how to relax under pressure. To help out the IYM community we annually help with one meal. We not only prepared the corn for the meal, nicknamed Operation Shuck, but we also served dinner and cleaned up after the meal. After dinner at dusk we went for a beautiful hayride. Then we helped the younger kids with a nighttime camp fire. We had loads of sublime s'mores and enjoyed the company of each other.

Friday morning we were introduced to our newest member of the high school family, Javaughn Fernanders. She is our newly-acquired Youth Coordinator and has given our community new life and energy. Along with a new coordinator we also picked a new clerk and recording clerk. For clerk we nominated Rose Dennis and for recording clerk we nominated Emily Wills, to replace Ashlee Miller-Berry as clerk and Steve Kuhn as recording clerk. We had planned to go canoeing, but unfortunately the heavens opened up for us and washed away our plans for the day. Fortunately we had a plan B; to go bowling. We had too much fun messing up and trying to get high scores. After an afternoon at the bowling alley, we came back for dancing on the lawn.

On Saturday it became increasingly harder to get out of our beds, but we did. We had our business meeting where we planned our next quake and we were offered resources regarding sexual abuse, by the committee for Ministry and Advancement. We also created an ad-hoc committee to help fundraise money for people to go to other Quaker youth events by creating tee-shirts. In the afternoon we had the opportunity to go swimming or go to a workshop. The variety show showcased our many talents and we stayed up all night commiserating and communing over pizza until sun rise.

Sunday we used the rest of our dwindling energy to clean and say our good-byes—some more painful than others, as our five seniors would no longer be in the high school after gathering. But they will continue to follow their calling and answer that of God within, while our newest members will continue our grand traditions and leave our legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

The High School group

Junior High Young Friends Epistle

To Friends everywhere, from Quinn Laird, Liz Anderson, Nathan Howenstein and Nikki Barker,

On Thursday we began with a discussion of Places of Power. Then we began an overview of the Bible, discussing the two versions of the creation of the world. We also gave attention to the Faith and Practice, discussing why Quakers don't baptize. We also went for a brief walk, and expressed our musical interests and abilities. We found it interesting to compare different versions of the Bible. Later that day we played a game of Ultimate Frisbee and relaxed the rest of the evening.

Friday we began planning for our service project—building shelves for the cabins—and we continued our Bible study. We watched a movie called “Clean and Sober” about a man who is being chased by the police, due to the fact that he was an addict. He then checks into a rehab facility to escape the police. Later in the day we took an Environmental Concerns canoe trip. We then participated in square dancing.

We ended off the week with a brief review of the New Testament, read Faith and Practice about Quaker beliefs about the Bible, and discussed what epistles are and wrote ours. In the evening we took action to our service project.

In Light and Love,
The Junior High Schoolers

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 7-11

This goes to Friends Everywhere –

This year we have been painting angels, making necklaces, and coloring stained glass butterflies. We have been meeting and making new adult (F)friends. On the third day some new kids joined us and we played with marionettes and beads.

We heard a Native American story about the seasons called *Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back* and learned that we are meeting together at the Acorn Moon, and wrote with quills made from a goose's feathers (Sebrina's goose named Gregory).

We thought about what an 11th commandment might be. Ours would either be that police officers are not hurt, or that there should be no shooting.

We learned from Jabez's prayer that if we ask God, we can receive.

- Claire Goode, Laure Good, Murphy Beattie, Amal Tamari, Liam Gardner,
Margaux Newman-Brown, Jesse Newman-Brown

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-5

The 8 Young Friends who joined the 3-5 year old group at various times had many different interests.

Their first project was to make designs on napkins with markers and rubbing alcohol. The napkins were going to be sold to raise money for Right Sharing of World Resources.

Their other project was to make placemats with the theme “Walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.”

They also enjoyed storytime, drawing, blowing bubbles, playing with playdough, beanbag toss, and playing in the sandbox and on the swings.

Pam Timme, Bobbi Trist, and Helen Dickinson had fun playing and learning with this group, and were grateful for assistance from Claire and Paige Griffith, local babysitters.

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet
June 30, 2007

Assets

Cash	
Checking Account	70,806.33
Certificate of Deposit	12,282.72
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Cash	<u>93,089.05</u>
Prepaid for 2007 session	2,160.45
Undeposited funds	<u>9,810.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>105,059.50</u>

Liabilities

Loans	
Loans from Duneland, Evanston	13,000.00
Deferred Revenue	250.00
Total Liabilities	<u>13,250.00</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted Undesignated (A) - Operating	27,214.39
Unrestricted Designated (B-E)	48,169.27
Restricted (F-I)	<u>16,425.84</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>91,809.50</u>

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>105,059.50</u>
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NET ASSETS BY FUND
For the period

WITH DETAILS
7/1/06 - 6/30/06

	UNRESTRICTED by Donors or Business Meeting	DESIGNATED by IYM Business Meeting (Future Use Savings)				
	(A) Unrestricted & Not Designated	(B) Special Gifts	(C) Payroll Reserves	(D) FWCC 3-5 Year Mtgs	(E) Replaces ments	(F) Property Improvement
Beginning Balance	45,052.91	12,746.82	-	2,583.23	-	79,389.06
Net Assets 6/30/2006						
Income						
Contributions - Mtgs	65,905.00					1,150.00
Contributions - Individ	7,358.62			587.57		53,420.00
IYM 06 Registrations	14,156.10					
Interest	1,465.94					
Benefit Sales	184.89					1,193.76
Other Registrations	2,674.33					
Other	601.00					
Total Income	92,345.88	-	-	587.57	-	55,763.76
Expenses						
Expenses	(68,415.76)	(856.50)	-	(4,370.80)	(3,721.05)	(124,502.87)
Net income (loss)						
before transfers	23,930.12	(856.50)	-	(3,783.23)	(3,721.05)	(68,739.11)
Transfers						
For Special Gifts		-				
For Payroll Reserves	(36,000.00)		36,000.00			
For FWCC 3-5 Yr Mtgs	(1,200.00)			1,200.00		
For Replacements	(4,000.00)				4,000.00	
For Property						-
For Youth Coordinator	(568.64)					
For Adult Young Friends						
Total Transfers	(41,768.64)	-	36,000.00	1,200.00	4,000.00	-
Ending Balance						
Net assets	27,214.39	11,890.32	36,000.00	-	278.95	10,649.95

IL FOR TRANSFERS

07

RESTRICTED			
by Donors			
(G)	(H)	(I)	
Ken Ives Scholarship	Youth Coordinator	Adult Young Friends	Total
			139,772.02
	1,000.00		68,055.00
	3,117.50	420.26	64,903.95
			14,156.10
			1,465.94
			1,378.65
			2,674.33
584.96	447.53		1,633.49
584.96	4,565.03	420.26	154,267.46
(363.00)			(202,229.98)
221.96	4,565.03	420.26	(47,962.52)
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
	568.64		-
		-	-
-	568.64	-	-
221.96	5,133.67	420.26	91,809.50

	Income/Expense Statement			Budget versus
	For the Period			7/1/06 - 6/30/07
	Total	(B-E) Designated	(F-I) Restricted	(A) Unrestricted
Revenue				
Contributions-Meetings	68,055.00	-	2,150.00	65,905.00
Contributions-Individuals	64,903.95	587.57	56,957.76	7,358.62
Special Gifts	-			
Registrations IYM06	14,156.10			14,156.10
Registrations Other	2,674.33		-	2,674.33
Interest	1,465.94			1,465.94
Benefit Sales	1,378.65		1,193.76	184.89
Other	1,633.49		1,032.49	601.00
Total Revenue	154,267.46	587.57	61,334.01	92,345.88
Expenses				
IYM06 Session	12,190.41			12,190.41
Operating				
Salaries & Payroll	26,336.48			26,336.48
Travel (Staff)	2,983.06			2,983.06
Travel (IYM Reps)	5,809.60	4,370.80		1,438.80
Insurance	1,556.00			1,556.00
Office	1,271.96		186.04	1,085.92
Committees	5,501.11			5,501.11
Youth Oversight	3,301.41			3,301.41
Professional Fees	2,056.50	856.50	1,200.00	
Site Repairs & Maint	9,429.35	3721.05		5,708.30
Sufferings (Undesignate)	(100.00)			(100.00)
Other Operating	-			
Other Programs	1,934.27			1,934.27
Support to others	6,780.00		300.00	6,480.00
Property - Meetinghouse	-			
Property - Other Bldgs	123,179.83		123,179.83	
Total Expenses	202,229.98	8,948.35	124,865.87	68,415.76
Net income (loss)	(47,962.52)	(8,360.78)	(63,531.86)	23,930.12
Transfers (see Net Assets By Fund)	-	41,200.00	568.64	(41,768.64)
Beginning Balance Net Assets	139,772.02	15,330.05	79,389.06	45,052.91
Ending Balance Net Assets	91,809.50	48,169.27	16,425.84	27,214.39

Actual

7

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>
	70,000.00	(4,095.00)
	3,000.00	4,358.62
	12,190.00	1,966.10
	1,934.00	740.33
	1,300.00	165.94
	184.89	-
	-	601.00
	88,608.89	3,736.99

	12,190.00	-
	30,000.00	(3,663.52)
	4,000.00	(1,016.94)
	5,500.00	(4,061.20)
	4,400.00	(2,844.00)
	1,400.00	(314.08)
	6,100.00	(598.89)
	2,500.00	801.41
		-
	5,000.00	708.30
		(100.00)
		0
	1,934.00	-
	6,480.00	-
		-
		-
	79,504.00	(11,088.24)
	9,104.89	14,825.23
	(41,768.64)	-

**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting Contributions
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007**

	Unrestricted	Property Improvement	Youth Coordinator
Bloomington-Normal	990.00		
Clear Creek	5,600.00		
Columbia	3,200.00		
Downers Grove	4,250.00		
Duneland	1,300.00		
Evanston	10,340.00	750.00	1,000.00
57th Street	1,400.00		
Lake Forest	14,948.00	400.00	
Milwaukee	2,462.00		
Northside	1,400.00		
Oak Park	0.00		
Oshkosh	100.00		
Peoria Galesburg	<i>480.00</i> *		
Rock Valley	1,200.00		
Rolla	200.00		
St. Louis	5,580.00		
South Bend	3,960.00		
Southern Illinois	1,000.00		
Upper Fox Valley	1,375.00		
Urbana-Champaign	6,600.00		
Total	\$65,905.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,000.00

Notes

In summer 2006, IYM changed its financial accounting and increased the suggested monthly meeting contribution per Adult Resident Member (ARM) by 21%, to \$200, in order to hire a Youth Coordinator and meet other staff increases. This request did not reach monthly meetings until November. The summer 2007 report will therefore show a few one-time special notes as shown below.

1) St. Louis let us know that we would see a one-time apparent reduction of support (by one quarter) because their quarterly system and budget planning did not coincide with ours. We were grateful for the communication.

* 2) Peoria Galesburg let us know that their July 2006 contribution should not have been recorded in the 2006 report; in fact, it may be that the contributions recorded in the 2005 report were not listed as intended. For the summer 2007 report, we will note again the amount originally reported in 2006, but not add it to the total. Additionally, the \$250 contribution received in Feb. 2007 will be recorded in the summer 2008 report.

**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Proposed Operating Budget 2007-2008**

Income	<u>07-08 Proposed</u>	<u>06-07 Budget</u>	<u>06-07 Actual</u>
Contributions from Meetings	72,000.00	70,000.00	65,905.00
Contributions from Individuals	5,500.00	3,000.00	7,624.00
Interest	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>1,466.00</u>
Total Income	79,000.00	74,300.00	74,995.00
Expenses			
Operating			
Salaries & Payroll	36,000.00	30,000.00	26,336.00
Travel (Staff)	4,500.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
Travel (IYM Reps)	5,000.00	5,500.00	1,439.00
Insurance	3,800.00	4,400.00	1,556.00
Office	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,086.00
Committees (Detail 1)	9,400.00	8,600.00	8,802.00
Site (Detail 2)	5,700.00	5,000.00	5,708.00
Support to Others (Detail 3)	7,000.00	6,480.00	6,480.00
Transfers (Detail 4)	<u>6,200.00</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>
Total Expenses	79,000.00	70,580.00	59,607.00
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	0.00		

Detail references are on the next page

The suggested contribution per Adult Resident Member remains at \$200 for fiscal year 07-08 (which we no longer apportion by fund).

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 (48.5 cents per mile in 2007) 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.	

**IYM 2007-2008 Proposed Operating Budget
Line Item Details**

(1) Committees

Environmental Concerns	200.00
Faith & Practice	200.00
Finance	50.00
Handbook	100.00
Maintenance & Planning	200.00
Ministry & Advancement	50.00
Nominating	50.00
Peace Resources	400.00
Publications	5,000.00
QVSTWC	50.00
Religious Education	600.00
Youth Oversight	2,500.00
Total	9,400.00

(2) Site

Repairs & Maintenance	1,500.00
Landscaping	1,600.00
Utilities	2,100.00
Work Weekend	500.00
Total	5,700.00

(3) Support to Others

Friends General Conference (FGC)	3,200.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	450.00
Friends World Committee - Midwest	150.00
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)	400.00
Friends Committee. on National Legislation Education Fund (FCNL)	400.00
Ken Ives Fund (QVSTWC)	300.00
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	300.00
Assoc. Cmte./Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)	250.00
Friend Peace Teams	200.00
Project Lakota	200.00
Scattergood School	200.00
Earlham College	200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW, formerly FCUN)	150.00
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	100.00
Pro-NICA	100.00
Olney Friends School	100.00
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	50.00
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	50.00
Friends Disaster Service (one-time donation)	200.00
Total	7,000.00

(4) Transfers

FWCC World Meetings	1,200.00
Replacements (Long-term site maintenance)	5,000.00
Total	6,200.00

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT OF GIFTS (See Minute 21)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Discernment of Gifts has met twice since the 2006 annual session of Illinois Yearly Meeting. In that time, the co-clerk of the committee has moved twice and suffered a really crippling bad cold, complicating an already complicated task of coordinating five busy Friends' calendars. We met in December at Marti Matthews' house, where she fed and slept the Urbana-Champaign members of the committee in great comfort. We met again in June in Urbana in Margie Hawthorth's house. Again we were hosted royally.

At our December meeting we explored some of the many dimensions in which our understandings of discernment of gifts differed. At our June meeting we drafted an interim statement of what we can agree on at this time:

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee on Discernment of Gifts conceives its mission as follows:

- *To help monthly meetings and Illinois Yearly Meeting experience discernment, and the nurturing of gifts for the meeting, as these grow out of the history of the Religious Society of Friends.*
- *To provide meetings with the resources to use worship-sharing, clearness committees, and the seasoning that results, to be open to how the Spirit moves among us.*
- *To assist nominating committees with their work and help monthly meetings listen to and nurture individual leadings.*

We have only begun our work. We have a dream of helping to foster the culture of discernment throughout the Yearly Meeting, so that Friends will nurture gifts both in our monthly meetings and our yearly meeting in better ways, drawing us all into a closer walk in the Spirit.

- Co-clerks Martha Turner and Mariellen Gilpin

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY IYM FINANCES (See Minute 4)

At annual sessions 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances was charged:

- Help Finance Committee understand and integrate the newly adopted financial approach and accounting system, and help them discern how to introduce it to IYM members.
- Find a way the newly-adopted accounting system can be displayed at annual sessions, so attendees may clearly understand IYM's financial picture.
- Further season a recommendation, from annual sessions 2005, regarding donations to other organizations and what constitutes our membership in other organizations.

Over the past year, to manage our charges forward, we attended spring Continuing Committee and asked them for feedback on our progress. In addition, we often consulted with the Finance Committee and both IYM Treasurers. And, the Clerk of our committee joined Finance Committee.

Conclusions

Action Item: Finance Committee will provide a workshop, “Reading Financial Statements,” during annual sessions.

Action Item: The Treasurers have a new, easily understood, presentation format to use at annual sessions.

Action Item: The ad hoc committee developed a budgeting manual, which will be available at annual sessions 2007. It will be updated as needed, by Finance Committee.

Recommended Minutes

Minute 1 – Formation of a Review Committee

IYM needs the ability to make immediate and sound fiscal decisions, between annual sessions, especially when unanticipated unbudgeted expenditures occur (in excess of 10% or \$5,000). To that end, we recommend a Review Committee (under oversight of the Finance Committee) be formed. We recommend three members—two who are very familiar with IYM finances, like the Clerk of Finance Committee and Treasurer; and, one who is very familiar with all committee charges and IYM initiatives, like the Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk or perhaps the Recording Clerk of IYM. The members of the committee should be generally accessible—able to meet via conference call because some decisions will need to be made quickly.

They may use these queries: Can the yearly meeting afford the additional expense? Is this in keeping with the charge given to the requesting committee or individual at annual sessions? Is there other relevant information that should be considered?

Minute 2 – Laying down a charge to develop guidelines regarding donations to other organization

At the 2006 annual sessions, the ad hoc committee recommended guidelines for donations to other Quaker organizations. Most were approved. The ad hoc committee continued to season other suggestions and possibilities. After prayerful attention, we found no unity, so we recommend laying down this charge at this time.

Minute 3 - Laying down of the ad hoc committee

We recommend that the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances be laid down. Our work is done.

AD HOC TRANSITION ISSUES COMMITTEE (See Minute 11)

The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee met three times and had one teleconference. It has prepared a set of eight recommendations to implement the transition from the Trusteeship structure employed in the past to hold and manage our property to a new structure under our incorporation. A penultimate version of these recommendations was posted on the Yearly Meeting web site and the version presented here was approved by the Committee at its June 23rd meeting.

At last year’s annual session, Illinois Yearly Meeting authorized an ad hoc committee to address issues regarding the transition from the trustees system for holding and managing our property to that of our new incorporated legal framework. The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee proposes a set of recommendations to implement

the change in the structure of how we handle yearly meeting property. These recommendations are presented below. The ad hoc committee began its work by surveying the range of considerations it thought might bear on its work. These fell into three general categories:

1. Duties and responsibilities formally and informally administered by trustees in the past.
2. The relation between Clear Creek Friends and Illinois Yearly meeting.
3. The identity of the yearly meeting.

The ad hoc committee's findings can be found in the "Background" section following the recommendations. They are included, in the hope that they will provide a useful context for understanding the recommendations.

Please read these carefully and address any questions they prompt to a member of the ad hoc committee.

Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee:

- Dick Ashdown, Carol Bartles, Cathy Garra, Sharon Haworth,
Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, Roy Treadway, and Tom Paxson (clerk).

Recommendations Of the Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee

1. Revise the proposed corporate Bylaws so that Article IV #2 reads as follows:
The officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall be a Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, a Treasurer, the Stewards, and such additional Clerks as the Illinois Yearly Meeting may appoint as officers.

Rationale: The duties and responsibilities of the trustees, under the trusteeship, need to be transferred to designated persons under the new structure. These persons the committee proposes calling the "stewards." The Bylaws do not define the responsibilities of any of the corporation officers, so the responsibilities of the stewards are not defined here, but are to be considered by the Yearly Meeting, minuted, and included in the Handbook and/or Faith and Practice.

2. Minute the following understanding regarding the role of stewards:
Stewards may be thought of as analogous in the new structure to the trustees in the earlier one. At the direction of Illinois Yearly Meeting, stewards will have responsibility and authority to manage the real estate and tangible property of Illinois Yearly Meeting and shall appoint and/or employ persons as required. Stewards will represent the Yearly Meeting in renovating the buildings and grounds, in securing insurance, and in dealing with easements or leases and other management needs as they arise. Among these may be property tax matters and planning, zoning, and building permit issues. Illinois Yearly Meeting may direct others to assist the stewards in specific matters.

Rationale: This minute serves to define the role of the stewards.

3. Minute the number and constitution of the stewards as follows:
There will be three stewards, at least two from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting; the three stewards will serve as corporation officers, with staggered six-year terms, renewable indefinitely in accordance with our nominating process.

Rationale: The stipulation that at least two stewards be from Clear Creek is to ensure that at least two stewards live near the yearly meeting property. This prox-

imity to the property is desirable both for the regular monitoring and oversight of the building and grounds and for working with local contractors. In addition, they will be sensitive to the needs of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, which uses the facilities weekly, except during the winter when it uses the meetinghouse about twice a month.

The six-year terms, renewable indefinitely, provide continuity—an important consideration given the turn-over of other officers of the corporation and of clerks of Maintenance and Planning.

The corporation officers are those Friends named in documents submitted to the state as responsible persons in our organization. It is important to include the stewards because of their long-time association with and knowledge of the property.

4. Minute a special element in the Nominating Committee's process of discerning persons from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting to nominate to be stewards:
The Nominating Committee will consult with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in its process of discerning nomination of the stewards from that meeting.
Rationale: With those positions coming from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Clear Creek Friends are likely to have knowledge of worthy candidates and have insight on candidates' ability to represent the yearly meeting to local officials.
5. Minute of guidance regarding the process to be used by stewards with respect to major contracts:
Stewards consult with the relevant yearly meeting committees and the clerk of the yearly meeting prior to signing any major contracts. Care is to be taken that interim decisions accord with the Spirit and direction of decisions and policies approved by the yearly meeting at annual session.
Rationale: The ability to represent Illinois Yearly Meeting in signing contracts is recorded through a minute of the business session to Friends serving in designated positions. The stewards carry property responsibilities which will involve contracts for work to be done, including some involving large amounts of money.
6. Minute of guidance to committees recommending changes to buildings and property:
Committees considering making changes to yearly meeting buildings and/or grounds are expected to consult with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting concerning these changes and *vice versa*.
Rationale: Clear Creek Friends use the yearly meeting property weekly through much of the year and provide weekly monitoring and care for it; they are potentially affected very directly by changes made to yearly meeting buildings and property and may see implications that those who do not use the property as regularly would not see.
7. Minute regarding relationship between stewards and Maintenance and Planning:
The three stewards will be *ex officio* members of the Maintenance and Planning Committee.

