

Minutes of the Continuing Committee
of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Clear Creek Meetinghouse, Tenth Month 20, 2007

1. The meeting opened in worship. Thirty Friends were in attendance.
2. The clerk reviewed a tentative agenda, to which some adjustments were made.
3. Dawn Amos delivered the treasurer's report (attached). Since our last yearly meeting, loans from Duneland and Evanston Monthly Meetings have been paid off, leaving us with no liabilities, and total assets of \$89,869.77. The Adult Young Friends have adopted their own finances, to which the IYM Adult Young Friends Fund has been transferred.
4. Minutes 1 to 3 were read and approved.
5. The clerk reviewed an appeal from Friends Disaster Service for volunteers to help with rebuilding efforts in Greensburg, Kansas. Friends are urged to consider this and other opportunities to work with Friends with affiliations other than Friends General Conference.
6. The clerk reported that a trust established by Mary Fyfe sent letters to Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting, McHenry County (now Upper Fox Valley) Monthly Meeting, and Illinois Yearly Meeting, regarding planned disbursements from the trust to these meetings. Since Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting has been laid down, Tom Paxson wrote to the trust's lawyer, indicating that according to our discipline, the property rights of a laid down meeting are transferred to larger meeting of which it is a part, in this case Illinois Yearly Meeting.
7. Sue Davison reported that Martha Turner, Mariellen Gilpin, Ruth Raffensperger, and Susan Tursman had been identified to Friends General Conference as Friends with emerging gifts in the ministry who might be invited to an upcoming FGC Emerging Ministers Conference.
8. The clerk reported that Friends General Conference has requested our mailing list, and implied that providing it is part of our affiliation agreement with them. However, our current privacy policy appears to prohibit providing this sort of information. The issue has been referred to the Ministry and Advancement Committee, to consider the advisability of amending our privacy policy. Several Friends spoke to this issue; the clerk will convey a summary of their views to the Ministry and Advancement Committee.
9. Minutes 4 to 8 were read and approved.
10. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (attached). One upcoming meeting and several visits and other activities are planned, including tours of "green building" projects, which it is hoped may help IYM in making our own building projects more environmentally responsible.
11. Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee (attached). The committee has been working on sections on membership and on meeting organization and structure. The membership section had been approved for a provisional period which will expire this summer; a revised version will be sent to monthly meetings for comments, in the hope of bringing a final revision for approval at yearly meeting this year.
12. Minutes 9 to 11 were read and approved.

13. Sandy Huntley reported for the Finance Committee. The committee is concerned that definite policies be established for the administration of sufferings funds. Friends refer this issue to the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Sandy also distributed packets of information on Finance Committee practices and procedures to monthly meeting representatives.
14. Pam Kuhn reported that Sandy Huntley, Dawn Amos and Tom Paxson had been appointed to the new Review Committee, under the care of Finance Committee, in accordance with Minute 4 of our 2007 annual sessions. Requests by committees for expenditures in excess of 10% of the committee budget or \$5000, whichever is less, should be referred to this committee for approval.
15. Judy Jager reported that legal papers had been signed this morning to transfer three lots of IYM property from the trustees to the corporation. One more signature is needed, from a trustee not currently present. Once these papers have been filed, our “hybrid” manner of organization will end and all property will be held by the corporation. An affidavit has also been signed and will be filed, affirming the continuity of organization from the trust to the corporation. Friends appreciate the work of Judy Jager and Cathy Garra in facilitating the transition from the trust to the corporation to this point.
16. John Knox reported as the new clerk of the Peace Tax Fund Committee that the papers required to grant him signature authority for the fund would appear to link its assets more closely to those of Illinois Yearly Meeting than has previously been the case. He seeks direction on what to do. Friends recommend that the Peace Tax Fund Committee review all materials connected with the establishment of the fund; consult with the administrators of other peace tax funds; seek the advice of a lawyer, preferably the lawyer who was consulted at the time the fund was established; and report to the next meeting of Continuing Committee.
17. Minutes 13 to 16 were read and approved.
18. Elke Narkiewicz read a report from Tim Narkiewicz the Maintenance and Planning Committee (attached). Tree maintenance and planting have been a major recent concern. Raccoon removal and other projects are planned for upcoming work. A regular maintenance schedule is being developed. The committee’s mission statement remains in draft form, but has not been revised.
19. Ruth Milledge reported for the Working Party on Accessibility Issues (attached). The Working Party plans interviews with Friends to identify accessibility concerns, followed by a general survey of Friends throughout IYM to set priorities. A plan will be developed in response to the survey results, to be reported to the spring session of the Continuing Committee.
20. Minutes 17 to 19 were read and approved.
21. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. Sandy Bales has stepped down from Environmental Concerns; Meg Nelson is now serving on this committee. Alyssa Rowan has been added to Religious Education Committee. The Nominating Committee is still seeking a reading clerk and a third steward.