Rationale: The trustees have been serving as *ex officio* members of Maintenance and Planning and have worked closely with the committee. The stewards are expected to continue this practice.

8. Minute regarding relationship between stewards and Finance:

The stewards will name one of their number to be a representative to the Finance Committee as an *ex officio* member and to serve as a contact person in the budget process.

Rationale: This minute provides for regular communication between the stewards and the Finance Committee and facilitates the work of that Committee.

Background

The ad hoc committee identified three sets of considerations as bearing on its work. They provide background information that helped to inform the committee's recommendations and may be useful to Friends as they consider the recommendations.

A. Duties and responsibilities formally and informally administered by trustees in the past.

The trusteeship was originally formed to hold, buy, and sell property for the yearly meeting. It was recognized that while it was not necessary for trustees to be responsible for all of the activities mentioned below, these things had to be done by Friends living near the Yearly Meeting's property who were involved in the yearly meeting and committed to it. The trustees have had that commitment. The committee recognized that there will continue to be needed people who look after the yearly meeting's property and buildings throughout the year and who are empowered to sign contracts, and represent the yearly meeting to local governmental officials.

This list is not exhaustive.

- Signing contracts with companies and individuals for work to be done on or for the site.
- Represent the yearly meeting to local governmental officials.
- Addressing planning, zoning, and building permit issues.
- Addressing any property tax issues.
- Maintaining and overseeing the property including seeing to it that needed work is done, e.g. in such areas as plumbing, insurance, termite control and inspection, identifying needed preventative work, and addressing emergencies.
- Such on-going maintenance activities as seeing that the grass is cut, winterizing the buildings, etc.
- Co-management of the safe deposit box.
- Responding to questions from IYM members regarding the property.
- Monitoring the condition of property and buildings owned by IYM.
- Serving *ex officio* on the Maintenance and Planning Committee.
- Working closely with the Site Envisioning and Building Committee.

B. Relation between Clear Creek Friends and Illinois Yearly Meeting.

It was noted that Clear Creek Friends cherish the yearly meeting house and the gathering of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends in McNabb for their annual sessions. Clear Creek Friends described how in preparation for the annual sessions they

open space in their hearts, as it were, for the yearly meeting and afterward close the circle again to their monthly meeting. At the same time each year they are reminded that they have not had a space of their own since the 1920s and put away their things to make way for the Yearly Meeting's annual sessions, then bring them out again afterward.

Many Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends outside Clear Creek Monthly Meeting revere the site as "holy ground." The yearly meeting grounds provide a strong sense of identity and continuity for many of our younger Friends.

Clear Creek Friends have been the "face" of Illinois Yearly meeting to the local community over the years, a role that has not always been a comfortable one.

Historically the trustees have been Clear Creek Friends, with only one or two exceptions. Clear Creek Friends, especially those who have become trustees, have felt a great responsibility to preserve what we have and what we want to keep. Clear Creek Friends have borne a heavy burden over the years for site preparation and clean-up, often leaving Clear Creek Friends exhausted after the annual session.

Several Concerns were identified:

- The need to make clear who would be responsible and have the necessary authority for the management and care of the property.
- The feeling that the Bylaws as proposed last year did not consider the authority of those assigned the responsibilities formerly carried by the trustees.
- The need for consultation of Illinois Yearly Meeting and its committees with Clear Creek Friends, and *vice versa*, regarding changes to buildings and grounds.

C. Identity and Nature of the Yearly Meeting.

- (i) **The locus of authority** in the yearly meeting is the annual session and minutes, supported by the Bylaws, Handbook, and Faith and Practice; this issue of authority is seen to bear on the Committee's formulation of its recommendations. It was noted that some anxiety regarding the proposed Bylaws stemmed in part from their silence regarding who would bear responsibility and the requisite authority with respect to the property in the absence of any clear alternative assignment of such responsibilities and authority.

It was understood that the proposed Bylaws were intended to enable the Yearly Meeting to conduct its business according to Friends procedures and practices within the framework provided by incorporation without being overly prescriptive. It was also understood that the proposed Bylaws might be revised to include reference to persons assigned responsibilities and authority regarding the property as officers of the corporation.

- (ii) Another dimension of the **identity issue** is the growing perception that the Yearly Meeting is no longer the body of Friends gathered at annual session and constituent monthly meetings but includes a collection of committees whose work is done outside the annual session by Friends some of whom do not attend the annual session.
- (iii) It would seem appropriate for the Yearly Meeting to consider at some future date the **nature, extent, and limitations of authority it grants to its vari-**

ous committees, including the Continuing Committee.

Guidelines

The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee further recommends a set of guidelines for the development and signing of major contracts regarding buildings and grounds. They are based substantially on the practice of the Trustees in recent years. While it is hoped that these guidelines will prove useful to stewards and committees, we expect that the guidelines will evolve as experience dictates in the years to come. The guidelines are also offered to give greater clarity to how the Yearly Meeting would handle major contracts without the Trusteeship.

Guidelines for the Development and Signing of Major Contracts

Process for handling major contract work on the IYM buildings and grounds such as renovation, repair, deconstruction of existing buildings; construction of new buildings and parking facilities; and landscaping.

1. Proposal. Proposals should first be seasoned by an appropriate committee or the stewards. The Finance Committee will be informed of the proposal as part of the seasoning process. Proposals to the IYM annual session will include sufficient information for the yearly meeting to make a decision, i.e.: preliminary design, estimated cost, time frame, and the person or committee to be in charge of the proposed project.
2. Approval. The minute of approval will include or designate the preliminary design, estimated cost, time frame, and the person or committee to be in charge of the proposed project.
3. Chronological Sequence of Things to be Done under the Care of the Lead Committee in Charge of the Project, e.g. Maintenance and Planning.
 - a. Interview contractors (usually two or more), assess their capabilities, check references, request proposed contracts, and review proposed contracts with concerned committee(s).
 - b. Select contractor, revise proposed contract as required, provide for potential change orders, and have contract reviewed by attorney.
 - c. Determine if funds are available for progress and final payments.
 - d. Confirm contractor has proof of insurance and bonding and provide this information to the IYM insurance carrier.
 - e. Check compliance with IRS regulations.
4. If employees are hired, W-4 forms are collected and sent to payroll management company – with the expected expenses for salaries and services. Also, secure workman's compensation insurance from the IYM insurance carrier with accompanying documentation and payment to the carrier.
5. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and the stewards, at least, are informed that the supporting administrative duties listed above are completed and they are invited to give their approval for the signing of the contract.
6. Two copies of the contract are signed by the authorized IYM representative and the contractor. Each keeps one copy of the contract.

Additional Issues

There are three sets of issues identified during our work that the ad hoc committee

brings to the Yearly Meeting: personnel issues, records management issues, and issues regarding decision-making between annual sessions of the Yearly Meeting.

Personnel Issues. As the Yearly Meeting has grown, it has become more complex as we hire people to further our mission and deepen our service to our local meetings. The Yearly Meeting hires both long-term part-time workers (e.g. administrative coordinator, field secretary, youth coordinator) and temporary workers (e.g. a Friend hired to do some carpentry work). Different committees provide oversight and negotiate contracts for different employees, according to the ministries or jobs for which they were hired, and properly so. But there are personnel issues that cut across the differences. Should insurance be obtained? Should workers' compensation be provided? What are the relevant IRS regulations and are we compliant? How can the Yearly Meeting best deal with such general personnel issues? **The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee recommends** that the Yearly Meeting establish an ad hoc exploratory committee to identify such personnel issues and to consider the advisability of a personnel committee. If the ad hoc committee discerns that a personnel committee is advisable, it would then prepare a recommendation to that effect, specifying the charge for the committee and suggestions regarding its composition.

The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee suggests that the kinds of people who might be involved as members of the proposed ad hoc exploratory committee or resources for it include the treasurer, members of oversight committees of current Yearly Meeting staff, stewards, Finance Committee members, people with human resources experience, and possibly our Payroll Administrator, Tom McPeak.

Records Management Issues. Another consequence of the Yearly Meeting's growth and developing complexity is the matter of effective and appropriate records management. The ad hoc Committee compiled a preliminary list of the sorts of records, principally related to property, insurance, and contracts, but this raised the more general issue of Yearly Meeting records and the importance of a records management system to maintain them in view of the regular change of clerks, including committee clerks. There is also the matter of archiving yearly meeting materials on a regular basis. The Committee sought, but has not yet found, a person within the Yearly Meeting with the requisite expertise and time to assist the Yearly Meeting in designing a suitable and effective records management system. **The Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee recommends** the formation of a small committee to address this concern. Should such a committee be formed, the materials relating to records management gathered during the course of this past year will be turned over to it.

The kinds of people who might be involved as members of the proposed committee or resources for it include the administrative coordinator, treasurer, former clerks and recording clerks of the yearly meeting, and archivists.

Issues regarding Decision-Making between Annual Sessions. As the Yearly Meeting has grown, become more complex, engaged in an envisioning process, made major changes to our facilities, and begun work looking toward constructing a major new building, the number and significance of issues requiring decisions between annual sessions of the Yearly Meeting are increasing and are expected to increase further. The trustees had significant latitude in making decisions regarding repairs and

maintenance of buildings and grounds, within the limits of the budget. Such latitude will continue to be necessary, but in addition as the Yearly Meeting approves projects and assigns responsibilities for their execution, this approval has and will carry with it the authority to make the necessary decisions to carry out those responsibilities. Exigencies unforeseen by the Yearly Meeting, however, may involve issues that would ordinarily be brought to the Yearly Meeting either because of the cost or because they force changes in design or orientation that transcend ways of simply implementing approved decisions.

Would construction of a new building move the Yearly Meeting into a new situation requiring change of structure and procedure? How can Yearly Meeting committees respond effectively to opportunities that arise mid-year and how might they receive approval to exceed their budgets in order to take advantage of those opportunities? What is the role of the Continuing Committee?

Currently, the Continuing Committee plays a major role in decision-making between annual sessions, but there are questions regarding its proper scope and freedom. Rather than allow without due consideration by the Yearly Meeting unplanned growth in the role of the Continuing Committee, **the ad hoc committee recommends** that the Yearly Meeting consider the issues of authority and responsibility involved.

Toward this end, the ad hoc committee proposes that the Yearly Meeting devote a specific interval of time for worship-sharing on decision-making between annual sessions as a way of opening this concern for subsequent consideration by the Yearly Meeting.

With the conclusion of this report, the ad hoc Transition Issues Committee is dissolved and ceases to exist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 14)

During 2006-2007, the Environmental Concerns Committee moved forward to enhance the appreciation of nature for Illinois Yearly Meeting and to raise awareness of the many environmental issues challenging all of us. We met together in late October 2006 at a retreat at the yearly meeting grounds, at the Quaker Earthcare Witness meetings in Chicago in April, and during the Memorial Day Work Weekend (2007) at McNabb. In addition, we held a productive conference call in March 2007.

As part of the Environmental Concerns Committee objective to enhance the natural landscape of the yearly meeting site, in October we removed rocks and roots from the site of the former dormitory and junior yearly meetinghouse, smoothed the area, and planted hardy grass seed. As a result of our review of the yearly meeting site, we worked on improving the natural features of the yearly meeting site during the Memorial Day Work weekend, cleaning up areas that have been neglected and chipping the considerable excess wood for use as a mulch around young trees and shrubs. We are exploring making recommendations for further changes in the natural setting of the site, coordinating with the Maintenance and Planning and Site Envisioning and Building Committees, Clear Creek Meeting, and the Yearly Meeting.

Also in October, we walked the periphery of the yearly meeting site on both sides of the road, noting natural features of soil, vegetation, and bird and animal habitat with the intent of developing a nature trail, at first simply identifying these

features on a nature guide for the enjoyment and knowledge of all. Under the capable hands of Noel and Sarah Pavlovic, the guide for the meetinghouse side of the site was developed during the year with the expectation that it would be available for use at the yearly meeting sessions. From this experience, we plan to expand the nature guide for the campground side in 2008, and a more elaborate trail may come later.

We continued to plan for the canoe and kayak outing at the annual sessions, Friday, July 27, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the Hennepin and Hopper Lakes near the Illinois River. About 40 persons expressed early interest in either renting or bringing canoes and kayaks. A local naturalist will help us explore the wetlands natural life. Nancy Halliday has made the arrangements for this outing and has prepared an article about the outing in *Among Friends*. This outing will give Friends an opportunity to enjoy the natural habitat and birds of wetlands near the yearly meeting site.

We are slowly moving forward on our concern about helping the yearly meeting obtain information to make wise choices about incorporating environmental sustainability into the new buildings at the Illinois Yearly Meeting grounds. We are identifying aspects of green building and locating examples of green buildings in the Chicago area and elsewhere. We plan to present a workshop on green buildings at the yearly meeting sessions.

We are exploring ways to support Carolyn W. Treadway's outreach about the climate crisis. In January 2007, Carolyn was trained about the climate crisis by Al Gore in Nashville, TN. She will present a workshop at the annual sessions and is available to present to monthly meetings.

Under Bob Wixom's initiative, we are considering preparing a flyer about the Environmental Concerns Committee to inform monthly meetings about the issues and concerns of Environmental Concerns Committee regarding the environment and offer ways in which our committee could be a resource to monthly meetings.

During 2007-08, we will continue these activities and explore others as the opportunity arises.

- Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minutes 13 & 20)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met seven times and held eight workshops with local meetings over the past year.

Most of our efforts during this year were devoted to revising the draft section on marriage. After an initial round of revisions in response to comments we received at the workshops we offered at yearly meeting last year, we posted a new version on the IYM website in February and requested comments. We received responses from numerous individuals and from one monthly meeting. In addition, members of the Faith and Practice Committee, with help from Tom Paxson, traveled to eight local meetings and conducted workshops, at which we reviewed the text and gathered suggestions for improvement. After receiving Friends' comments and suggestions in this way, we made another round of revisions.

The resulting text is attached to this report (see Other Documents, p. 63). The Faith and Practice Committee proposes that the yearly meeting adopt this text for a five-year provisional period.

In composing this text, the committee found the book *Living with Oneself and Others*, by the New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee, to be an extremely useful resource. In part through the help of an anonymous donor, the

Faith and Practice Committee obtained a copy of this book for every monthly meeting and worship group in IYM. These were distributed at the spring meeting of the IYM Continuing Committee.

In addition to working on the marriage section, this year the committee began work on a section on meeting organization and structure. A partial draft of this exists, and will be discussed at a workshop at yearly meeting this year.

The Faith and Practice Committee reminds Friends that the general introduction and the section on membership were adopted for five-year provisional periods which expire in the summer of 2008. We will be working on revisions to these sections over the coming year in the hope that new versions of them may be adopted for an indefinite period as their provisional periods expire. A workshop on these sections is being offered at yearly meeting this year; we also ask that Friends send us their comments and suggestions for improvement over the coming year, so that we can take them into account in making these revisions.

The Faith and Practice Committee continues to seek the discernment of Friends on what should be included in future sections, and reminds Friends also to send us quotes or queries which they feel would be appropriate for inclusion.

- Peter Lasersohn

FINANCE COMMITTEE (See Minute 29)

While those on Finance Committee at the time were disappointed that the Yearly Meeting was unable to act on the minutes proposed last year, we found many other items of business to keep us occupied.

- We held 3 meetings between Yearly Meeting sessions.
- We considered and gave feedback to reports by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Finance and the Ad Hoc Transition Committee.
- We dealt with the confusion about the requested amount of contribution per adult resident member by requesting approval from the Fall Continuing Committee to change the amount to \$200.
- Members of the committee visited with the attorney to address issues of the incorporation transition and proposed bylaws.
- We have revised the minutes and bylaws that we proposed last year to reflect the current situation and submit them again for approval this year.
- We dealt with the discovery of our obligation to report to the Internal Revenue Service any payment for services or goods in an amount over \$600 if the vendor is not incorporated.
- Members of the committee prepared a guide to terms for IYM to be used in preparing for the yearly meeting decision about the proposed minutes. These were distributed at the Spring Continuing Committee.
- We provided support to our treasurers as they make the transition in financial reporting.
- We helped gather the information needed to prepare next year's budget.

Much of our time was spent in discerning what our duties and responsibilities are. Many issues were sent to us for guidance. Some are truly ours to handle; some are not; and many are uncertain. It is our hope that the Yearly Meeting, in the near future will find a way to sort out these issues.

MINUTES PROPOSED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE, 2007 (As approved)

A. Trust Property Transfer Minute

We direct the trustees of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends, Richard Ash-down, Carol Bartles, 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 three 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. 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. 40).

C. 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. Minute to Register the Yearly Meeting as an Illinois Charitable Organization

We direct the Finance Committee to, as quickly as practicable, submit the application to the Illinois Attorney General for registration as a Charitable Organization. We direct those who complete this application and subsequent reports to the Illinois Attorney General (as well as to the Illinois Secretary of State), to leave blank any request for a list of "Directors," and instead to attach the following statement:

Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has no Directors. It is governed by the Participating Members, of which there are approximately two hundred. Current Officers are:

- Presiding Clerk *(name of current person holding this position)*
- Recording Clerk *(name of current person holding this position)*
- Treasurer *(name of current person holding this position)*
- Steward *(name of current person holding this position)*
- Steward *(name of current person holding this position)*
- Steward *(name of current person holding this position)*

Decisions are reached not by voting, but by the established practices of the Religious Society of Friends. *[Upon approval of wording proposed by the Faith & Practice Committee, that wording will replace this last sentence.]*

We authorize expenditures of associated fees for purposes the above application.

E. Minute to Designate Officers Authorized to Sign Contracts

Officers assigned through a minute by Illinois Yearly Meeting at annual sessions will have the authority to sign contracts. At this time, those officers assigned shall be Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, Stewards, and such additional clerks or officers as the Illinois Yearly Meeting may authorize.

F. Financial Distributions

Financial Distributions by the yearly meeting may only be made to those organizations that qualify as 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code. We understand this to mean (1) any 501(c)(3) exempt organization and (2) any church and/or its “integrated auxiliaries”. Churches need not have filed for IRS recognition of their 501(c)(3) status so long as they are organized and operate as such, and acceptable auxiliaries will generally include all organizations affiliated with the Religious Society of Friends, both in the United States and overseas. Distributions may be made to (1) organizations that have not received official IRS recognition but are organized and operated in conformance with the requirements of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and (2) individuals from the sufferings fund in keeping with the customs of that fund. The yearly meeting may engage in a limited amount of lobbying and/or advocacy but it may not involve itself whatsoever in political campaigns. It may not make distributions to organizations that are substantially involved in lobbying or advocacy, or that engage in political campaign activities.

Distributions to individuals other than sufferings includes those individuals who are either employees or independent contractors. Independent contractors who provide services of \$600 or more will receive an IRS Form 1099. Employees will receive an IRS Form W2. Employees can be either full-time, part-time or temporary for a specific project. Independent contractors will also include persons receiving stipends.

Trustee Appreciation Minute

From our first trustees, Joshua Mills, Morris Wilson and Henry Smith, to our current group of Richard Ashdown, Jerry Nurenberg, Carol Bartles, and, until last year, Helen Jean Nelson, the trustees have served the legal and practical property needs of Illinois Yearly Meeting. At the direction of the Meeting, our trustees have acquired land, supervised buildings and provided for the upkeep and renovation of

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF PUTNAM)

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...
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...
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...
5. That on July ____, 2007, 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 ____, 2007, 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 ____, 2007.

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 ____, 2007.

(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 Dissolution2007.wpd

NOTE: The final, signed and notarized version of this document and three Quit Claim Deeds will be reproduced in next year's Minutebook.

our property. With the upcoming transfer for Illinois Yearly Meeting property ownership from the trust of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends to the corporation of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, the trust and thus the legal responsibilities of the trustees will end. We are thankful to all of the trustees for their loving stewardship of the physical home of Illinois Yearly Meeting for 133 years.

Proposed Changes to July 2006 version of Bylaws

1. *Article IV #2: Move section on Participating Members from Article V to here*
2. *Article IV #3:*
 - a. *Correct typos: insert "a" before "Recording Clerk," and change "Clerks" to "Clerk"*
 - b. *Add "Stewards," per recommendation of Ad Hoc Committee*
3. *Article IV #5: Add section on Conflict of Interest*
4. *Article V #1: Add "Officers and" before "Participating Members," and insert "an Officer" before next two uses of "Participating Member."*

Bylaws of the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

(As approved at 2007 Annual Sessions)

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: 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.

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

4: 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.

5: Conflict of Interest – The Corporation shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy that is consistent with federal and state laws and guidelines, and such policy shall be amended as necessary to remain current with legal requirements of a not for profit, tax-exempt organization.

Article V

Liability Protection and Indemnification

1: Liability Protection – Officers and Participating Members shall not be personally liable, as such, for monetary damages for any action taken unless: (1) the Officer or 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 an Officer or a Participating Member pursuant to any criminal statute; or (b) the liability of an Officer or a Participating Member for the payment of Illinois Yearly Meeting taxes pursuant to federal, state or local law.

2: 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 indem-

nification 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)

3: 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.

HANDBOOK (See Minute 5)

1. Change in Description of the Yearly Meeting

In the Illinois Yearly Meeting description we suggest rearranging the paragraphs slightly and adding a sentence to the description. We also cleaned up the language slightly.

Proposed new version (significant changes underlined):

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends was established on the thirteenth day of ninth month, 1875, under minute of approval of Baltimore and Indiana Yearly Meetings.

At that time it included Monthly Meetings and worship groups from Illinois, southwestern Indiana, and Iowa. It now includes Monthly Meetings and worship groups from Illinois, northern Indiana, Wisconsin, and Missouri. Some of these Meetings maintain dual membership in Northern Yearly Meeting or Western Yearly Meeting. Illinois Yearly Meeting was incorporated in the State of Illinois on April 29, 2004. See Appendix D for Statement of Purpose for Incorporation.

Illinois Yearly Meeting is the group of Friends who gather to conduct business and worship together at the Annual Sessions held each summer. During the year, standing and ad hoc committees, named individuals, and representatives carry out the minuted intentions of the yearly meeting.

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

The Yearly Meeting at annual sessions must set direction for all decisions.

2. Change Formation and Recognition of a Monthly Meeting section

Under number 3, “Where there is no appropriate Quarterly Meeting, the Ministry and Advancement Committee of IYM will assist the worship group in bringing the matter to annual sessions.”

3. Responsibilities of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings

Add under letter f, “It is helpful to give the donation early in IYM’s fiscal year. Quarterly donations are also acceptable.” Change letter g to say “... serve on IYM committees.”

Under Quarterly Meetings in the second paragraph of the description, add “Quarterly meetings care for constituent monthly meetings.”

4. Organizational Governance (working title)

We recommend gathering like sections together that were previously separated. Section one under the head will be the information on our *Faith and Practice* publication. Section two will be Changes in Policy or Practice by the Yearly Meeting. Section three will be the Handbook. Section four will be the bylaws. Section five will be the Minute Book. We do not propose any major changes to these descriptions except to the Changes in Policy or Practice. The Minute Book description is on page 27 under the description of the Publications Committee.

5. Changes in Policy or Practice by the Yearly Meeting

We suggest adding headings to make the document clearer. Also, add a section on changes suggested by committees. The new version will read as follows:

For changes in policy by a member or monthly meeting: 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.

Continuing Committee or the Yearly Meeting may receive and review responses

to the proposed revision and may rewrite the revision in consultation with the Monthly Meeting originally proposing it on the basis of these responses.

The originating Friends will be responsible for the presentation of the proposed revision to the Illinois Yearly Meeting Annual Session. If adopted there, these changes will be recorded in The Minutes. The Handbook Committee will incorporate the changes in the next edition of the Handbook.

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

For changes in policy by a committee: A committee may bring forward recommendations for changes in IYM policies. For significant changes, the idea should first be brought to the Fall and/or Spring Continuing Committee. Further, it might be sent to Monthly Meetings for feedback. The originating committee is responsible for bringing the suggested change to the yearly meeting at annual sessions. The Handbook Committee will incorporate changes based on the approved minute from annual sessions.

For a change in practice: When a small change in the practice or procedure in the conduct of business or organization of the Yearly Meeting becomes common and clear, the Handbook Committee will incorporate the changes in the next edition of the Handbook.

If the changes are significant or appear to be different from the intent of the Yearly Meeting, the Handbook Committee will notify the Yearly Meeting of such changes and ask for clarification by the Yearly Meeting (first at Continuing Committee and then at annual sessions) before incorporating such changes in the Handbook.

6. Other Publications

This page will list our other publications including *Among Friends* and the Plummer Lecture.

7. Officers

Co-Treasurers: Change listing from Treasurer to co-Treasurers and add d) The co-treasurers divide up the duties.

8. Paid Staff: We recommend separating the descriptions of paid staff from those descriptions of Individuals with Specific Responsibilities. The paid staff page would include descriptions of the Administrative Coordinator, Field Secretary, and Youth Coordinator.

9. Standing Committees: Change introduction to Standing Committees to read as follows:

Standing Committees exist to carry out the work of the Yearly Meeting during and between annual sessions 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. The names and addresses of the committee clerks and members can be found in the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting published each fall.

Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, and Witness Committee: Delete current description and instead put in the following: “The description is being updated by the QVSTWC. Please contact a member of that committee for information.”

Delete from Finance Committee description: b) It is the financial policy of the Yearly Meeting to spend only from funds on hand for the General Fund budget developed from contributions and interest received up to the time of the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. Other funds (notably the Site Fund and the Youth Fund) work on a current basis.

Except leave in last sentence: Funds are to be invested with maximum yield consistent with Friends beliefs.

10. Youth Oversight description: Delete the following sentences. “Funds for Youth Oversight Committee program activities are provided by special contributions. The Monthly Meetings are encouraged to make regular contributions to the Youth Activities Fund.”

11. Ad Hoc Committee to Discern Gifts: Add from the 2006 Minute book, “This is 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.”

12. Epistle Committee: Replace the final paragraph with the following which reflects Minute 13 from 2006 annual sessions.

To best accomplish this, the Epistle Committee shall consist of three persons brought forward by Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting at the first or second day of annual sessions. The Reading Clerk is an *ex officio* member of the committee. One or two Friends may be asked to serve a second year for continuity. Every effort should be made to have a Young Friend or an Adult Young Friend on the committee. The Epistle should be prepared for review by the Presiding Clerk and approved by the yearly meeting before the end of the annual sessions.

13. New order of pages

Move pages around so that the order of the document is

1. Illinois Yearly Meeting
2. Formation and Recognition of a Monthly Meeting
3. Responsibilities of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to IYM
4. Organizational Governance (includes Faith and Practice, Changes in Policy, Handbook, Minute book, and will include by-laws when they are approved)
5. Other Publications (includes *Among Friends*, Plummer Lectures, Other)
6. Officers
7. Paid Staff Members
8. Individuals with Specific Responsibilities
9. Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees
10. Committees with specific responsibilities at annual sessions
11. Groups to which Illinois Yearly Meeting sends representatives
12. Guidelines for those offering (supported) volunteer service to IYM
13. Memorials
14. Guidelines for Youth Volunteers or Youth Leaders

15. Adult Young Friends

Appendices

- A. Guidelines for the Oversight Committee of IYM Friends Peace Tax Fund
- B. Rates for use of IYM facilities
- C. Travel Policy
- D. Statement of Purpose for Incorporation

MAINTENANCE & PLANNING (See Minute 23)

Maintenance and Planning faced new challenges in the 2006-2007 year. The fully restored Meetinghouse, the newly-built cabins, and the relocation of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse have provided M&P a grace period from the usual and sometimes intense maintenance needs. It also exposed the need to step back from business-as-usual and address broader concerns. To help us identify and address these concerns, we invited IYM's field secretary, Maurine Pyle, to lead a workshop to see where M&P has been and where we felt led to go.

Broadly speaking, two concerns emerged from the workshop. One was the need to place more emphasis on long-range stewardship of existing facilities in order to better avoid the business of putting out fires. The other was the need to better honor Quaker testimonies in our work. Building upon our workshop experience, we later created the following mission statement to guide our work:

The Committee of Maintenance and Planning assembles and works together to help sustain the spirit of our present community of Friends, those who came before us and those who come after us.

Our primary role is stewardship of the historic Illinois Yearly Meeting House campus and supporting landscape through preservation, maintenance and informing the Yearly Meeting of building and maintenance options as way opens.

We seek to work in a manner that embodies the Quaker conception of right building, simplicity, and integrity that honors our earthly resources and promotes peace.

This mission statement is a draft only. We have not finalized it, but rather envision it as a guide that can change as the Spirit leads.

Of course, stepping back from business-as-usual has also slowed progress on some of our more tangible projects. One such project is the creation of a Maintenance Manual and Schedule which we hope will facilitate long-range stewardship of the campus through scheduled, proactive maintenance and planning. In addition, we hope it will assist us in prioritizing improvements to the facility, more accurately forecasting budgetary needs, and making the campus more user-friendly. We are currently in the information-gathering stage of this project.

And, yes, we do intend to solve the problem of the raccoon dormitory in the coming year. As your nose has undoubtedly detected by now, this dormitory is currently located in the ceiling above the rear entry of the Meetinghouse. While we do hire the so-called raccoon man on a regular basis to keep raccoons at bay, it is an ongoing battle to keep critters out of these unoccupied buildings.

We did, however, make considerable progress during the recent Memorial Day Work Weekend. Despite heavy intermittent rain, High School and Junior High School Friends completely painted the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. (Thank goodness for fast drying paint!) We also re-glazed the windows, gathered more informa-

tion for the Maintenance Manual and Schedule, installed smoke detectors in the cabins, and completed much work to the grounds under the guidance of the Environmental Concerns Committee. Special thanks are due to the childcare providers and cooks who gave parents a free hand to work and fueled our bodies with delicious food.

We look forward to continuing to serve IYM in the coming year.

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 34)

During the past year, the Ministry and Advancement Committee has attempted to serve the meetings of IYM in various ways. We have visited almost every meeting and worship group at least once during the year, in most cases more often than that. We have been involved in emerging efforts of the Yearly Meeting concerning outreach and discernment of gifts. We have offered support to Adult Young Friends. We have begun to assemble lists of resources that we believe will enhance the capabilities of our meetings and to help them to minister appropriately when problems arise.

The work of Ministry and Advancement could not be carried out effectively without the remarkable efforts of our Field Secretary, Maurine Pyle, who is under the care of this committee. Thanks to the generosity of the Yearly Meeting at last year's sessions, Maurine has been paid for 700 hours this year rather than the 500 approved by IYM in the past. She has worked all of those hours and more, and the beneficial effects of her ministry have been felt throughout the Yearly Meeting. A mere listing of the number of workshops and other forms of ministry that Maurine has undertaken during the past year would multiply the length of this report many times, and we are well aware how effective her ministry has been. Her gentle and wise presence in M&A gatherings is a great blessing to us. Maurine's vast experience traveling in the ministry has made her an ideal Field Secretary, and we are very grateful to have her in that role. She will offer her report during the Yearly Meeting sessions.

Our longtime pastoral counselors, Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, have once again requested that their endorsements be continued for the coming year. Beth, who is a member of M&A, is offering clinical pastoral education in three affiliated hospice programs in the Chicago area that serve a total of 1000 patients. Carolyn is spending more of her time healing the earth than healing individuals, as her workshop on environmental concerns at this year's annual sessions attests, but she still meets with several clients at a small clinic that she operates in her home. Each of these women has a local guidance and support committee, members of which report enthusiastically on their pastoral counseling endeavors. As has been the case in recent years, M&A regards the Yearly Meeting's endorsements of Beth and Carolyn as ongoing. We ask that IYM members hold them in the Light as they continue to carry out their vital, Spirit-led work.

After working for several years with the small remains of DeKalb Monthly Meeting, we received a letter from one of the two remaining resident members of that meeting stating that it decided to lay itself down. That letter noted that the remaining members of DeKalb Meeting were transferring their membership to Rock Valley Meeting, which they attend occasionally. The letter was read by the IYM Clerk, Sue Davison, at Continuing Committee in March, with the expectation that it would be heard again at the annual sessions. We ask that Friends accept the laying down of this Meeting with regret, but in the recognition that doing so serves our testimony of

integrity.

We have been encouraged by the formation of a new worship group in northern Missouri. This is presently a very small group that we have attempted to nurture through visits and various other forms of contact. We are happy to support such groups as we learn about them, as our smallest meetings are often the ones that are most in need of assistance.

In addition to our ongoing concern for all the meetings of IYM, the aspirations of Ministry and Advancement for the near future include the following:

- Helping to revive spiritual formation groups, as was done earlier in this decade by Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting
- Encouraging increased opportunities for cross-fertilization between meetings
- Responding to the educational needs of meetings, with respect to both important Quaker readings and matters of practical concern such as meeting finances and sexual misconduct
- Presenting the findings of our research into the policies and practices of meetings concerning child membership to the Faith and Practice Committee

The charge of Ministry and Advancement is limitless. So are our aspirations. Our mere humanity and the contingencies of time, space, and health are countervailing and at times humbling factors for us. Our small numbers notwithstanding, we will continue to do our best to use our gifts for the greatest benefit for the meetings and individuals who comprise Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Field Secretary Annual Report

For my first year of carrying the role as Field Secretary most of my encounters with Friends Meetings involved responding to formal invitations for service such as offering retreats and workshops, but my second year has been mostly about “opportunities,” an early practice of traveling ministers who reacted to Spirit-led invitations to visit among Friends. One story told by Rufus Jones was that his Aunt Peace said one morning over breakfast that she was “feeling led” to visit Quaker Meetings in Nova Scotia. She later traveled by buggy for many miles from her home in Maine in response to this leading, not finding out why she was needed until she arrived at her destination.

“Opportunities” these days may arise from responding to an unidentified need in a monthly meeting, such as a conflict that is not being openly addressed. Having the Field Secretary come for a time of listening can provide an opening for a ministry of reconciliation to occur. This past year I cooperated with a member of Ministry and Advancement to offer this service to a community in deep distress. This is one example of how an “opportunity” can work.

Pastoral care is often neglected in community life. Having a visit from the Field Secretary, who can listen to personal problems without prejudice and in a confidential manner, invites members to come forth to ask for help. When I arrive, I offer to meet privately with any members who are interested to share a coffee or meal or to go on a walk. Frequently I have been entrusted with information about personal issues and can offer spiritual support or referral to professional services. When individual members are healthy and balanced, the entire community benefits.

This past year I made extended visits, staying three days in Monmouth and a week in South Bend. I also interacted for a two-week period with three meetings in the southern half of IYM, namely Rolla, Southern Illinois, and St. Louis. Margaret

Katranides and Dawn Rubbert of St. Louis Meeting accompanied me on visits as “companion-elders” to Rolla and Carbondale. Sharing these “opportunities” with others expands our capacity to serve and creates a social link between meetings. Whenever possible, I try to travel with a companion as was the traditional practice of early Friends. Sometimes my companion is a member of Ministry and Advancement Committee, but it might just be someone who is interested in visiting another meeting.

Last fall I wrote a letter to each monthly meeting and worship group asking them to reflect on their outreach and advancement activities. I reminded them that “Quaker gray” does not mean gray hair. Several meetings have now developed active strategies for attracting and keeping newcomers. Peoria-Galesburg Meeting has been re-establishing itself in Monmouth, Illinois using local newspapers and a public meeting about Friends and AFSC. Urbana-Champaign’s Advancement Committee is working hard to enhance the visibility of their new meetinghouse in the community by such outreach efforts as participating in a local radio program about social activism and faith and offering a “Friends Vacation School” for children. They invited me to lead an outreach workshop, which has generated more creative ideas. Upper Fox Valley Meeting participated in an outreach workshop and is considering how to use their love of music to attract newcomers to their beautiful meeting place in a Montessori School. The same image-building workshop is being offered at IYM this summer and is aptly named “Quakers – Not Just for Breakfast Anymore.”

What were the other educational interests of Quaker meetings? Meetings have asked for retreats on vocal ministry, prayer, Quaker values, tools for the discernment of spiritual gifts such as the clearness committee, and how our Quaker leadership and process differs from secular models. In addition, my organizational skills were requested by several committees of the yearly meeting to support their development. I was invited to facilitate a mission development workshop for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The Site Envisioning and Building/Development Committee has asked me to sit with them to record their minutes as well as to provide background from my prior experience as clerk of IYM. I have been advising the clerk of the Youth Oversight Committee on planning for the new role of Youth Coordinator. My work has been varied and calls forth a variety of skills.

Another “opportunity” came from participating in several gatherings, which bring adults and families together during the year, including the Women’s Retreat at McNabb and Blue River Quarterly near Rolla, MO, and at Camp Menno Haven in Tiskilwa. I was invited to speak about the theme of “Simplicity is Complex” at the spring Blue River Quarterly. All of these services were increased thanks to the increase of hours allotted to the Field Secretary last year.

As Field Secretary I have an opportunity for holding a wider viewpoint, sort of like sitting in the crow’s nest on a ship. I would like to share some insights I have gathered in the past year as points for discussion by the yearly meeting and monthly meetings:

- Youth Quakes are attracting more young people who share a greater sense of connection to being Quakers. IYM Committees, including Youth Oversight, Peace Resources, Maintenance and Planning, and Environmental Concerns, offer great potential for collaboration in engaging and motivating young Quakers into leadership roles. Many of these young Friends do not have peers of their own age in their home meetings. The Youth Quakes can make a big difference in our future.
- Nearly half of the monthly meetings and worship groups do not offer formal reli-

gious education classes. Most of these meetings are graying and are at risk of disappearing if they do not reach out to youth and families. Clear Creek Meeting, which is a growing meeting, has led the way in demonstrating how regional First Day School classes offered regionally to children and families can create a vital meeting culture. Another example is the Adventures in Peacemaking curriculum sponsored by 57th Street Meeting and offered citywide to children in the Chicago area.

- Pastoral care is often neglected in our meetings, both large and small, because of a lack of training. The yearly meeting could offer workshops regionally to enhance the role of elders in the meeting in improving the overall health of the members. By the term “pastoral care” I am not referring to professional counseling, but a process of evaluation, referral and support to help individuals when they encounter life problems. One of our small meetings had three divorces in a short space of time. They needed outside help from the Field Secretary to find their way through this difficult time. More education on these issues would be helpful.
- Our publications – *Among Friends*, the IYM Minute Book, and the IYM website – are valuable tools for connecting our far-flung yearly meeting. How can we better promote the use of these tools by our members? What is your meeting’s method of distribution of *Among Friends*? How often does your meeting make a contribution to the newsletter telling us about your activities?
- Some IYM meetings are growing rapidly or advancing steadily which can cause stress for any organization. Some meetings are experiencing losses of membership, which is cause for concern. We need to focus directly on the development of leadership within our monthly meetings. How can we better support this process of growing our leadership?

How is the secular American culture impacting our communal life? Are our children coming to Quaker meeting often enough to absorb our Quaker values? Or are television, Sunday morning soccer, and the general busy-ness of American life causing our communities to deteriorate? Sometimes the greatest threat to the Quaker way of life is inertia. How are you interacting with families and children on a weekly basis in your meeting?

I know that I have posed some hard queries for you to consider, and I hope you will take them to heart. Quakerism is needed by the world more today than ever before. In order to keep our communities active and vital we need to review and evaluate how effective we have been. Looking back and then looking forwards to the future, our greatest leading of the Spirit is to stay awake.

- Maurine Pyle

PUBLICATIONS

This past year we maintained our schedule of producing both print and web-based versions of two issues of *Among Friends*, the Plummer lecture from the previous annual session, and the MinuteBook. We continue to consult with Meetings about how best these are publicized and distributed, and hope that all Friends will actively use these resources, provided at no additional cost.

The venerable press which exhibited age-related problems before last year’s sessions now seems stabilized, and is relatively well-behaved in its “Golden Years.” Costs continue to be held down by all-volunteer labor at the point of assembling these documents. However, the growth in the size of the MinuteBook gives cause for

concern as well as pushing up cost. Perhaps subsequent years won't require quite so much documentation on legal issues and substantial new sections of Faith and Practice.

The use of IYM's web site (www.ilym.org) is the area in which our publishing has advanced the most: The Internet allows us both to include and to extend the reach of our paper publications. Additionally, we have been recovering older Minute Books from disks and CDs, and have published yearly meeting minutes retroactive to 1997. Volunteers – including a new member of our committee – have been typing or scanning older Plummer lectures into electronic form, and to date, 21 have been published on the web site.

Friends are always needed to help publish to the web site. To support this, we still expect to convert ilym.org to a “wiki”, which is an interface identical to Wikipedia.org that makes it easy for people to contribute content to the site. A good example of a collaborative project is the St. Louis Meeting's “Declaration of Peace,” which as a courtesy we have published on the ilym.org Peace Resources page in 25 languages (and counting). With a wiki, multiple people could contribute translations to the project and post them easily.

Finally, our electronic activities also include supporting IYM committees, Project Lakota, Blue River Quarterly meetings, the IYM Winter Retreat, the IYM Faith and Practice, and Yearly Meeting registration.

- David Finke and Dawn Amos

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS

(See Minute 39)

Our committee has reached a fork in the road. The original goals assigned to QVSTWC were concrete and specific and were well accomplished a number of years ago by the committee and by others. Since 1997 we have worked to pursue revised purposes and work. We have encouraged several volunteer service projects in which IYM Friends were or could be involved. Also, through writing and workshops we've worked to help Friends consider the ways service helps us grow spiritually. Recently our efforts have met diminishing success. As well, the energy of the individual committee members is at a low point. We have prayerfully and carefully discussed the committee's future. We wish to report some decisions made, some requests, and some queries for the Yearly Meeting to consider.

It is clear that much has changed in our country and in the Society of Friends in the ten years since the Burlington, NJ, conference on Quaker Volunteer Service. Friends throughout IYM seek and find rich and wonderful ways to serve, locally, in New Orleans, in Africa and at Pine Ridge. A number of wider Quaker organizations are stronger now and provide these and other opportunities. Here in IYM, the Kenneth Ives Memorial Scholarship Fund was created and supports IYM members in service work. Nationally, Adult Young Friends are part of an emerging movement toward reconciliation among disparate expressions of Quakerism (a crucial concern for QVSTC from the outset.) Internationally, we have seen growth of programs with Friends Peace Teams, A.G.L.I., and A.V.P. that show willingness of Quakers to express their faith in voluntary service. A.F.S.C. has offered limited funds to support new volunteer projects. Quaker colleges and others now routinely offer or require “service learning” as part of a vital education. Traditional models of workcamping may be changing, so that short-term internships or service with some stipend or ex-

pense compensation may still fit within the spirit of volunteerism.

The committee is united that:

1. We acknowledge to the Yearly Meeting that we have not ourselves been able to provide opportunities for direct service.
2. We will not ask to be laid down.
3. We would like the QVSTWC description deleted from the YM Handbook, and that the committee description be left blank for the near future. As we receive feedback and direction from the YM as a whole, we will try to develop a statement of our current mission.
4. We continue to want to advocate and model concepts of clearness and accountability as integral to authentic Quaker service.
5. The committee as presently constituted wishes to scale back to a minimal set of tasks that we can honestly undertake: oversee the Kenneth Ives Fund, and continue to promote volunteer service opportunities as we are able.
6. Financial support will be provided to Miranda Amos for service in Africa this year.
7. We have requested \$300 for the 2007-08 fiscal year to replenish the Ives Fund.
8. We need to bring our own work in line with the needs of the Yearly Meeting vis-à-vis witnessing to our faith through service.

We pose these queries:

1. Does the Yearly Meeting as a total community wish to have an organized presence in the field of Quaker Volunteer Service?
2. At whatever level of activity emerges, can the Yearly Meeting affirm that it wants a committee for this purpose?
3. Is there a part of IYM's witness to the world and internal experience that can be represented to the world through volunteer service?
4. Can the Yearly Meeting add to the experience of Friends pursuing volunteer service? How?

We hope Yearly Meeting can give some time to corporate discernment on these questions, this summer and at Continuing Committees in the near future, and/or other venues. If a committee continues, we request a new clerk and additional members be named. We also request discernment of a name for the committee that will reflect the revised purpose.

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 38)

This has been a year of wrapping up the old and planning for the new, as the Development Committee has been meeting jointly with the Site Envisioning Committee.

Thank you, Friends! The continued generosity of our IYM family has enabled us to have the financial resources to pay for wrapping up the finishing touches on the cabins and bunkhouse. We had money in hand for critical consultation and training. Finance Committee has worked with us to find way to return the funds loaned from Duneland Friends.

We continue to need gifts to the Property Improvement Fund for the effort to begin in the next year for the costs of planning and preparing for a major effort to raise financial support for better year-round space for our community. This will include several days of consultant time, publications, administrative work hours, architectural consultation on sustainable building issues and related administrative expenses.

In April our committees and additional IYM volunteers met with Quaker fund

2007 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11am in homes
Clerk: Larry Stout 309-888-2704
lawrence.stout@insightbb.com
Business: varies

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb IL 61335
11am 815-882-2214
<http://clearcreek.quaker.org>
Mail to: Clear Creek Friends, P.O. Box 202
McNabb, IL 61335
Clerk: Beth Schobernd
beth.schobernd@gmail.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 10:00 am

DECATUR WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
10am in homes 217-877-0296
Contact: Cindy & Gary Reynolds,
gary.reynolds@insightbb.com

FRIENDS MEETING OF SPRINGFIELD

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
Contact: Diane McCluskey 217-793-1201
dianemc50@insightbb.com

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO 65202
10:00am 573-474-1827
<http://quakers.missouri.org>
Clerk: Ruth Milledge
rmille2000@yahoo.com
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:30am except August

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

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

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
npavlo130@comcast.net
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 every other month

EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
10am 847-864-8511
<http://evanston.quaker.org>
Mail to: Meeting address above
Clerk: Ann Miller
acmiller@rcn.com
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
Clerk: Breeze Richardson
breeze.richardson@sbcglobal.net
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
Clerk: Pam Kuhn
PamelaJKuhn@yahoo.com
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEETING

(Laying down IYM Membership 8/31/07)
3224 N. Gordon Pl, Milwaukee WI 53212
10:15 am 414-263-2111
<http://www.milwaukeequakers.org/>
Contact: Elizabeth Evans
elizabethbevans@gmail.com
Clerk: Priscilla Camilli
pccamilli@wi.rr.com
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:45am

WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640
Worship: 10:00am First Days &
7pm Wednesdays
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
<http://www.quaker.org/northside> 773-784-2155
Clerk: Beth Burbank
beth.burbank@gmail.com
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
Clerk: Judy Erickson
jmessage1@yahoo.com
Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
5:00 pm 920-232-1460
Mail to: PO Box 403, Oshkosh WI 54903
Clerk: Tom Barlow
Business: 2nd First Day

PEORIA-GALESBURG FRIENDS MEETING

10 am In homes
Contact: Elke Narkiewicz 309-734-7759
enarkiewicz@yahoo.com
Email for information

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

11am In various locations.
Call for information.
Mail to Clerk: Ann Eckert 815-964-7416
Business: Quarterly on 2nd First Day

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104 10:00am
<http://www.stlouisfriends.org> 314-588-1122
Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
Co-Clerks: David Bates
dbates7915@aol.com
Anna Sandidge
livingpeace@sbcglobal.net
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:00 am

Friends Meeting of ROLLA (Preparative)

(under the care of St. Louis Mtg.) 1:30pm
First United Methodist Church, 803 N. Main
St., Rolla (in the parlor)
Clerk: Chris Jocius 573-426-4848
jociusc@umr.edu
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
802 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
10:30 am 574-255-5781
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
Clerk: Monica Tetzlaff
mtetzlaff@sbcglobal.net
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/>
Meeting Contact: Dawn Amos
dawn@amoses.net
Clerk: Tom Hensold
tchensold@netzero.net
Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake and Woodstock)
10 am
Clerk: John Hackman 815-337-3356
johnhackman@owc.net
Business: 3rd First Day, 11 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
11am 217-328-5853
<http://www.quaker.org/urbana>
Mail to: 1904 E. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61802
Clerk: Sandy Bales
sbales@uiuc.edu
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:30pm

raising consultant Henry Freeman to discuss spirited, Spirit-full fund raising, a topic full of joy. Fundraising depends on having a plan, setting detailed priorities, a time-frame, and proceeding one step at a time. This led to a deeper realization of the considerable work ahead over the next few years: explaining our project well among IYM Friends and our extended family, policy items to season, preparing materials and making plans for visiting with Friends about our future. Much of this early work is quiet, but it will be going on.

We propose combining our two committee forces as an IYM standing committee, called the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Those of us continuing would serve at least a one year term, with periods of service to be staggered by the Nominating Committee.

We look forward to an active year of serving IYM as a combined committee, settling into focus on our initial new vision of better year round space to support the activities of our community.

YOUTH OVERSIGHT (See Minute 42)

Presented by Michael Dennis (YO Clerk) on behalf of the other members of the Youth Oversight Committee (Peter Albright, Diane Clark-Dennis, Marcia Nelson, Meg Nelson, Breeze Richardson), Youth Coordinator (Javaughn Fernanders), and IYM High School Friends (Steve Kuhn, HSF recording clerk, Ashlee Miller-Berry, HSF Clerk, & Monica George, HSF clerk)

During the past year HSF have had four major events.

- On 11/10-12/2006 we met at Downers Grove Meeting house for a Mini-Quake that included a peace testimony workshop led by Breeze Richardson & Mark Mattaini. We had 10 teens participate (Rose Byler, Martin Dennis, Rose Dennis, Dylan Hile-Broad, Kevin Howenstine, Steven Kuhn, Meg Nelson, Katie Styer, Christina Timme, and Scott Anderson). We would like to thank Downers Grove Friends again for their hospitality, Peace Resources for sponsoring the workshop and the presenters for an incredible experience. Downers Grove also set up their Tepee for us and this spring have offered to donate it to the High School program if we can figure out how to get it down here (Michael Conyers has offered to help).
- On 1/12-15/2007 we met at Evanston Meeting house for the Quake that Rocks the Midwest, which included HSF from IYM, Iowa, Lake Erie, Great Plains, Northern, and Ohio Valley Yearly meetings and a great set of workshops including Understanding the Bible Through Dramatization by Peterson Toscano from New England Yearly Meeting. IYM sponsored an overlapping set of 12 teen participants (Rosalie Albright, Rose Byler, Martin Dennis, Rose Dennis, Rachal Garrison, Monica George, Dylan Hile-Broad, Kevin Howenstine, Steven Kuhn, Meg Nelson, Emily Pavlovic, Caryn Wixom). We would like to thank Evanston Friends for their hospitality, the Lake Erie, Northern & Ohio Valley youth coordinators who organized the event, and the presenter for a great experience. We would also particularly like to thank Evanston meeting for their contributions and loan to the Youth Coordinator fund.
- On 5/25-28/2007 we met here at McNabb for Memorial Day Work Weekend to paint the Junior Yearly Meeting House with help from 17 High School Friends (Rosalie Albright, Rose Byler, Martin Dennis, Rose Dennis, Chris Earp, Mason George, Monica George, Dylan Hile-Broad, Kevin Howenstine, Steven Kuhn,

Meg Nelson, Tobi Newman-Brown, Emily Pavlovic , Noreen Walls, Maggie Wanner, Emily Wills, Caryn Wixom) and with a lot of help from Tim, Joe and many other Friends. Quentin Young and 12 others led us in a Lakota Drumming Circle on a drum named “Gentle Spider” and a sweat lodge ceremony using the lodge that the teens helped build last year – both were very powerful. We also did clearness committees for 5 incoming freshmen (Mason, Tobi, Noreen, Maggie, & Emily).

- On 7/25-29/2007 we met here at IYM to do a Great Books Workshop on Russell’s *A Free Man’s Worship*, breathing, yoga, service projects, bowling and other games. There were 20 high school Friends present (Rosalie Albright, Rose Byler, Martin Dennis, Rose Dennis, Chris Earp, Mason George, Monica George, Dylan Hile-Broad, Kevin Howenstine, Steven Kuhn, Meg Nelson, Tobi Newman-Brown, Emily Pavlovic, Sarah Raffensperger, Nina Van Jacob, Maggie Wanner, Emily Wills, Caryn Wixom) including two more entering freshman (Sarah and Nina) and five graduating seniors (Ashlee, Caryn, Chris, Katie, & Meg) whom we helped to connect to the Adult Young Friends (AYF).

The HSF officers for the coming year are:

- Monica George, Co-Clerk (2008)
- Rose Dennis, Co-Clerk (2009)
- Emily Wills, Recording Clerk (2008)

As part of the 2005 to 2006 dream quest to define a vision for IYM’s future, a consensus quickly emerged to put more energy into our youth program and specifically the vision of hiring someone with a leading to serve as a part time youth coordinator. This was important because while many Friends wanted to help, they were not clear what was needed or how to help. Other yearly meetings in our area (e.g., LEYM, NYM, OVYM) had gone this route with great success and it was agreed at the February 2006 retreat to bring a specific proposal to IYM based on their experience and model. Marti Matthews, Ashlee Miller-Berry, and I did this on the behalf of HSF/YO and to our amazement the idea was approved during that 2006 IYM session. Moreover yearly meeting agreed that we could even proceed to search for and hire a youth coordinator during the year as long as we raised the 12 month salary reserve ahead of schedule. We want to thank the many meetings and individuals who came forward with early donations and loans to make this happen. At the March 2007 Continuing Committee meeting it was agreed that the proposed job description with a minor modification (see p. 75) was acceptable and that there were sufficient funds for Youth Oversight to proceed with recruiting and hiring a youth coordinator in time to participate in the 2007 yearly meeting. An ad and the job description were circulated in April. Three people applied and two were interviewed at length. By consensus, Youth Oversight and the three HSF officers decided to offer the position to Javaughn Fernanders from South Bend Friends Meeting and this week she has accepted our offer. Javaughn describes herself as a California surfer girl turned Midwestern. She teaches yoga, does rape crisis counseling, is an artist and a poet. Everyone who meets her talks about her incredible energy. Please join me in welcoming her to this role. YO/HSF want to give thanks to all of the people who have made this happen. It has been a leap of faith in which many small acts and prayers have come together to make something incredible happen.

The events during the coming year we have tentatively proposed are:

- On 11/ 9-12/07 (Veterans' Day weekend) at 57th Street Meeting house to do an Alternatives to Violence Project workshop
- On 1/18-21/08 (MLK Day weekend) at Evanston Meeting house
- On 5/23-26/08 (Memorial Day weekend) at Clear Creek for a work camp
- On 6/18-22/08 (Illinois Yearly Meeting) at Clear Creek / Jr. Meeting house

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

The American Friends Service Committee celebrates its 90th birthday this year. Many Friends and friends have committed their lives to the values of Friends in direct service or supporting services provided by the AFSC.

The AFSC is growing and alive. Carrying the values of Friends into the world, being examples, supporting people to speak for themselves: these are the foundation of AFSC principles and the foundation of AFSC in the beginning 90 years ago. These are the foundation of how the AFSC will serve into the future.

Activities in Illinois have been ongoing. An opening in linking Friends and Meetings to AFSC occurred with the final exhibit of the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. AFSC invited Meetings in the Chicago area to The Eyes Wide Open Exhibit. Eyes Wide Open is a traveling exhibit of boots representing each person killed in the military in Iraq and shoes representing civilians killed. Originally developed in Chicago, it has been traveling around the United States for four years. The final display of this exhibit was held in Grant Park in Chicago. Friends held Meeting for Worship on Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend at the exhibit. Participation by Monthly Meetings was outstanding. Northside Meeting moved its Meeting for Worship to the site for the day. Over 62 Friends and guests from the Chicago area, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and other locations attended worship.

Anyone seeking to become involved with the AFSC may contact any of the AFSC Corporation representatives for Illinois Yearly Meeting.

- AFSC Corporation Representatives for Illinois Yearly Meeting,
Nora Vera-Godwin, Linda Sizemore, Carol Bartles, Genevieve Wimp-McCann

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Since I did not have an update of ACFIA following the March annual meeting, I did not submit an article for *Among Friends*. Therefore, I am reporting the latest I know for the yearly meeting minutes. (www.acfiacquaker.org)

John Key is the presiding clerk of ACFIA. In his opening statements at the 138th annual meeting he stated, "Change is inevitable, it embraces the unknown; it is sometimes scary, and sometimes comforting. Just the word CHANGE creates emotions within each of us, running the scale from trepidation and fear to excitement and hope."

The ACFIA Executive Committee and the Center workers hope the restructuring of the work of ACFIA will inspire more localized involvement and concern for the ministry at the Native American Centers. Brad & Christine Wood of Kickapoo and Victor & Brenda White of Mesquakie have been a part of the discussions and planning. Members of these meetings are taking more responsibilities. It appears that they would function and grow more under the closer association with the appropriate yearly meetings.

MOWA Choctaw Friends Center in Alabama is the only Center at this time that is placed under a yearly meeting's care and direction. Since Choctaw had no established Friends Meeting it is wonderful that interested individuals and work groups from North Carolina YM had helped provide community over the years. Now they have developed and begun to fulfill their vision for the center. The ministry is witnessing new growth under the leadership of NCYM and volunteers. (www.ncym.fum.org)

The Mesquakie Friends Center is working toward monthly meeting status. Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Committee has presented a proposal to ACFIA & Iowa Yearly Meeting to possibly take oversight of Mesquakie as a yearly meeting mission project. No final action had been taken as of this March meeting.

Kickapoo Friends Center is undergoing restructuring already, as those who attend the Center are taking steps to become a fully functioning church. The people are very positive and believe that this can be achieved. This would include being more closely connected with Mid-America YM.

So, the three centers are at different stages of development. ACFIA, which is one of the few organizations still working to aid Native Americans, will still be responsible in different amounts and ways. They hold the responsibility to see that the finances are used for the designated purposes. I would encourage Illinois Yearly Meeting to keep ACFIA in its budget this year. Our support for Native Americans should continue, whether in this venue in the future, or some other way.

- Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC)

- Staff changes: Barbara Hirshkowitz, Publications Manager for many years, died March, 2007, and Barbara Mays is serving as the interim Publications Manager.
- Several staff members had their jobs change and were given more supervisory responsibility: Lucy Duncan Associate Secretary for Programs and co-manager for the Bookstore, Deborah Fisch Associate Secretary for Programs and Coordinator Traveling Ministries Program, and Michael Wadja.
- Two Interim staff members were given permanent positions: Vanessa Julye Coordinator Ministry on Racism Program and Emily Stewart Coordinator Youth Ministries Program.
- New Full time staff members are: Elaine Crauderueff, Advancement and Outreach Coordinator; Naman Hampton, Conference Assistant; Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Conference Coordinator; Anne Ruckdeschel, Development Assistant; and Julia Sibley Jones, Planned Giving and Major Gifts Coordinator.

FGC was one of the organizations that worked to establish the Friends Mutual Health Group to provide affordable health insurance for their participant members. This has been important because it has allowed Quaker groups with small numbers of employees to join together and form a large enough pool to provide more economical insurance.

Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee has been active this year and they are hoping that a chapter on the Peace Testimony by Tom Paxson will soon be on their web site.

Advancement and Outreach Committee is collaborating with the Religious Edu-

education Committee and the Committee for Ministry on Racism to help meetings explore ways to be more welcoming of newcomers. They continue to sponsor Quakerfinder.org and to work on materials and workshops that will assist meetings. They held a consultation this spring and Joan Pine of Evanston Meeting was a participant.

Religious Education Committee is testing adult religious education material from Great Britain. They are also preparing for the RE Institute in August 2008 in the Midwest.

Committee for Ministry on Racism and Publications Committee are working together on a book to be called *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* that will be published late in 2008 or early in 2009.

Long Range Conference Planning Committee is preparing for the annual gathering to be held in Johnstown, PA, in 2008. They also work with program committees that are hosting consultations, workshops or institutes.

Central Committee 2006 approved a major development campaign called "Stoking the Fires of Quakerism." The campaign is in the quiet phase and the public phase will begin in the fall.

This winter the office space in Philadelphia was remodeled and all who are in Philadelphia are encouraged to drop in and see them.

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

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns met in Greensboro, North Carolina, for Midwinter Gathering in February 2007. We were blessed by a beautiful site in which to reconnect as a spiritual community. We met again during the FGC Gathering in River Falls, Wisconsin, in July. At both gatherings we worshipped, conducted business, and shared our spiritual journeys, joys and sorrows. We became increasingly aware of the hurt experienced by Friends within our community from strongly anti-gay comments and views expressed by some within FUM both in the United States and abroad. Many Friends in our community seek ways to respond in a loving Spirit-led manner. Within our community we have had many opportunities to live out our convictions to be inclusive.

We were joined at the daily Meeting for Worship held under the care of FLGBTQC at FGC by many IYM Friends. We meet again during Presidents' Day weekend in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We appreciate the support and encouragement of IYM and hope that some IYM Friends join us in Minnesota in February 2008.

- Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

This year's annual meeting of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas, was held from March 15-18, 2007 in Providence, Rhode Island. The theme of the conference centered around Providence, derived from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." The queries for the conference focused on the blessings from God in our lives during times of abundance, which also led to impromptu queries about finding God during times of hardship.

In addition to the daily business meetings, the workshops were a highlight for the representatives and other participants, especially the workshop on Convergent Friends, which Dawn and Nancy both attended. Robin Mohr, a Friend from Pacific Yearly Meeting, coined the name. Wess Daniels of Evangelical Friends Eastern Region and Robin were presenters of the workshop. Convergent Friends are seeking a deeper understanding of our Quaker heritage and a more authentic life in the kingdom of God on Earth, radically inclusive of all who seek to live this life. This emerging movement brings together Quakers of different traditions, such as Friends from the politically liberal end of the evangelical branch, the Christian end of the unprogrammed branch, and the more outgoing end of the conservative branch.

This movement has its roots in the World Gathering of Young Friends held two years ago in England. Since then, it has continued with primarily young people through web blogs and continued communications between Friends around the world. The goal of this movement is not conversion, but rather to become closer to God. Convergence is desired not only between the different branches of Friends but also between generations.

Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Director of Peace and Nonviolence Studies at the University of Rhode Island, gave the keynote address on Saturday night. Although not a Quaker himself, he has worked with Friends for many years, including working at the AFSC office in Chicago. During his address he spoke of attending the historic event in Selma, Alabama, in the spring of 1965. One woman drove down from Detroit, Michigan, to attend, leaving behind her children. She gave a ride to Bernard to enable him to attend the event too. Later that day the KKK shot her as she drove another person to the rally. Her blood, flowing over his head, which, after the crash, landed in her lap, led the Klan to think that he was dead too, saving his life. Her sacrifice of her life, made generously, continued after her death. We are asked to give generously for God. When we give generously, God gives to us abundantly.

In August Dawn, Greg, and Nancy head to the FWCC triennial at Kings Hospital (boarding school) outside of Dublin, Ireland. The triennial will be a time for fellowship and business with Friends from all over the world. Please hold us in the Light as we make this journey on the behalf of the yearly meeting.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

For a great overall view of what Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is please see last year's report in last year's minutes. Many of you might recognize it under the name of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature from which it has evolved. For extensive and detailed information please see the web site <http://QuakerEarthcare.org>

Last fall's annual meeting was held October 5-8 at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu,

New Mexico. The Steering Committee, which guides QEW's work, met again this Spring at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago from April 26-29. This fall's meeting is planned for October 11-15 at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, VT.

Ongoing Projects and Activities:

QEW is constantly engaged in outreach, principally through its standing Outreach Committee. At present a major effort is underway to try to get as many of the Yearly Meetings that have little or no involvement in QEW engaged. To this end 10 Friends who are independently active on sustainability and environmental issues from such Yearly Meetings were identified. They were invited to the spring meeting. Their travel expenses were covered by QEW. During the meeting, a process very similar to the Listening Project we recently went through and having similar objectives was undertaken.

Another standing committee, Publications, publishes the news letter *BeFriending Creation*, which now contains the earlier separate *Quaker Eco-Bulletin* every two months. It has also published 5 books and publishes about two dozen pamphlets, all on environmental or sustainability topics.

"Finca La Bella" is a sustainable agriculture project in the mountains of Costa Rica started by QEW and others in 1990. Recently there has been extensive work on revising the easement and covenant for the "La Bella" farm. The objective of these revisions is to improve the security of the land title for the parcel holders (*parceleros*) and give the whole community greater autonomy in land management decisions.

In the recent past QEW has been collaborating closely with FCNL, resulting in FCNL's adoption of the last part of its ongoing statement of purpose: "We seek an earth restored."

- Alice Howenstine

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL

Eleven seniors graduated in June. All eleven have been accepted into accredited colleges and universities. Enrollment for the coming year stands at 49 students admit-

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2007		
TOTAL REGISTRATION: 154 (116 adults, 38 YFs under 19, representing 85 households).		
REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:		
Blue River	38 Adults 13 Young Friends	Total: 51
Chicago North	43 Adults 15 Young Friends	Total: 58
Chicago South	29 Adults 10 Young Friends	Total: 39
Other	6 Adults 0 Young Friends	<u>Total: 6</u>
		154
Housing: 57 camped, 17 stayed in cabins, 12 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 68 used motels or local housing.		

ted with nine more students in the process. Six new staff are currently learning the ropes at Scattergood in preparation for the coming academic year.

The focus this year has been on Sustainability. Four staff attended a conference on the topic and returned with great ideas that have led and will continue to lead to positive changes on campus.

This year improvements to the campus focused on safety and security issues as well as attracting and retaining staff and students. Improvements were made to buildings, staff housing units, the dorms and classroom spaces. Improvements were also made to fire alarms, wiring and water systems. They will soon be breaking ground on a new root cellar, which will be located at the school. They will also be putting in a new sidewalk from the dining room back patio to the driveway to aid wheel chair access to the lower main where the dining room is.

The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) continues to be productive. The local Food Coop continues to purchase and promote its produce and they have started to participate in the West Branch Farmers' Market.

Work on the Bridge the Gap Capital Campaign is completed! They finished with nearly \$80,000 over their two million dollar goal.

- Sharon Haworth

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON MARRIAGE (as approved)

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 approval, 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 calling; 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 for the marriage. Marriage is then a covenant among God and the two persons who marry one another: 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. Marriage involves a mutual commitment to share your lives, following together a path of love 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 recognition that marriage is a special opportunity 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 Upperside 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 still 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. In modern times, clearness committees have also come to assist the couple to examine whether they have reservations they have inadequately 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, 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 before 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, and care of the marriage following the wedding. 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.)

Same Sex Marriage

Illinois Yearly Meeting is aware that there is great diversity in the relationships that people develop with one another. The worth of these relationships must not be judged on the basis of conventionality but rather to the degree that the relationship contributes to the growth of love in those affected.

- Minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting,

1974

Many Friends meetings, including a number in Illinois Yearly Meeting, have taken marriages of same sex couples under their care. For all marriages the procedure is the same and the same care should be extended for the couple.

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, the business meeting hears the letter of request.

The clearness process may take several meetings and may need to begin with an explanation of the process, as it may be unfamiliar or intimidating to some. The clearness committee meets with the couple and helps them explore 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. (The next section has suggestions on questions and issues to consider in the clearness process. The section afterward has examples of vows.)

When the clearness committee is ready it reports back to the 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 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 flexible and sensitive both to Friends principles and to others' cultural and religious experiences.

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. Legal requirements may vary by state; the committee is advised to check with local county officials. The couple and the arrangements committee should make sure someone is designated to read the certificate, to close the meeting, and to sign and submit any legal documents.

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. Many meetings have a potluck dinner. Some may also have a smaller reception at a separate location.

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 has been 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.

Possible queries 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. Their purpose is to encourage communication between the couple on topics relevant to aspects of their relationship. Not all challenges in a marriage can be anticipated.

The questions below are meant to serve as examples only — the couple and the committee discern what questions to consider in their sessions together. No specific answers are to be expected and the couple may decline to answer any question. Queries not discussed with the committee may be provided to the couple for their consideration.

Marriage Queries

- Have you sought divine guidance in your decision to marry?
- How will you make marriage a sacred and lifelong relationship?
- Have you discussed with each other your religious beliefs and the role they will have in your life together? How do you expect your faith to inform your decision-making as a couple?
- 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 either or both of you will change your names and have you discussed what last name any children will have?
- 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?
- If either of you has children have you considered the impact of this marriage on them?
- 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?
- If this marriage will not be legally recognized by the state, have you discussed how to protect each other's legal rights?
- How will you support each other through times of trial, unexpected life changes, or unfulfilled hopes and dreams? Are you willing to listen together for spiritual guidance when you face a problem without a clear answer and/or ask for a clearness committee?
- Are you willing to postpone personal fulfillment if your spouse is not ready for what that might entail?
- 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?
- How do you intend to keep close relations with family who may live far away (especially in cases of illness or old age)?
- Do you have an understanding of the cultural, religious, and language background of your partner?

Possible wording for vows and certificate:

With the help of the arrangements committee the couple should agree on the text of the vows and the certificate. Below are general principles that need to be included and two examples of each: one traditional and historical and another more contemporary. Either of these may be modified or the couple may compose their own text.

In keeping with Friends' testimony of equality both parties in a marriage make the same promises. The vows are not elaborate. They should state clearly that the two individuals are marrying each other, and promise to be loving and faithful to each other as long as they both shall live. The vows acknowledge the role of God and the gathered community.

Historical (From Book of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends, adopted by Illinois Yearly Meeting, 1927):

“In the presence of God and before 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 a loving and faithful partner (husband, wife) to you as long as we both shall live.”

Suggestions for the certificate:

The certificate must include 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.

Historical (From Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting 1878):

Whereas, _____ (man’s name), of _____ (town), in the county of _____, and State of _____, son of _____ and _____, his wife, of _____, in the county of _____, in the State of _____, and _____ (woman’s name), daughter of _____ and _____, his wife, of _____, in the county of _____, and State of _____, having informed _____ Meeting of the Society of Friends, that they intend marriage with each other, and no obstruction appearing, (consent of parents or guardians being given, if the parties are minors,) their proposal of marriage was allowed by said meeting.

This is to certify, that in the accomplishment of their marriage, this _____ day of _____ month, in the year _____, the said _____ (man’s name) and _____ (woman’s name) appeared at (here state the meeting place or residence where the marriage is accomplished), and in the presence of a committee of said meeting and other witnesses, the said _____ (man’s name) took the said _____ (woman’s name) by the hand and declared that he took her to be his wife, promising to be to her a faithful and affectionate husband until death should separate them; and she the said _____ did in like manner declare that she took him the said _____ to be her husband, promising to be to him a faithful and affectionate wife until death should separate them, they did then and there sign their names to this certificate, she in accordance with custom assuming the family name of her husband.

(Man’s name) _____.

(Woman’s name) _____.

And we having been present at the solemnization of the said marriage, have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Or:

Having felt the call to marry each other, _____ and _____, whose parents are _____ and _____ of _____ and _____ and _____ of _____, sought and received the approval 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 _____ rose and said that (insert wording of vow here). _____ then said that

(insert wording of vow here).

___ and ___ signed here witnessing their promises to each other:

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.” 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. Indeed, the meeting is enriched by all marriages in the community and benefits by providing care and attention to each marriage whether or not the wedding was conducted under the care of the meeting.

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 their union.

The meeting also bears responsibility to care for marriages in which only one of the couple is an active participant in the Meeting. The Meeting should welcome both as equal partners in the marriage and provide care and support as the opportunity arises.

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 all the individuals within the meeting.

Meetings need to be aware that there are a variety of life changes that may create stress in marriages. Eventually most couples will encounter serious illness or disability of one of the couple, a child, or parents; employment transitions; changing financial circumstances; aging; and death in the family. Couples may also face stresses from religious differences, changing perception of gender identity or sexual orientation, change of calling, or service commitments, among 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, taking care to be supportive, not intrusive. They could celebrate the growth of the marriage relationship with the couple and nurture the couple’s spiritual life. 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 affect a mar-

riage. Members of a care committee 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 effects of children on a marriage. If none on the care committee has 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.

Providing religious education, child care, and fellowship opportunities for children of all ages is an important part of support for couples with children. In addition, meetings can support couples by having books in meeting libraries about marriage, encouraging participation in marriage enrichment workshops, sharing meals in small groups, and maintaining a relationship with couples so they feel comfortable to seek 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 married couples 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 normally writes a letter of introduction to that meeting. This letter could include a request to take the marriage under its care if the couple so wishes. If there is not a meeting close to the couple, 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. This can become a part of welcoming the couple into participation in the meeting community.

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 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. Ministry and Counsel committees are encouraged to maintain a list of qualified counselors outside the meeting who understand Quaker values, as a reference for couples who may desire confidential professional help.

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, the Meeting should take care to ensure that they 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 during the divorce proceedings and after the divorce is final. This could include practical support such as assistance with housing, jobs, and childcare, emotional support as the individuals deal with the transition, and spiritual support. If desired, the couple may request a called meeting for worship during which they each rise and ask God's support in releasing each other from their marriage commitment.

Queries on divorce (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 avoid hurting your former spouse in your relationships with others, either in or out of the meeting?

For couples with 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 give loving support and encouragement, and avoid giving unwelcome advice?
- Are you mindful of the needs of each member of the couple?

Sources for quotes:

p. 63, “Marriage being an ordinance affecting all the relations of life...” *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends* (1878) p. 53; (1892) p. 53.

p. 64, “Illinois Yearly Meeting is aware that there is great diversity...”: Illinois Yearly Meeting (1974) *The Minutes and Accompanying Documents*, Saturday Morning minute #9, p. 3.

p. 67, Non-traditional wording for vows: modified from Southeast Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice* (2005), p. 6.

p. 67, Traditional wording of marriage vows: from *Book of Discipline of the Religious Society of Friends, adopted by Illinois Yearly Meeting, 1927*, p.102.

p. 67, Traditional wording for certificate: from *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting* (1878), pp. 57-58.

p. 68, “Marriage is recognized to be not an easy bond...”: Comfort, William Wistar (1941) *Just Among Friends: The Quaker Way of Life*, New York: The Macmillan Co., p. 49.

p. 70, “Clearness committees for divorce could serve the same purposes...”: Blood, Bob, (1972) “Divorce in Friends Meeting”, *Friends Journal*, November 1, 1972, pp. 574–575.

p. 70, Queries on separation and divorce: adapted from New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee (2001) *Living with Oneself and Others*, 4th ed., ch. 8 (unpaginated).

MINUTEBOOK INDEXING PROJECT

During the 2006 sessions, the yearly meeting recognized my leading to index the Illinois Yearly Meeting minute books. During the past year I have:

- purchased *Information Retrieval Design* with yearly meeting funds (\$60) which has given me a good foundation in the indexing process
- created a support committee to assist me to ensure that I develop an index that is useful for the yearly meeting (members listed below)
- drafted an index to the 2005 and 2006 minutes which is currently in the hands of the support committee
- identified some of the questions that need to be answered before I can proceed further with actual indexing
- arranged to meet with the support committee during annual session to resolve some of these issues

Once we have settled the multiple questions that have arisen as I began this project, I will be able to steadily continue the indexing process.

- Beth Schobernd

Beth's Support Committee:

Dawn Amos, Web Servant

Sue Davison, Presiding Clerk

Julie Derden, professional indexer

David Finke, Publications Committee

Cathy Garra, who brought the concern to Continuing Committee

Margie Haworth, Recording Clerk

Sharon Haworth, Administrative Coordinator

Tom Paxson, Assistant Clerk

PERSONAL PLEA FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FRIENDS WITH DISABILITIES

First I wish to thank Sue Davison for putting the report on the Winter Retreat first on the agenda this morning. I'm very heat sensitive. I've been told this condition is life-threatening, and I wish to make an impassioned personal plea for air conditioning this meeting space. As soon as my report and the following discussion are over, I will beat a retreat to an air conditioned car—I can't visit with my old friends as I'd like to before I leave. I can't stay here! I love IYM, and I miss you all. Because of the lack of air conditioning, I can't attend IYM. Please get air conditioning in this room — don't wait for the new building to make it possible for Friends with disabilities like asthma, migraines, and heat sensitivity to come to yearly meeting.

While I'm mentioning disabilities, we also need to think about Friends with mobility problems. Blue River Quarterly was held last fall at a camp in Missouri that has concrete pathways between the various buildings. Menno Haven has wheelchair accessible bathrooms and showers. Not only wheelchair users, but also Friends who find walking on uneven ground a trial would be more likely to come to IYM if you, the temporarily able-bodied, would consider our needs.

Friends, you are robbing yourselves of the time, talents, energies, love and wisdom of Friends with disabilities. At Seder, Jews shake hands and say, "Next year, Jerusalem." Friends, don't wait for Jerusalem — the new building — to make it possible for ALL Friends to attend Yearly Meeting.

- Mariellen Gilpin

WINTER RETREAT 2007: TALES FROM TISKILWA

Thirty-four Friends came to Camp Menno Haven, Tiskilwa, Illinois, for the Winter Retreat February 10-11. Seven of those Friends had never before attended any Yearly Meeting function, and they agreed the oldtimers had welcomed them into the Quaker family. Through the generosity of several Friends, who contributed a little extra for scholarships (and the lack of other Friends requesting financial assistance) the Retreat made about \$600 beyond its expenses. Next year we want to make a concerted effort to recruit young Friends to use scholarship funds, and bring in an outside speaker again.

The theme of Winter Retreat '07 was "Spending Time with God: Waiting for Discernment to Happen." Some quick impressions may help tell the tale:

- A Friend who leads a very busy, hectic life said the Winter Retreat "helped me stay human."
- A Friend who had been in serious resistance against a leading to write a book went home determined to start her research based on an organizing vision she now saw.
- A Friend who mildly resisted doing any worship-sharing on Sunday morning found it helped her clarify ideas that had been "rattling around in my head all weekend."
- Two Friends who wondered if it were time to lay down some of the responsibilities they carried were led to take on an eldering role, "nurturing baby Quakers" in their home meetings.
- A Friend who wasn't attending her meeting decided to give Quakerism another try.

Marti Matthews of Oak Park meeting began the day with a presentation and exercise about Focusing, a wholistic discipline for clearing the emotional confusion that often gets in the way of discernment. This method works with the body and spirit together and laid an incarnational basis for the rest of the day's work. Friends were encouraged to "listen to your guts and trust your intuitions more." Friends learned the quiet practice of focusing and companioning each other. Friends were reassured that sometimes their bodies could really be depended upon when they were trying to discern.

Marti set the tone for the whole weekend: Friends *need* hands-on spirituality, mutual seeking of spiritual discernment, a chance to include their bodies in their discerning. Many thanks to Marti.

After a wonderful Menno Haven lunch, Friends gathered to learn about visual journaling for discernment. Rebecca Plummer Rohloff of Urbana-Champaign Meeting led this session. Friends with little previous experience, at least one of whom flunked scissors and paste in first grade, plunged in with great gusto. Rebecca encouraged, suggested, and gave advice. Friends were pleased with the discernment that came up for them as they cut and glued. Many times the most visually energetic and interesting aspects of Friends' creations were their depictions of their fears, hesitations and doubts. Friends, we need to free all that energy for our good works.

Donna Dzierlenga, of Live Oak Meeting, Houston, made the final presentation of the day, sharing from her life about following the small motions of love, rather than waiting for answers to big questions. Donna challenged Friends to "experiment with worship-sharing their questions where the only listener was God—and then listening for God's response." Friends fell into a very deep, intent silence, clearly ready for

Donna's invitation, ready for their private encounter with God. Then Friends wrote a note to themselves about the insight we wanted to be reminded about when we returned home. Donna collected the notes and stamped them, and later mailed them to Friends.

By this time it was 4:30. Friends needed a break. The organizers postponed their wrap-up session until morning. We ate another bodacious Menno Haven meal. After supper various activities engrossed Friends: some returned to their art projects; others played Quaker charades. Some Friends gathered in a rich worship-sharing on their own experiences discerning God's will. Still other Friends returned to their rooms for a good dorm room chat.

Next morning Friends gathered in small groups to worship-share. Friends appreciated learning three such different discernment disciplines, intending to incorporate one or more in their practice. They appreciated learning they didn't always have to be "in their heads," and that discernment could come visually or in their bodies. Friends learned leadings don't usually come in dramatic ways, but instead in listening to and faithful following of those little motions of love that come to us every day. Worship was deep and heartfelt, and there were many hugs as Friends said farewell.

I'd like to heap special praise on Margie Haworth, for her warm and gracious hosting and being our registrar. Also, Martha Turner did a great deal to keep the Retreat flowing smoothly and gave me excellent help with promoting the Retreat. Thanks so much to both Margie and Martha.

Winter Retreat '07 was the deepest one yet, a rousing success—not only in teaching disciplines of discernment but also in laying a good foundation for the future work of the Discernment of Gifts ad hoc committee. We are already looking ahead to teaching methods for corporate discernment at Winter Retreat '08. Stay tuned!

- Mariellen Gilpin, Winter Retreat Coordinator

YOUTH COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

(Approved by IYM Continuing Committee 3-3-2007)

PURPOSE: To provide programs and to coordinate activities for High School Friends (HSF) from Illinois Yearly Meeting, including a) leading retreats, b) helping them to find/participate in new experiences related to spiritual development, service, and leadership, and c) recognize the need for and refer to appropriate pastoral or professional care. The Youth Coordinator will also help support a tremor for Junior High School Friends (JHSF) to help prepare them for entering the HSF meeting, look for opportunities to collaborate with youth programs from other yearly meetings (e.g., Quakes) and act as a liaison with the Young Adult Friends (YAF) to help HSF transition to that age group upon graduation.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Active in the Society of Friends (Illinois Yearly Meeting preferred but not required), called to youth ministry, and knowledgeable about the Bible and Friends testimonies, business procedures and writings.
- Attuned to Friends' social concerns and also to problems and concerns of today's teens.
- Proven ability to interact effectively with teens and to share religious faith and Friends' convictions.
- Experience with both major Friends' traditions and understanding of religious di-

versity among Friends.

- Able to work cooperatively and to encourage local development of youth activities.
- Able to manage program planning details and to operate within a budget.
- College degree or equivalent (specific training or experience on Youth Development, programs, or education preferred).
- Computer literate and preferably familiar with e-mail, social networks (like myspace or facebook), and webgroups (like yahoo or google).
- Must have a car, valid driver's license and be available for weekend travel and be able to accept overnight hospitality.
- Must pass a background check.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Work with the Youth Oversight (YO) committee and individual meetings to organize and publicize HSF activities at Yearly Meeting levels.
2. Work with HSF and YO clerks to plan and run HSF Program for fall Mini-Quake (in mid-November), January Quake that Rocked the Midwest (MLK weekend, held with 3 other yearly meetings/youth coordinators), Memorial Day Work Weekend (last weekend of May), & IYM yearly meeting (usually Wed.-Sun. in the last week of July).
3. Work with YO to coordinate JHSF and AYF transitional activities.
4. Encourage youth participation in wider Friends youth activities (Quakes, other

MEMORIALS

RICHARD BOYAJIAN

Richard Boyajian was a beloved member of the 57th Street Meeting community for over fifty years. By ministry and example he taught us to “tread lightly” on this Earth he so loved and celebrated. He was the first to notice the Spring buds, or the birdsongs. He loved to share with us the crafts of people from all corners of the earth, and he celebrated all cultures and embraced sister/brotherhood for all.

Richard died of Lou Gehrig's disease on December 23, 2006 at the age of 84 in the company of his family in Olympia, WA, where he and his wife Polly lived since early 2005.

In his 1988 Plummer Lecture he described himself as: “a human, a man, a husband and father, a merchant, an Armenian, and a nature lover ... a cook, a scientist, a recycler, a singer, a Chicagoan, a pacifist, a car driver, a camper, a world traveler, a night-owl, a hiker, a folk dancer, a grower of house plants, a penny-pincher, a holder of an M.S. in biochemistry, and finally, underlying it all, binding together all these things, I am a Quaker, a convinced one.” He continued: “I was a high school and middle school biology teacher, a student, a male child keenly aware that my parents were immigrants from oppression, a Boy Scout, a door-to-door magazine salesboy, a soldier, a choir member, a high school journalist, a Chicago Cubs fan, a camp counselor, a teacher-trainer, a nature photographer, a college camping trip organizer, and a bicyclist.”

Richard was born in Chicago to Dikran and Zarouhi Boyajian, immigrants from Armenia. He often spoke of his tight-knit family, his childhood and his parents' experience of America. Chicago was his home for 82 years and he loved to share the history and landmarks of his city with visitors.

Service in the military during World War II convinced Richard that armed combat among human beings could never bring us to a world of peace and justice. Seeking another way and the fellowship of people of like mind, he found the Society of Friends at the 57th Street Meeting. There he met Polly Gildersleeve, his companion for life. They were married at Quaker House on December 26, 1955.

Richard and Polly were faithful members of 57th St. Meeting. They only missed Meeting for travel, and they both served the Meeting in myriad capacities. Richard served the Meeting as Presiding Clerk, clerked many named and ad hoc committees, and often accepted responsibilities that were outside of the committee structure. For several decades, for instance, Richard gently prodded the Meeting on fourth Sundays to write letters according to the FCNL suggested actions. He represented the Meeting to the Hyde Park/Kenwood Interfaith Council for many years, and was instrumental in their yearly “peace table” at the Fifty-Seventh Street Arts and Crafts Fair. Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends remember his table of beautiful crafts through which he raised funds for Quaker causes. And he constantly reminded us by example to be careful stewards of our environment.

Richard learned to cherish the natural world through his experiences as a Boy Scout. He passed on his knowledge and love of nature to his children and students. The family enjoyed many summer camping trips around the U.S. and internationally. He believed in using the Earth’s resources carefully, and arranged recycling in his neighborhood long before it was popular. He cut up cereal boxes to make index cards and picked up trash on whatever sidewalk or road he was traveling.

He earned a degree in biochemistry from the University of Chicago under the GI Bill, and had a career as a biology high school teacher at the South Shore High School and the University of Chicago Laboratory School. His second career was inspired by a trip to India in the late sixties where he had been invited to share teaching methods with fellow educators in Alwaye, Kerala. There he became interested in handcrafts and folk arts which led to his second career as a shopkeeper. He began taking international handcrafts to street fairs and organized a yearly fundraiser for UNICEF. He also participated annually in a Milwaukee Friends benefit for the A.F.S.C. Richard opened Boyajian’s Bazaar on 53rd Street in 1980, operating along cottage industry principles he discovered while studying the beliefs of Mahatma Gandhi during his teaching assignment in India. He was dedicated to his store, and spent long hours there. He formed warm relationships with his customers and suppliers, and taught many people how to make and repair jewelry.

For Richard, working together with other people for common ideals became central to his life. He joined several cooperatives during his college years; he and Polly raised their family in a cooperative apartment building (Evergreen Co-op) in Hyde Park; and they were lifetime members of Circle Pines Center, a cooperative family camp in Michigan. Richard loved singing and folk-dancing at Circle Pines. He danced with his children on his shoulders. During the 1970s and 80s he sang with the Chicago Community Renewal Chorus and went on several Friendship Ambassador tours with the Chorus to Eastern and Western Europe, including the U.S.S.R. At Panorama, their home in Washington State, Richard joined a group that went to the Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center to sing for the residents. He remained active in his community even as he struggled to walk and to swallow as the illness sapped his strength.

Richard was keenly aware of injustice and discrimination. In his Plummer Lecture he highlighted the struggles against the oppression of racial minorities, of women, of persons with disabilities, of gays and lesbians and said that “(u)nderlying all these moves for social change is the recognition of the sacred light within that needs nurturing.”

Richard’s adventurous spirit led him around the world and into the homes and hearts of people of many cultures. He and Polly constantly welcomed travelers from around the world into their home. His inquisitive mind was always learning and questioning. As a teacher he drew others into the thrill of discovery both in and out of the classroom. His playful nature endeared him to children who raced with him over sand dunes or discovered magical marbles and spinning coins in his shop. Richard’s generosity came from a deeply-held belief that sharing one’s resources and convictions would help make the world a better place.

57th Street Meeting joins Polly, their daughters and son Laurel, Holly and Glen, and their grandchildren and all F/friends and relatives in celebrating Richard’s life among us. His life made a difference in the lives of many others.

BLANCHE FREY

Blanche Frey, a long-time member of Lake Forest Friends Meeting, was valiant in her commitment to truth and her desire to live in that spirit that “takes away the occasion for all wars.”

Blanche grew up in Dover, Delaware. After graduating from George School, she earned a Bachelor’s degree from Earlham College in 1938. She received a Masters degree in English literature from Bryn Mawr College and taught English for one year at George School. She apprenticed at consumer cooperatives and was hired to manage a coop in Oberlin, Ohio. For Blanche, however, family always came first, and that brought her back to Delaware.

In the fall of 1945 she met Daryl Frey on the steps of the Friends meetinghouse in Wilmington, Delaware. They were married there the following spring in a Quaker ceremony. Blanche and Daryl moved to Barrington, Illinois, where she devoted herself to raising their three sons. She considered the years spent raising her sons as the most creative and happiest of her life. She said, “Besides testing our love and patience in the early years, [the boys] brought both of us untold joys both in themselves and in their families.”

Blanche and Daryl, who died in 1995, served as co-clerks of Lake Forest Friends Meeting at different times. For Blanche, “Meeting for Worship is central: for here we experience the continuum of our faith. I cannot stress too much its importance. It is the anchor of our lives. Here are lived the basics of our faith[:] that we can know the will of God in our own experience, whether singly or as a group. And through the miracle of the Monthly Meeting of Business we can experience unity and can do God’s will in the conduct of our everyday affairs.”

Blanche had a lasting impact on Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Blanche’s presence helped to center the meeting for worship, and her vocal ministry had a simplicity of words but depth of meaning. We remember her for her ability to listen deeply to Friends during clearness committees; her description of the responsibilities of Ministry and Counsel; and her recipe for punch which we use for special occasions.

Blanche was honored in 1997 by Church Women United with the Valiant Woman Award, the organization's highest international award, recognizing her decades of work with the families of migrant workers and peace activism to limit nuclear weapons. Also in that year, Earlham College honored her with its Sesquicentennial Alumni Peacemaker Award. Shortly afterward, she left the area and moved to a Quaker retirement community in Pennsylvania. She died on July 16, 2007 at age 92, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. The way we can celebrate Blanche's life is to live our faith every day.

HADLEY E. FINKE

January 13, 1909 – October 3, 2006

A man of many interests and skills: I want to call him "Jack of All Trades" ...except that the second phrase of that is "master of none" and that part is *very much untrue!*

All these wonderful nuggets that surprise those of us in the Columbia Friends Meeting, in our vast unknowing, illustrate what a varied man he was! We only met him in 1999. And not too long after, he became unable to speak clearly, so we missed out on a full life. Very sad.

When Hadley came to Columbia, his son David and daughter-in-law Nancy took him to examine various assisted-living homes. Hadley decided to choose the one where, at the end of the tour, the guide reached out and patted Hadley's arm. Smart man, to know on which side the bread was buttered.

Now, back to those surprising nuggets. I'll just scatter a bunch of them here, as though they were marbles in the dirty hands of young boys, squatting around a circle etched in the dirt:

Chicago Worlds Fair 1933

Production of religious drama with wife Madge Axford Finke

Helper of Japanese-Americans (1940's)

Father to David and Paula and Grandfather to Alice

Inventor, engineer; designer, builder

Founder of Finke Manufacturing Company (Aurora, IL)

Member of Fellowship of Reconciliation

President of Aurora's Human Relations Council

Volunteer fundraiser for Aurora College

Provider of hospitality to college students

Delegate to 1986 World Conference for the Year of Peace in Denmark

Beloved of countless human beings

Pretty good marbles, wouldn't you say?

- Sylvia Spotts, at the direction of Columbia Friends Meeting

MARK FORSYTHE

Mark Davis Forsythe had 28 years of an active life and 16 years of a mysterious life. Born in 1963, in Elmhurst, Illinois, on January 15th, he was the fourth child—and only son—of Pauline von Zech Forsythe and Thomas Roberts Forsythe. The home in which he grew up was one which valued creativity, music, nature, art and ideas of justice and faith.

Downers Grove Friends Meeting was central to the family's life in his younger years. His mother's love of arts and crafts, and the artistic leanings of friends at

Meeting, were important in his career development. One dear friend, Martin Moy, took Mark under his wing and turned him on to ink drawing and photography, hobbies he developed through his teen years. Mark was always mischievous, especially in his teen years. He found a home away from home in the high school auditorium, where he and his sister, Helen, and friends developed a bond out of love for the theatre and independent thinking. Mark loved fast cars, Dungeons and Dragons, drawing, taking physical risks, folk dancing, reading, music, food and family. Although his parents were divorced when he was 12, he always had a strong sense of his German and his Quaker ancestry.

Following his creative spirit, Mark decided to major in *theater arts* with an emphasis on *set design*. He first attended Goodman School of the Arts at DePaul University in Chicago, but by the end of his first year he moved to North Carolina School of the Arts, in Winston-Salem. He interned in set design in Kansas City, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Anchorage, Alaska. He worked on two films: *Phantasm II* and the Woody Allen film, *Scenes from a Mall*. He then held several positions across the country: The Reliance Theater in Atlanta, Georgia, the Seattle Opera Company in Washington, and finally a shop in Connecticut which produced scenes for New York's Broadway shows. He lived in Greenwich Village and later in the Bronx. He was an excellent scene painter and hoped to become a set designer.

In May of 1991, Mark came back to Chicago to spend some time with his father, who was in poor health. During this time Mark spent time with friends and family, and he also went on a canoe trip with Helen and their friends over Memorial Day weekend. It was the last time friends would hear his raucous jokes and laughter.

On Tuesday, May 28, he went rock climbing with an acquaintance at Devil's Lake, Wisconsin. He had done much rock climbing in Alaska and in Washington state. But at Devil's Lake, for reasons we have never known, Mark fell 75 feet down a slanted wall. His skull cracked in three places, his collarbones, pelvis, arms and legs were broken—yet there were no internal injuries. After eight hours of surgery, doctors said his brain was swelling and he would die unless they could take out some of his brain. They could not predict what part they would remove. The family made the decision to give him a chance at life, and so began Mark's long mysterious journey in silence and stillness, not able to move or speak for sixteen years.

Friends and family visited him in Madison for the first months. He was then moved to Milwaukee, then to the South side of Chicago and finally to the LaGrange Nursing home where he lived for the remainder of his life. His father, Tom, was his guardian until his own stroke in 1994, when Mark's mother Pauline took this responsibility.

Mark had always said he would take care of his mother, and for the last four years of her life when she resided at the same nursing home, he did just that; he gave her life meaning and purpose in her twilight years. When his sister Beth and step-mother Marti and niece Sonya told Mark that Pauline had died, the expression on his face told them clearly that he understood. Though no one was ever able to develop clear communication with Mark, those close to him knew he was present and responsive. The recreational therapist said that he laughed with his eyes when she read him jokes. He made noise with his throat and moved his shoulder at times trying to express something. He formed silent caring friendships with his long-time roommates, "Bo" and Steve, who had also suffered head injuries. Family members and friends visited him as they were able. Letters and cards were read to him by staff

or visitors. Through the years Dr. Hunter-Smith cared for him gently, finally helping his sisters Beth and Helen make the decision to put him under the care of hospice, months after his fall in the nursing home had required amputation of one leg and left him more bedridden than ever. Mark died quietly on June 5th, 2007, with a hospice nurse by his bedside.

Mark led two lives: For his first 28 years he had dreams, chased after them, and even lived some of them. After his rock-climbing fall he had a different existence, a mystery he could not share. For many who loved him, it was difficult to bear seeing him in this state. Knowing that Mark is free of his physical self at last is a relief for all who've walked with him along this path that to our eyes looked so difficult. We believe that Mark's spirit may now be in joy and peace and freedom with his parents and all those loved ones who've preceded him. His survivors include his sisters Emily, Beth and Helen; nieces Sonya, Anna, Sarah, Miriam, Naomi, and great-niece Ava; his stepmother, Marti Matthews, Aunts and Uncles, 22 first cousins, and many friends nationwide. We can now smile and be at peace knowing that Mark's physical journey has ended and his soul is unencumbered by worldly pain. Shine on dear Mark, we love you always.

- Composed by Helen Forsythe Tasker June 2007

HELEN JEAN NELSON

Helen Jean Nelson, born June 5, 1918, grew up on Quaker Lane in rural McNabb, Illinois. She was one of two daughters to J. Turner and Kathryn (nee Griffith) Mills. She passed Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2006.

Helen Jean was a life-long member of the Society of Friends. Raised on Quaker Lane in the Clear Creek Friends community, Helen Jean always tried to live Friends' values. She felt a strong commitment to Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting, serving as Clerk for both and on many Friends' committees over the years. She was a Trustee for Clear Creek Friends and Illinois Yearly Meeting. In 1973, IYM invited her to share her life's journey by giving the Plummer Lecture at Annual Session.

She documented Friends history with two books, *150 Years in Review of Clear Creek Families and Friends* and *The Friends of Clear Creek 1830- 1930*. Her service to Friends extended beyond our local borders as she was a Quaker representative to the National Council of Churches and a representative from IYM traveling to Africa for the FWCC Triennial.

Helen Jean loved her family and family life. She raised four children and was a loving support for her ten grandchildren. A little-known fact about Helen Jean, and Don, her husband of 68 years, is they square danced in all 50 states.

Helen Jean grew to be a wise and kind elder in her later years. Anyone who could spend time with Helen Jean would grow as a Friend. Clear Creek Friends will miss her and her thoughtful messages during Meeting for Worship.

MARY ELLEN SARBAUGH

Mary Ellen Sarbaugh passed away in October 2006. She was a sojourning member at Lake Forest Friends Meeting for many years while she kept her membership at Gwynedd Meeting. Several years ago, she moved to Foulkeways and back to her home meeting. She taught us what it meant to be a sojourning member.

We have many colorful and fun children's books in our library donated by Mary

Ellen. In addition, she made a habit of giving and suggesting books for adults. She helped parents of children with learning differences by connecting them with appropriate resources.

Children who were wiggling during meeting for worship were happy to sit near Mary Ellen because some sort of toy or handheld game would suddenly appear in their little hands. One time, when a member was bedridden in the hospital, Mary Ellen found a prism to hang in the window so that her room would be filled with rainbows.

We enjoyed reading her long, long letters from Foulkeways and we were happy that she reconnected with her home meeting in Gwynedd. The children of Lake Forest Friends Meeting who matured while she was sojourning with us are carrying forward her lifetime interest in young people and her enthusiasm for books.

MARIANNE MOON THOMAS

1912 – 2006

Marianne Moon Thomas, a longtime member of the Columbia Friends Meeting, died September 30, 2006, at home in Friendship Village in Chesterfield, Missouri. She was ninety-four. Born in 1912 in Carthage, Missouri, she was the eldest of five children of Alfred C. Moon and Grace Bowers Moon who were both educators. Her father was a school superintendent, her mother a teacher. So, of course, a good education was highly valued by the family.

Marianne, upon graduation from high school, attended both Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri, and the University of Missouri in Columbia. In 1935 she married Dr. Lloyd B. Thomas, a chemistry professor at the University of Missouri. Together, they raised six talented children, all of whom survive: Martha Stuber of Creve Coeur, MO, Ellen Dunn of Eugene, OR, Lloyd B. Thomas Jr. of Manhattan, KS, Marianne “Mimi” Link of Elkton, MD, Charles Thomas of Kansas City, MO, and Jeannie Thomas Hamdani of Santa Cruz, CA — as well as 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren! Her only surviving sibling, Bartlett Moon, is a retired career diplomat.

Marianne was a woman of great charm and many talents. She was a consummate gardener all her life, practically to the day she died. A great reader, she had an acute intelligence with a quick and ready laugh. Kind and generous, she savored life’s drolleries. Though her family was very much the center of her life, she also participated in community affairs, and was passionate about social causes. A great admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt, she was active in the League of Women Voters, the Missouri Association of Social Welfare, the Missouri Coalition of Social Justice, and the Missouri Council of Churches Legislative Review Committee. She testified against the Death Penalty whenever possible.

In 2004, at the age of ninety-two, she was awarded an honorary alumna certificate, a rare honor awarded only on unique occasions, after being just a few credit hours shy of graduation from the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism.

Marianne was a quintessential Quaker, a peacemaker in the truest sense of the word. She seemed to have an instinctual connection to all living things. Love ruled her life. For her, loving was as natural as breathing. Kind, gentle, funny, forgiving, she has left us with a lingering sense of her persona.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

We welcomed three new members—two convinced and one birthright member—into our Meeting in September of 2006, and our Meeting has enjoyed welcoming visitors who have become regular attenders. As a result, Friends who were present at the time this report was drafted agreed that our small Meeting feels considerably less precarious than in recent years.

Our Meetings for worship have a good, deep silence and relatively little vocal ministry. Those present get something out of the silence, including Gwenyth Sues, the aforementioned newest birthright member of the Bloomington-Normal Society of Friends.

Our Meeting has reintroduced Sharing Sessions to provide non-silent ministry. Recent Sharing Sessions have included the Care and Nurturing of Our Meeting, Simplicity, Environmental Concerns, and the Marriage Section of *Faith and Practice*.

Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business are a third way we address the spiritual need of our Meeting.

Over potlucks, during discussions, and through communication between Meetings, we help one another put our faith into practice in the wider community.

CLEAR CREEK

This year Clear Creek took time to rest, be comforted and give comfort.

It was a year of twelve blankets, gathering around a fireplace, reconnecting with our internal focus and finding a haven within the home of Helen Jean Nelson who passed away during the Fall.

August set the tone for our year as we decided to cancel everything during this month except for Meeting on Sundays. After IYM we were content as when a job is completed and well done but also exhausted. So we rested and we realized that the restoration was complete. It is done! Strange to feel the energy around us not moving so quickly. It felt calm, more quiet and peaceful. We could rest.

By September our energy had recovered somewhat and we began First Day School with the building of wooden tool boxes that Dick Ashdown precut for the Young Friends. Within the last five years Clear Creek has worked often with tools and it seems to have become a part of our identity. As the Young Friends hammered the wood pieces of their boxes, they learned patience and determination. They also learned that different styles of tackling a task are just fine. Some pounded their nails in with short but determined taps while others pounded their nails in with long movements and loud bangs. The job was completed either way.

Now that the Meeting House restoration is complete we have the energy to pursue activities outside of Clear Creek. Our members discovered that they were being led to finish personal projects and start new ones in their life. This was at first a strange and novel place for us.

When Helen Jean died in the Fall, it felt unreal, as if it had not happened. Perhaps this was because her children and grandchildren filled our Meeting with their presence. Perhaps she visited us still. Certainly we felt her hand and kindness when Winter set in and we were invited to gather within her home. Throughout this very cold winter we were embraced by her family's hospitality and blessed warmth.

By this time our Young Friends were working on blankets to deliver to Quakerdale in Iowa. The blankets are intended to comfort the young girls who live there.

So throughout most of the Winter they laid out the fleece material along Helen Jean's kitchen floor and tables, cutting and tying the blankets together.

They learned to work and communicate quietly with each other as the adults were meeting in the next room. The Young Friends care so much about helping animals and the people around them. It is a blessing to listen to them speak, to learn and just be in their presence.

This year we made an effort to revive our Adult Sunday discussion group. We divided the topics between a Faith and Practice discussion on the second Sunday and a discussion on First Corinthians on the fourth Sunday of each month. We had mixed results on our faithfulness to these subjects but it feels as if we are beginning to generate the energy to continue a practice that Clance Wilson's presence seemed to anchor so effortlessly.

Some of our concerns this winter involved discerning the present and future needs and care for Becky. Another issue was our role within the transition of the IYM trusteeship.

I cannot mention our Spiritual Direction group without telling about the elements that were our background surrounding us. These were swirling snow, a warm fireplace and cheese cake! To be precise, Dick Ashdown's fireplace and cheese cake, although the cheese cake is purchased at Lacon's newest favorite restaurant, "Asher's Apron." We sat around Dick's fireplace, in the glow of fire light, sharing our thoughts and messages. Afterwards there was cheese cake, each time a different kind! Returning home with the memory of laughter and the taste of caramel and chocolate cheese cake on our lips was a blissful comfort.

This year it is Clear Creek's turn to plan the program! Our Spring began with the culmination of IYM planning. Beth Schobernd became our leader in this effort. Throughout the Winter Beth, Grayce Mesner and Carol Bartles worked to discern a theme and search for potential speakers and workshops for our IYM week. They have succeeded well, and surprisingly, our theme already resonates with other groups this year.

Besides our predilection for working with tools, Clear Creek seems to attract Friends who travel - OFTEN! Last year Kris Simon joined us and she began traveling to places all around the U.S, Norway and Europe. This year Rebecca Conant and Ruth Raffensperger joined our ranks and promptly departed for exotic and exciting places like Thailand and Portugal. We get to read their blogs and listen to their stories of adventures in far away places. Andrew Bartles, son of Carol and Bob Bartles, is spending his final school semester in Oman. If you want to look that one up, it is on the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula. These young people seem filled with an energy to connect with other cultures and to a better understanding of the hearts of people beyond our cultural sphere.

Camp Menno Haven has been a gathering place this year for the IYM Winter Retreat and now again during Blue River Quarterly Meeting.

During the Winter Retreat, Rachel Mershon showed me how to spot eagles (we saw three magnificent ones!) and shared her love for the life of birds. I marveled at the blessing of this place. This place was envisioned by a courageous group of Mennonites who wanted to create a place for retreats, a haven to leave for future generations. The first time I saw this place was during a Winter Site Envisioning meeting to research retreat centers. On my visit I learned of their history and heard the contentment and gratitude of the current Mennonites who now work there. This was love

passed down to future generations and continues to nurture, grow and hold a place within their midst.

As we hold Blue River Quarterly Meeting at Camp Menno Haven, the promise of one day being able to meet within our own haven on IYM grounds will not be far from our minds.

- Jeannie Marvin, Clerk

COLUMBIA

Our weekly attendance remains high, hovering in the range of 13 to 55 persons, generally around 23. For some, our growing realization that we cannot put off major decisions any longer has plunged the state of our meeting into valleys of discontent and restlessness. The two issues that were put on hold during our Sabbath "Year" were: 1) whether to remain in our current meetinghouse and make improvements or to move to a less remote location; 2) to determine if our meeting is supportive of same gender marriages. Other areas of concern include: Do we trust one another? Do we feel free to address each other with candor? Do we express love to one another? Is there prejudice in our meeting? Do we have a true spiritual community at present, or a pseudo-community? At present, transportation and support of our aging members are also concerns.

To help us begin to address some of these problems, Janet Means Underhill, with the help of Margaret Katranides, conducted a workshop for us in January 2007. We are continuing the work done in this workshop by having four small groups which will be meeting three times by the end of May 2007. These groups are to help us get to know each other better and deepen our communication so that we may be able to further consider our varying needs and viewpoints in a loving and productive way. We are hopeful that this unsettling period of looking at our differences can bring us closer to each other and to God.

On an optimistic note, we have and are continuing to make some headway in discerning the fruits of our efforts in holding a Sabbath "Year." This period of reflection began in June 2004 in order to allow greater freedom to develop spiritually without the constraints of committee work which many of us had begun to find burdensome. To become organized again proved somewhat difficult, especially with regard to what form we could agree to, resulting in delay in agreeing on the organization of our meeting and in reviewing our terminology. With the help of two workshops facilitated by Maurine Pyle, assisted by Margaret Katranides (our IYM Ministry & Advancement visitor), we reorganized our meeting structure in June 2006. This structure has proved fruitful and more efficient, rejuvenated by the appearance of newer faces as well as the rotation of those more established.

Active membership has remained more or less stable during this past year. We welcomed Sheila and Jeff Brotemarkle back into town. They subsequently welcomed us into their home for a mid-week worship of which some did indeed joyfully partake. In 2007, we sent off member Heidi and her husband Nick Bezzerides on their move to Pennsylvania. We suffered two deaths in the fall of 2006: that of our long time member, Marianne Thomas at the age of 94, and of our dear Hadley Finke who died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 97. His life was warmly celebrated with a memorial meeting on the following Valentine's Day. The memorial meeting for Marianne was held that fall in Stephens College Chapel because a bigger place than our meeting house was needed to accommodate the large number of family and

friends who came to honor her. Nan George withdrew her membership from the Meeting.

Our long-dormant First Day School was revived this winter because of the attendance of Zak and Nicole Watson with their 3 children as well as the occasional visitation of Creedon & Deb Miller's grandson. We are grateful for the return of young ones who add so much to the vitality of our meeting. We now have a newly appointed First Day School committee.

Other areas of our meeting where we continue to grow and shine are our newsletter, adult education, and continuing peace presence. The newsletter has been recently expanded to include more sharing of our beliefs and therefore has been helpful in understanding one another better. Our adult religious education has been more informal during much of this time period, inviting more input from our community. Those involved in various aspects of social concerns have continued to ensure that Quakers remain a vital presence in mid-Missouri's efforts for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. This was exemplified perhaps most movingly by our response to the F.B.I. raid on a Muslim neighbor. Many of us mobilized to have a significant Friends presence at press conferences held in support of this fellow activist as well as writing letters on his behalf.

Though we feel we are preoccupied by challenging transitions in our meeting at this time, we remain hopeful in our perseverance to not only endure but also to gradually soar with the healing love given to all those who seek it.

DOWNERS GROVE

Every day brings with it hope, opportunities, joys, and challenges. To take the time to reflect over a year helps to bring perspective to all that has been accomplished, and can help shed a brighter light than what the daily perspective can bring. And so it is with this year's DGFM report.

Perhaps the most overarching news is the process of building a new meeting-house. A hard-working committee has worked diligently with architects, diagrams and budgets throughout the year and was finally presented with three proposals from contractors in the spring. All three bids were significantly higher than anticipated and out of reach for what the meeting felt it could commit. Despite an initial sense of disheartenment, the committee has now undertaken the task of looking at all options – removing any luxuries from proposed budgets, completing as much labor ourselves, etc. – and is still optimistic that the new house can become a reality. No matter what the outcome, we trust in the Light that the challenges we face in this work will make us stronger. We thank Pam Wolfe, Bob Spryszak and the entire committee for their hard and dedicated work and guiding us through this process.

Throughout the year, DGFM has remained actively involved and committed to our regional neighbors through participation in Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, IYM and Western Yearly Meeting. We find these relationships enriching and nourishing. We are grateful to the leadership of Sue and Joe Davison, Pam and Bruce Wolfe, Sue Styer, and Ruth Marquez for their on-going presence and efforts on our behalf.

The spiritual growth of the Meeting was nurtured through on-going reading groups and retreats. In April, Madeleine Van Hecke facilitated a retreat entitled "Sitting in the Draft of an Open Mind", while Religious Education groups read books to further the understanding of the gospels and of Quaker history and values. These

always lead to enriching and enlightening discussions. We also participated in the Downers Grove Heritage Festival in June as part of enhancing our presence and message of Peace in the community.

From December 2005 – March 2006, the Meeting acted as sponsor for the newly-developed non-profit Mosaic Initiative as the process of acquiring official 501(c)3 for charitable purposes was completed. This organization is the work of one of our members, Brad Ogilvie, and is committed to deepening and developing community partnerships across religious, political and geographic boundaries to bring an end to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This organization is actively involved in working with faith communities to promote inclusive prevention messages. In addition to the education component, they are developing a scholarship for people disabled by HIV/AIDS, and are continuing the grassroots community development work Brad started in rural Kenya in 2004. This organization works very much from the Quaker principles of non-violence, and is committed to creating opportunities for people to “let their lives speak.”

Along the course of the year’s journey, there were many joys and sorrows. We welcomed as new members Deborah and Isabella Davison, Barbara Matt (who, joining after years of attending, moved with her husband, Joe, to Iowa), Lorraine Bartnik, and Laura Hans. Friends are getting to know Susan Gilmore, who has relocated to Downers Grove from Mountain View Friends Meeting in Denver, Colorado, and Sarah Sainsbury, who is pursuing certification as a chaplain at Good Samaritan Hospital. Friend Lillian Moats had a new book published titled *Speak Hands*. Former young Friends (adults, already!) celebrated marriages: On August 5 Rebekah Fitchett was married to Kristian Domhoff under the care of the meeting. On the same day, Meredith Wolfe was married to Marsel Tadger in Bulgaria. On August 8, Jesse Davison married the former Tammy DeWitt in South Africa. All of this within the same week! In April, Michael Ero (son of Mike Ero) was married to Charlotte Burton Ero, in York England, and Laura Hans was married to Martin Zelder on September 1, 2006. There were also losses, among us and in the wider world of Friends: Pauline Forsythe passed away on Feb. 19, 2006. Over 70 people attended her memorial service on March 11. Former DGFm clerk George Saxton passed away in Boston in early 2006. Memorial services were held for Al Dupree in Asheville, NC, and for Marion Arnold Hess in Australia. We held George Fitchett and his family in the Light as his father passed away in February. Tom White lost his mother in August. And in a melancholy way, we celebrated the move of Liisa and Jeff McMahan and their children Mitchell and McKayla, as they moved in July to Florida for Jeff’s new job opportunity. Wishing the McMahons godspeed, we selfishly mourned the loss of their presence among us every week.

As we look to the new year, we are thankful for all that we have, and know we have challenges ahead. We will continue to find our way with the physical needs of the Meeting and the work of a new Meetinghouse. We will seek guidance in living and sharing our values of Peace and Non-violence in the community and the world through direct action and advocacy support. We are also looking forward to hosting a Sustainable Living day in the spring to promote environmental and global justice awareness in our community and among our neighbors. We also welcome the unforeseen challenges and gifts that await us along the way.

DUNELAND

This year we have experienced a number of milestones and changes within our small meeting community, including new youngsters, a young person going off to college, and a number of health-related challenges.

In April, our dear Friend Marlou Carlson suffered a stroke. She has recovered well, but continues to struggle with her ability to speak, a condition known as aphasia. This has changed the way that she is able to contribute to the Meeting. We have relied on her for so much over the years – her competent and faithful care of our treasury, her hosting of weekly Bible Study, and her constant attention to the needs of our young Friends, to name a few. We have been shaken by the changes this has required of us all. For Marlou, it has meant much frustration in trying to communicate all that she still thinks, but now has difficulty expressing. For all of us, it has challenged us to examine our gifts and to discover how they fit into the shifting tapestry of work and care that makes up Duneland Friends Meeting.

Other Friends, too, have experienced health challenges this year. We have grown through prayer as we acknowledge limitations, work on lifestyle changes, and open ourselves to being flexible enough to adapt to changing needs as they arise.

We shared in the anticipation and joy as Heidi Badgley, after more than two years of paperwork, waiting and prayer, brought home from Russia her daughter Roxana Marina Faith Badgley. Faith attended her first meeting for worship on August 6th at the age of 14 months. She has brought many smiles to our meetings for worship, and we rejoice in the joy she has brought to her mother and other family members.

We now have three youngsters in regular attendance: Faith (now 22 months), Ethan (2 years), who attends with his great-Aunt Roxy Jacobs, and Daniel Freire who is now 3 and enjoying our newly reinstated First Day School. Small children in meeting have changed the tenor of our worship and bring us much joy as they interact with all of us on First Days.

Nathan and Emily Pavlovic are now young adults whose busy lives still allowed them to be regular, though less frequent, attenders in Meeting for Worship. The Meeting helped celebrate Nathan's High School graduation and matriculation to Grinnell College in Iowa. Friends were also present at the ceremony where he accepted his Eagle Scout Award. Roxy Jacobs led all those in attendance in a brief period of silent worship at the opening of the ceremony. Emily is now in her freshman year at Chesterton High School. They both continue to value their experiences and friendships from Illinois Yearly Meeting and keep in contact with IYM friends throughout the year.

As Nathan approached his 18th birthday, the meeting, including young Friends Emily Pavlovic and Ashlee Miller-Berry, undertook an intergenerational consideration of conscientious objection as Nathan made his decision to register with the Selective Service. Nathan and Emily's grandfather (Sarah's father), Edwin White, visited the Meeting to share his C.O. experience, and Marlou Carlson arranged for the Meeting to use the FGC curriculum "Raising Conscientious Objector Consciousness among Our Youth" as a study guide. Adults and young Friends together engaged in reflection, dialogue and role-playing over the course of several months, and helped witness Nathan's decision to register, indicating his position as a conscientious objector. Nathan and his family expressed deep appreciation for the support of the meeting with this weighty decision.

It seems fitting that, as we watch with pride the young adults who have grown up in the care of the meeting move toward independence, we have new youngsters at the beginning of their life in the Meeting.

Throughout 2006 our care for one another has enriched us as a worshipping community, whether facing health changes and challenges, celebrating milestones, or undertaking education for young Friends. We gratefully acknowledge the help we receive from the Spirit and our life together as Friends.

- Pat Lucas and Sarah Pavlovic

EVANSTON

The Evanston Friends Meeting (EFM) is a thriving unprogrammed Quaker meeting located just north of the city of Chicago. EFM consists of 59 resident adult members, 21 resident associate members, 37 non-resident adult members and 33 non-resident associate members, for a total membership of 150. This number includes the seven new members who joined in 2006. Numerous attenders round out our worship and witness.

In the fourth quarter of 2005, renovation work was completed on the Evanston meetinghouse. By early 2006, the Meeting was once again settled and comfortable in its newly refurbished space. Beautiful in its simplicity, the space serves as a strong support to the many activities our energetic Meeting undertakes. While EFM has traditionally shared its meeting space with a local Buddhist group, we have now been able to reach out to a Mennonite group that is in transition and in need of long-term temporary meeting space. We are happy to be able to share God's blessings with our fellow peace church. EFM also began serving as host for the monthly meeting of Friends Gathering in Jesus Christ in December 2006.

The core of our Meeting's activities is our worship each First Day. We worship together for an hour. Before the final few minutes of worship, Ministry & Counsel invites prayer requests and messages that did not rise to the level of spoken ministry. This practice was initiated in late 2005, and we have found it to be a deep enhancement of our worship together.

Children are invited to attend at least the first 20 minutes of worship. Those who wish to may then attend First Day classes during the remaining 40 minutes of that hour. Our First Day School is thriving, with four classes held for children in preschooler/early elementary, mid-elementary, middle school and high school. We also offer childcare for those children who are not ready for worship or First Day School.

First Day classes have focused on Bible and Quaker stories for the younger students; Quaker testimonies for our middle group; and putting one's faith into action for our oldest group. To this end, the children presented a play entitled "Neglect a Fire and You Cannot Put It Out" on peaceful conflict resolution at the end of last year. This Christmas they presented a play written by one of our students about the famous World War I story of the British and German forces putting down arms and celebrating Christmas together. In addition, the children undertook a service project to create a new children's library as a gift for our refurbished Meetinghouse.

The activities of the larger Meeting community are varied and dynamic. These include:

- ☞ Annual Inquirers' Group, a series of meetings each winter for those desiring to learn more about Quakerism
- ☞ Support of our Guatemalan Scholarships Program

- ☞ Movie Nights two Fridays each month
- ☞ A spiritually-focused book group
- ☞ Monthly spiritual development groups
- ☞ Monthly potluck lunch
- ☞ Monthly pancake breakfast
- ☞ Monthly simple meal, where participants donate the cost of a meal out to Right Sharing of World Resources
- ☞ Annual silent retreat to Lake Geneva each October
- ☞ Annual yard sale, which this year benefited Right Sharing of World Resources; Fresh Start (in conjunction with Fischer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church), a local ministry for people recently released from prison; and Family Matters, a local after school center for children and their families. In addition, the Meeting children raised money at the yard sale by selling refreshments which they then used to purchase a goat for a family through Heifer International.
- ☞ Annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner

We also facilitate adult discussion/education through our Second Hour programs, immediately following worship and coffee. The most popular of these programs tend to be the presentation of spiritual journeys by Meeting members. Other Second Hour activities include worship sharing and discussion groups on various topics, presentations on special service work by Meeting members (this year we have had members travel to Rwanda and Burundi, among other locales), special presentations on the arts and an occasional presentation by religious education faculty on aspects of the Bible, Christianity and faith.

Special events this past year included the Meeting's hosting of a Sing Out for Peace concert in May 2006, and Play for Peace, an event sponsored by Lake Forest Friends Meeting but held at our Meetinghouse. We also conducted a wedding under the care of the Meeting in August, hosted a Youth Quake for teenage Quakers during the winter, and registered two conscientious objectors.

In addition, several Meeting members have organized the sale of fair trade items, such as coffee and olive oil. One member also sells War is Not the Answer yard signs to help facilitate our witness for a peaceful world. Finally, we sell Guatemalan crafts to raise money for our Guatemalan scholarships program.

As we look ahead to 2007, the Meeting hopes to landscape its side yard, to better complement the activities of the Meeting community.

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

The Light is strong at 57th Street Meeting of Friends. We feel a renewed energy dawning in our midst. It is illuminating our First Day testimony, our work on our building, and our outreach in the wider community of Friends and other religious communities.

Our fall visioning retreat has been a catalyst for generating excitement and enthusiasm about our physical home, Quaker House. Renewed energy has gone into its refurbishment, which we feel as outward sign of our spiritual renaissance. The First Day School room has been cleaned, painted, and decorated, providing a nest for our growing preschool group, now assisted by two young people in the meeting. With the help of the resident Sophia Community and the visiting Scattergood School

Friends, we've reorganized the kitchen and cleaned, organized, and repainted the basement, providing a pleasant and inviting area for our communal activities including snack times, potlucks, and monthly pancake breakfasts. The upstairs library is being cleaned, organized, and catalogued, with a rotating series of books displayed in the meeting room for attenders' perusal. A new mailbox on the door to the backyard heralds the new tenant in the coach house. The backyard shed has been removed, clearing the back doorway and laying the groundwork for renewed discussions about improved access to the building. Regular workdays continue and we planted flowers to herald the coming spring.

Our Meeting continues to embrace a diverse spectrum of beliefs, personalities, and needs, and as we have struggled over the years with conflicts within the Meeting, we have realized that these struggles have brought us closer together. This was especially apparent in a recent Meeting for Healing seeking clearness on a member and former tenant. Working through these conflicts, trying to discern our leadings to be tender with those involved and to maintain the integrity of the Meeting, has helped us define who we are to ourselves and to each other, and has confirmed and clarified our commitment to creating in our Meeting a place that is physically but also spiritually safe and nurturing. As the Meeting continues to grow, the newly-reinstituted committee structure grows stronger and richer, and Nominating Committee has been reaching out to individual members and attenders to learn what their gifts are and where they feel led to serve the Meeting. This represents growth in the quality of our service.

We have welcomed a new adult member of the meeting. In addition, we welcomed the birth of the son of our Clerk; he joins us as an associate member.

Our 75th Anniversary Celebration and the pamphlet that grew out of reminiscences of past and present members marked important milestones. The celebration and pamphlet helped us recognize who we are, uniting us in the present and past as Friends. We received many requests for this pamphlet and have sent them out to all corners of the country.

Marlene and Steve Pedigo and their children visited this winter, creating a Fellowship of Friends Reunion. The Fellowship of Friends reflected upon the meaning and effect the Pedigos had on their lives. This was inspiring; showing us what Friends can do, offering their lives as testimony.

Our 4-week "Quakerism 101" series, evening meetings with a simple meal and discussion led by members of the Religious Education committee, was offered again this fall, drawing attendance from new and established participants of the Meeting, and also from interested outsiders, including local theology students. The series reviewed the history and current forms of Quakerism, and invited participation in a worship-sharing format. It was well-received, and its sequel, "Quakerism: Experience it!" a more experiential and discussion-oriented series based on the PYM curriculum but drawing from other readings and resources as well, was launched in April.

The Quaker Thought reading group continues to meet monthly, with increased involvement in the meeting. The current reading material is from *Barclay's Apology*, including how the Spirit moves us, not from the head, or from a text, but from the heart and the indwelling Spirit.

Religious education has seen a delightful growth in its cadre of very young (nursery and preschool-age) Friends, and the monthly intergenerational pancake

breakfasts continue to be a joyful gathering on the second First Day before Meeting for Worship. We still feel the lack of older (middle-school and teenage) young Friends, and hope to forge stronger bonds with area Meetings to enrich the experience of our young Friends in this age group. Religious Education has continued reaching out to young people in the Meeting and to other religious communities. Our young Friends class visited the Fourth Presbyterian Church this fall and presented a program introducing and discussing Friends' history and testimonies, after which the Presbyterian Sunday school reciprocated, with about 30 youngsters attending one of our pancake breakfasts and Meeting for Worship, sharing their testimonies during worship sharing time afterwards.

One of our Friends quoted Kenneth Boulding, saying that to survive as Friends, we must have one foot in the pond of the indwelling Spirit, and the other in the larger pond of witness for peace and justice. Even as we grow stronger and richer in our sense of spiritual community, we are aware of a growing sense of connection to the larger community of the world, and a growing sense of strength, spiritual richness and resources to respond. We have sent representatives to FCNL and to the conference on torture. The Committee for Peace and Social Concerns continues to have a presence in the local Interfaith Council, and to pay visits to other local Meetings. The meeting has also again started collecting nonperishables for the community Food Pantry. We consider the suffering from the war in Iraq, post-Katrina developments, and the suffering caused by unemployment. We hear God speaking in our meeting, addressing suffering and finding joy in our communion. The Light is working among us and within us.

LAKE FOREST

The Clerk's first message in July 2006 set a tone for deeper commitment. Pam Kuhn posed a query and explanation from Lloyd Lee Wilson's "Essays on Quaker Vision on Gospel Order": *What is our vision of the monthly meeting—a covenant gathering or a human community? In a covenant gathering, we are challenged to work together for a better understanding of the divine—to form spiritual fellowship.*

In the life of the Meeting, spiritual fellowship forms in Meetings for Worship, pre-meeting discussions, the sharing of joys and sorrows, gatherings for hospitality, potlucks, forums, and in work on committees. There is spiritual fellowship at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Attendance is respectable and growing. The care in preparation of committee reports and minutes, in addition to the conduct of business, is appreciated. We often reach a sense of the meeting. Additional queries have enabled us to discern how our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business is a reflection of the life of the Meeting. Much of our business concerns the care of our members or larger issues, as opposed to day-to-day matters. Receiving agenda items before Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business keeps us focused.

Forming spiritual fellowship also is manifested in the work of our committees and individuals, for example, the Committee of Care, which assists with short-term difficulties, and our many national and international Quaker activities. Our Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) contact person, Betsy Warren, is diligent about giving us FCNL legislative positions and action alerts. Elizabeth Mertic and Janet Means-Underhill recently reported on the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) Conference they attended last year.

The Peace and Social Concerns group is also studying larger issues. The sustainable planet study group showed the documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” and prompted an energy audit of the Meeting House, which is underway. The study group on ending torture is on hold pending more information. The Iraq group is seasoning initiatives; the topic overwhelms the group as it does the country. The letter writing after potluck has been revived and will continue as a gentle reminder of one way we can make our opinions known.

We are blessed by our children and teachers and by the wonderful reports of children after Meeting.

We continued the Listening Project on our financial responsibility to Meeting. Being interviewed and then hearing our words read back brings clarity to this issue. Clearness Committees also form a vital part of our Meeting. Meeting to talk things over with Friends is a way to open to the Spirit and seek a way forward.

Many people take part in more than one committee. It would be helpful to have others more involved in the life of the Meeting and serve where talents and gifts are needed. The Nominating Committee has already reviewed officer and committee positions and will contact members and attenders to mutually discern where the Spirit leads each of us to serve. A two-year commitment is recommended to facilitate continuity.

We sense the spirit of the divine in our Quaker testimonies and in messages that resonate in Meeting. Conscious of our frailties, we need to speak to the divine and to the human spirit, for they are linked. Our messages and leadings as Friends can speak to a world desperately in need of peace and healing.

Our meeting has experienced transitions and celebrations. We were saddened by the death of Alice Ryerson Hayes on October 31, 2006. She was an integral part of our Meeting. Each year, she invited children and families for a potluck picnic at Ragdale, which we all enjoyed. We celebrated her life with family at Thanksgiving potluck Sunday. Fox Valley Friends and Kenosha-Racine Friends joined us. It was a gathered, blessed occasion. We were pleased to support and celebrate with Lukan Paulus and Peta von Tienhoven as they reaffirmed their wedding vows at Meeting for Worship in August. We enthusiastically approved Beth Tarter for membership in February and approved transfers of membership for David Godfrey to Eastside Friends Monthly Meeting in Bellevue, Washington, and Hilary Mills to Hanover Monthly Meeting in New Hampshire. We miss Jason, Michelle, and Abigail Stacy who moved to Edwardsville, Illinois.

At this time, we are conscious of intervening strands—covenant and human—connecting us with the life of the meeting. Where the two intertwine, our lives are enriched. Our journey is on course.

MILWAUKEE

The Anita Koenen Land Preserve continues to bring us many blessings. We remain grateful for the peaceful setting the land provides for our community. Meeting for worship provides many opportunities for deep reflection, a deeper connection to God and stronger connections to each other.

Many new and regular attenders, resident and sojourning members continue to find their way to our community. We have been blessed with many requests for membership over this past year and have happily accepted the membership of 10 new members. Two children were born/adopted into our community during this past

year. The total number of adult members is 84 (74 resident), 2 associate members and 5 members of other meetings. There are 56 regular attenders, and 10 regularly attending the two worship groups. Attendance on Sunday is approximately 50 adults and 20 children. We continue to provide oversight and care to Kenosha/Racine and Westside Worship Groups near Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Meeting is blessed with the richness of opportunities such as the regularly-scheduled Adult Religious Education sessions, Library Discussion Group, Hearts and Minds Prepared study group, the Spiritual Nurture program, and Faith and Practice Study. Through these and other meeting activities, we are being called to and are growing in love.

When Edie Ericson, an attender, became ill with cancer, her spiritual nurture group transformed into a care committee and provided her with much care and comfort during her struggle with cancer. We were saddened by the loss of Edie on March 23, 2007.

The life of our meeting keeps us all busy. We are well served and grateful for all in our community who take on leadership positions, especially those who have taken leadership with the teens in our meeting. We are exploring the concept of shared leadership and ministry in our meeting, and are considering how we organize the clerk positions. We firmly believe that one of the joys of being a part of a Quaker community is that we care for and support one another. We are the ministers, we are the teachers and we are the greeters and welcomers of all who seek to better know God and each other.

Because our Meeting supports committed relationships between all adults and affirms the right of gay and lesbian members to marry, we have worked to defeat the ban on same sex marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin. This work as a community, witnessing to our testimony of Marriage Equality, involved many of us and led us to reach out to the Riverwest neighborhood surrounding our meeting house. This effort led to a Celebration of all Marriages which was held in May 2006. The celebration was joy-filled and well attended by many families in our meeting.

Weekly electronic announcements that are reproduced in paper copies keep us abreast of activities in our community. We are happy to report that our meeting Shareletter has been resurrected. This mailing provides important information and a critical connection to meeting for many in our community.

Our commitment to the peace testimony has led us to continue our work with youth. We support Peacemakers Camp which brings kids in to learn peacemaking skills at a young age from local schools in our community. This commitment to peace also leads us to continue to nurture the Peace Learning Center and its activity in our meetinghouse. Through the programs of the Peace Learning Center hundreds of local youth learn the important skills of peace making and practical ways of applying these teachings in real life. Around 600 students participated during this past year.

We experience solidarity in the teen group with many young people involved in many activities. Teens in meeting held a regional retreat over the New Year weekend in which they hosted young Friends from around the region.

Lifeways Childcare Center continues to operate in the meeting house. This use of our building and land allows many children to connect with nature. This program utilizes our meetinghouse and the land to its fullest potential. Many other groups make use of our building, often with reduced or waived fees. We find that this is a wonderful way to support the community in which we live.

Our Annual International Gift Shops continue to raise money. The December Gift Shop splits its earning between AFSC and FCNL. This split was continued this year. The Gift Shop requires great effort from our entire meeting and gives us an opportunity to deepen our relationships and experience of true community. Teens and adults come together to experience community and many relationships are strengthened during this two-day event. While the December Gift Shop is the largest undertaking of our meeting, we are engaged with local organizations and hosted a second Spring Gift Shop to benefit local groups and wider Quaker organizations. The Donations Committee was formed in order to deal with how the proceeds from this gift shop as well as other meeting donations should be given to organizations as requested by groups in our community.

We continue to be led to semi-monthly meetings with prisoners at Waupun; we provide monthly meals and fellowship at Casa Maria Hospitality House, holiday gifts for children and food baskets for Imani House, food for several other groups and books to the Milwaukee County Jail, as part of our commitment to the larger community.

We hope that our decision-making processes around our membership in IYM and our commitment to one Yearly Meeting will have a profound effect on our meeting. While emotionally difficult, this past year we continued the process of examining our affiliation with two Yearly Meetings. We continue to seek a more integrated relationship and involvement in the Yearly Meeting experience. This examination has led us to the decision to leave IYM so that we could devote ourselves to deepening our relationship with Northern Yearly Meeting. The process continues to require patient listening and open hearts and minds as we move toward clarity on how to live into our decision to leave IYM. As we leave, we will continue to cherish our relationship with IYM.

NORTHSIDE

We have been through a very difficult period, but the Spirit has remained with us and where the Spirit is, there is life. Last year we spoke of re-birthing ourselves and, finally, this labor has started to produce small, tender, new, green shoots. Much work remains but there is renewed energy and faith that Northside is alive and will thrive again.

What are the signs of life at Northside? We have several. First Day and Mid-Week worships remain deep and nourishing. Worship and Spiritual Life Committee has presented us with opportunities to explore advancement and growth at three worship-sharings and has planned a workshop on this topic for May 19. They have also provided us with a spiritual journey and we anticipate hearing another one. Our monthly Meeting for Healing has provided a deeply felt connection for those suffering in our midst. Meeting for Peace and Justice has been approved as a monthly activity and has begun. The process for individuals to test leadings has been clarified and some individual clearness committees have met. Using this process Charlotte Wood-Harrington received clearness to join Marshall Massey on his walk for Earth Care Witness. Charley Earp received clearness to begin the Meeting for Peace and Justice.

Pastoral Care Committee is now staffed and has helped us to explore our financial issues, which emerged as a significant problem due to a period of low attendance and support combined with the lack of a finance committee to recognize the problem

and guide us when our financial crisis began. We have taken two marriages under our care: Joan Crawford and Bernard Hope; and Patricia Monaghan and Michael McDermott. A circle of care was formed to assist a friend of Friends, who is coping with cancer.

Previously appointed committees, Second Hour, Key, and Nominating; and officers, Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, and Archivist continue to function well.

We have regular child care and First Day School thanks to the ad hoc Committee for Children.

Newcomers continue to find their way to us. Some stay with us, describing our Meeting as an unexpected gift, and become vital parts of our Meeting.

We now have a calendar of events at northside.quaker.org.

Where are our growing edges? What is the work we are challenged with now? We are still working to establish trust amongst ourselves. Some of our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business have been filled with tension, and sometimes Friends speak in painful, non-loving ways with each other. Our relationship with our host, the Japanese American Service Committee, needs attention and some continue to find the JASC challenging as a meeting space. Difficulty remains in finding enough people resources for doing the work of the Meeting. This has had a negative effect on forming committees.

Since our last State of Society report one point we have considered over and over is our relationship to IYM. There is no question among Northside Friends that we are bound to IYM by tender bonds of affection and commitment. We are in clear unity that we wish to participate fully in the life of the Yearly Meeting. Our concern has been how this commitment translates into the hard language of dollars and cents. At our 5th Month Business meeting, after much labor we approved sending just over half of the suggested assessment as Northside's contribution to the Yearly Meeting. We believe that our fiscal condition requires a smaller contribution so that we can devote more resources to growing our meeting.

We are re-learning what it is like to be a small meeting and learning to grow in loving ways.

OAK PARK

The Oak Park Friends Meeting has been blessed in many ways this past year with excellence in leadership, talented and committed participants, and charitable involvements that have nurtured the meeting and provided opportunities for outreach to the community.

Leadership: Oak Park Friends were led this year by co-clerks Geoffrey Plank and Wil Rutt. Their gift of leadership has benefited the meeting greatly.

Nurture of the Meeting: Several activities have been nurturing to Oak Park Friends:

First, a relatively new initiative for Oak Park Friends has been the holding of monthly potlucks on the Third Sunday of each month in Friends' homes. The potlucks have proven successful in providing opportunities to get better acquainted and to support one another.

Secondly, after several years without a newsletter, Oak Park Friends have enjoyed reading comprehensive and informative newsletters. The newsletters include: meeting summaries, planned events, poetry, book reviews and Minutes of the Meetings for Worship With Attention to Business.

Thirdly, the meeting chose to have a greeter at the door for Meeting for Worship to welcome and direct worshippers. The greeter joins the meeting at ten minutes past the hour.

The Oak Park Friends Meeting has also nurtured one another through religious education. A great deal of thought and concern has gone into preparation and participation in various religious education activities. Those participating in adult religious education studied Jim Pym's book, *Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into our Lives* in worship-sharing meetings. The religious education activities served to nurture Oak Park Friends this past year by helping Friends learn more about Quakerism, feel more welcomed in the meeting and better understand the practice of Friends.

Children participating in children's religious education explored Quaker values and principles. First Day School was taught by rotating teams of teacher volunteers throughout the year. Four to six children participated regularly. First Day School benefited greatly from the assistance of teens Sonja Bargielowska and Alec Holmes. Additionally, teens in the Oak Park Meeting gathered socially on several occasions and assisted with several service projects.

Membership in the meeting has grown this year; six individuals were welcomed into membership and a seventh transferred membership from another meeting.

Reaching Out to the Community: Concerning outreach to the community, Oak Park Friends Meeting again participated in the purchase and distribution of Holiday Food & Gift Baskets and in the CROP Walk for Hunger. Friends also served meals to clients in need of PADS services.

Outreach was also done through representation on an interfaith task force committed to eliminating domestic violence.

Oak Park Friends Meeting was represented in a Thanksgiving Service in Oak Park, organized by the Community of Congregations, by one Friend leading thankful worshippers in silent prayer. Other outreach activities included the staffing of booths at Oak Park's *A Day in Our Village* in June and Oak Park's *Peace Fair* in September. One Friend in particular has been deeply involved in the work of bringing *10 Thousand Villages* to Oak Park but many others have helped this initiative which benefits artisans in Third World Countries.

Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting Participation: Many Oak Park Friends enjoyed sharing a day of activities with other meetings in MCGM at Bill & Alice Howenstine's Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry, Illinois, in September. In February, Oak Park Friends Meeting hosted MCGM to a program created by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee that focused on the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. Meeting for Business and a delicious dinner took place afterward.

IYM Participation: Several Oak Park Friends attended IYM last summer and served the evening snack. Friends also participated in a winter retreat at Camp Menno Haven entitled "Spending Time with God". Additionally, we benefited from mentorship provided by Maurine Pyle, Field Secretary, and Joan Pine, Evanston.

Reaching Out to the Wider World: The Peace & Justice Committee has devoted the past several months to Environmental Concerns. One Friend volunteered to gather old electronic equipment from the meeting and transport the equipment to an electronic recycling site in Lombard, Illinois. More activities are planned for the fall. Additionally, one of the Meeting's teens traveled to India in the spring and took

with her a box of school supplies for children there and brought home many stories for the Meeting to enjoy.

OSHKOSH

We have made strides in social activities this year, despite being very busy and spread out geographically. We have been able to do more inter-visitation and have enjoyed more contact with Friends outside of our Meeting. Our members have been able to help more people, both personally and as a Meeting. We hope to get more people to conferences and regional Meetings that are closer to us geographically this year. We have had a continuing presence at peace activities. We have also kept up with legislative matters and are active in encouraging our legislators to move in directions that are more in keeping with Friendly practices. We are a small meeting, so we have few committees. This works well as to time spent in conferences and meetings. However this often results in one or two members doing all of the work involved in any given activity. This has its benefits and drawbacks and we are handling those relatively well. We draw together whenever possible for major activities, but try to be understanding when personal issues or our very busy lives keep that from happening. We are handling the social side of Meeting better than we have in the past.

Spiritually, our Meeting had some ups and downs this year. Having a mix of very new members and very old members is a difficult transition in a small meeting. We have had unexpected reactions to some things. While we have had classes and have attempted to educate new members in what it means to be a “Quaker” we continue to work on the process. All involved need to practice the re-evaluation of both our practices and our faith that have always been characteristic of Friends on both a personal and meeting level. This continual re-examination of both ourselves and our motives and our Meetings and their practices is one of the things that makes the Society of Friends different from other churches and business groups and ensures our integrity and growth of the Spirit.

There are major spiritual reasons for the Quaker historical practices that take the time for letting even the smallest decisions be illuminated by the Light. Sometimes we do not do that – we just make decisions like any other church or business meeting would. There is a tendency to assume that because we are Friends and trying to do good our decisions are of the Light. The Light is not a hall light that gets turned on once and continues to burn without being tended all week. It doesn’t shine on our activities unless we seek and make room for it at all times. We need to practice taking matters to the Light more, both individually and “corporately.” We are sure to get this practice over time but we need to actively look for and find ways that decrease reaction but improve our application of the Light. We tend to find ourselves in limited-time situations and we need to be ready and willing to let the Light determine appropriate actions, not human urgency, deadlines, or emotions. Traditionally for Friends, this starts with self-examination by the individual member of his or her own actions, reactions and assumptions. Once these are in the Light, decisions and our care for our fellow members are more appropriate. It is important to remember that conflict makes for perceptions that another person is “difficult” or argumentative, which usually means that our own Light needs tending. We need to center our lives around the Light more, even though we are all busy people and our lives are often crowded – to not do things as others do them without thinking about it because it

saves time or effort, or “has always been our practice.” The Light must be the center – not a pleasant side-effect of our human desires or actions. While remaining open to innovation, we need to review our principles of simplicity and to remember to practice it, both within and out of the Meeting itself. Our practice and beliefs must merge more.

We are in a continuing period of change and have dealt with much of it in a very human fashion. While this is not bad and has served to accomplish much, we do need to renew our faith and practices that encourage the growth of the Light, and to move them to our everyday lives. This involves nurturing each other and being very careful to encourage the Light and examine all of our actions for its presence. Our meetings and associations are all based on the individuals working together and we need to be balanced in the Light or that does not happen in an enduring way, no matter how much good might be intended by or be result of our actions. To be a Friend we need to remember to seek and follow the Light, wherever it leads rather than practice being a Friend and hoping that the Light will follow.

PEORIA-GALESBURG

Peoria-Galesburg Meeting continues to meet every First Day morning at the Narkiewicz home at 504 North 2nd Street in Monmouth, IL. Business Meeting is second First Day. We have been using Marsha Holliday’s guide book *Exploring Quakerism* every 3rd or 4th First Day to explore a topic using a worship-sharing format. We have enjoyed the consistent participation of Nora Vera-Godwin from Keokuk, Iowa, for the worship-sharing. This has been an enriching practice for our small meeting, and we are getting to know each other more deeply.

Outreach continues to be of great focus. We are listed in surrounding newspapers, publishing information about each worship-sharing, inviting interested seekers to join us. Area colleges have our information for students. We plan to make a sign for our yard making our presence known and continue to explore creative means of letting the community know we’re here. We wish to grow outwardly, as much as we are growing inwardly.

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING

Friends Meeting of Rolla, a preparative meeting under the care of St. Louis Monthly Meeting, 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. Maurine Pyle led us in visioning exercises, which yielded five working categories of common dreams for the future, and we are planning a part-two 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 Interfaith 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. Religious Education 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

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Clerk: Roy Treadway

2008 Nancy Halliday
2008 Steve Walsh
2008 David Wixom
2009 Bob Cordova
2009 John Hackman
2009 Hal Mead
2009 Noel Pavlovic
2009 Sarah Pavlovic
2010 Alice Howenstine
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Roy Treadway
2010 Bob Wixom

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik
Peter Lasersohn
Colleen Reardon
Larry Stout
Bob Wixom

FINANCE COMMITTEE Clerk: Sandy Huntley

2009 Judy Jager
2009 Nancee Miller
2009 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2009 Bob Bartles
2010 Cathy Garra
2010 Sandy Huntley
2010 Bruce Kanarek
2010 Pam Kuhn

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2008 Pam Kuhn
2010 Margaret Katranides
2010 Patricia McMillen

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Tim Narkiewicz

2008 Joe Davison
2008 John Hackman
2008 Chip Rorem
2009 Bill Howenstine
2009 Tim Narkiewicz
2010 Robin Johnson
2010 Neil Mesner
Ex-Officio: Stewards

WORKING PARTY TO STUDY ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

(Under the care of Maintenance and Planning Committee)

Robin Johnson
Ruth Milledge
Bobbi Trist

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT Clerk: David Shiner

2008 David Finke
2008 Roxy Jacobs
2009 Beth Burbank
2009 Brad Laird
2009 Joan Pine
2010 Margaret Katranides
2010 Janet Means Underhill
2010 David Shiner
2010 Nancy Duncan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Elizabeth Mertic

2008 Elke Narkiewicz
2008 Ruth Raffensperger
2009 Elizabeth Mertic
2009 David Wixom
2010 Sue Styer
2010 Judy Erickson

Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert
Margaret Katranides
Elizabeth Mertic

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2008 Bridget Rorem
2008 Dawn Rubbert
2009 David Finke
2009 Chuck Hutchcraft
2010 Mark Mattaini
2010 Phyllis Reynolds
2010 Breeze Richardson
2010 Chuc Smith

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Clerk: John Knox

2008 Nancy Duncan
2009 John Knox
2010 Chris Jocius

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: David Finke

2009 David Finke
2009 Pat Wixom
2010 Dawn Amos
2010 Judy Erickson

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Elke Narkiewicz

2009 Chris Jocius
2009 Chris Goode/Kate Gunnell
2010 Marti Matthews
2010 Elke Narkiewicz
2010 Scott Searles
2010 Marie White

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Clerk:

2009 David Finke
2009 Marti Matthews
2010 Judy Jager
2010 Julia Pantoga
2010 Carol K. Zimmerman

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Clerk: Chip Rorem

2009 Chip Rorem
2009 Julia Pantoga
2010 Richard Ashdown
2010 Bob Bartles
2010 Carol Bartles
2010 Sallyann Garner
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Jeannie Marvin
2010 Dennis McQueen
2010 Bobbi Trist

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerk: Mike Dennis

2008 Michael Dennis
2008 Marcia Nelson
2009 Diane Clark-Dennis
2009 Meg Nelson
2009 Breeze Richardson
2010 Peter Albright
2010 Mark Amos
2010 Ellen Baranowski
2010 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2010 Sarah Pavlovic
Ex-Officio: Teen clerks

AD HOC COMMITTEES

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT OF GIFTS

Mariellen Gilpin
Margie Haworth
Janice Domanik
Brad Laird
Monica Tetzlaff

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2008 Carol Bartles
2008 Nora Vera-Godwin
2009 Genevieve Wimp-McCann
2010 Todd Kuzma

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2008 Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2009 Elaine Meyer-Lee

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2009 Betsy Warren
2010 Debra Penna-Fredericks

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

2010 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2009 Suzanne Siverling
2010 Charley Earp
2010 Stephen Domanik
2010 Gaelan McQueen

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2009 Breeze Richardson

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2008 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2008 Scattergood: Sharon Haworth

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2008 Greg Woods
2009 Dawn Amos
2009 David Shiner

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

2009 Bob Cordova
2009 Alice Howenstine

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2007 CLERK'S COMMITTEE

Dawn Amos, Janice Domanik, David Finke, Tom Paxson, David Shiner

2007 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Dawn Amos, Ted Kuhn, Sue Styer, Caryn Wixom

2007 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:

Melissa Skinner, Casey Kashnig, Jinny Laughlin

2008 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

QUARTERLY CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: Jeannie Marvin
Metropolitan Chicago General: Martha Turner

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:

Cindy Reynolds

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Brent Eckert

WEBSERVANT:

Dawn Amos