22. Dawn Amos read a report from David Finke for the Publications Committee (attached). Lucy Duncan of the FGC Bookstore has expressed an interest in QuakerBooks of FGC stocking and selling copies of the Plummer Lectures. Publications Committee envisions (1) that we send copies of new Plummer Lectures to FGC for sale by QuakerBooks in lots of 50, while continuing to distribute Plummer Lectures within IYM as previously; (2) that FGC be allowed to set the price of Plummer Lectures they sell; (3) that FGC not be charged for the copies we send them, the cost being absorbed by the Publications Committee budget; (4) that the copies be sent to FGC with the understanding that any copies not sold after a reasonable time will be returned to IYM, rather than destroyed or discarded; (5) that living authors of previous Plummer Lectures be contacted about the possibility of selling their lectures through FGC. Following discussion, Friends encourage the Publications Committee to work with FGC to make Plummer Lectures available through QuakerBooks, but to consider charging FGC for the costs of additional print runs.
23. Minutes 20 to 22 were read and approved.
24. Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee (attached). The committee has several concerns: IYM Friends do not systematically share religious education resources; we do not adequately help newcomers learn about Quakerism; religious education for adults is neglected; in many meetings, children's religious education is largely left to parents. To build up communication and cooperation across the yearly meeting on religious education matters, the committee plans to appoint liaisons to all the monthly meetings in IYM, and to set up a Yahoo! group devoted to religious education in IYM, as well as a religious education section of the IYM website.
25. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (attached). The committee is developing a fund-raising brochure, and is working to build up its relationship with other committees in developing plans for the new building. A tour of existing retreat centers is planned for January 5.
26. Minutes 23 to 25 were read and approved.
27. Mike Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee (attached). An IYM youth Facebook page has been created. Many Young Friends are hoping to participate in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage next summer. The committee asks whether it is appropriate to use some of its budget to provide financial support for IYM Young Friends participating in the pilgrimage. Friends affirm that the committee may use funds from its budget for this purpose. Quakes are planned for November 9–11 at 57th Street Meetinghouse, January 18–21 at Evanston Meetinghouse, and May 23–26 at Clear Creek Meetinghouse.
28. Dawn Amos reported that the annual meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will be held at Waycross Episcopal Camp, Morgantown, Indiana, April 3–6, 2008. The organizers are requesting displays and activities organized by yearly meetings in the area, including Illinois Yearly Meeting.
29. Mariellen Gilpin reported for the committee planning the upcoming Winter Retreat (attached). Elaine Emily will be conducting a workshop on eldering at this year's retreat. The committee requests \$100 to use in planning and coordinating the retreat, and also requests that it become a regular line item in the yearly meeting budget. Following a discussion in which Friends considered establishing a standing committee for organizing the

Winter Retreat, it was decided not to do so at this time. The request for \$100 to support this year's retreat is referred to the Review Committee.

30. Minutes 26 to 29 were read and approved.
31. The clerk reported that Judy Jager, Dawn Amos and Michael Dennis have agreed to serve the *ad hoc* exploratory committee regarding the advisability of having a personnel committee; the committee may add to its membership by informing the clerk. Angie Reeks (clerk), Beth Schobernd and Sharon Haworth have agreed to serve on the *ad hoc* Records Management Committee.
32. Sharon Haworth reported for the Blue River Quarterly Planning Group. Almost all positions have been filled. Ellen Baranowski is the overall coordinator. The theme for the children's program will be "Making Friends, Keeping Friends."
33. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Chicago North Planning Group (attached). The theme for the adult program will be "Our Ministry of Reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Ken and Katherine Jacobsen have accepted an invitation to speak on Saturday evening. Pam Kuhn reported that the Plummer Lecturer will be Elizabeth Mertic.
34. Sue Davison reported for the Chicago South Planning Group (attached). All positions have been filled; the overall coordinator is Sue Styer.
35. Minutes 30 to 34 were read and approved.
36. The clerk announced that Lake Forest Meeting has offered to host the spring meeting of Continuing Committee, March 1, 2008. Friends approve.
37. Maurine Pyle distributed a page entitled "Becoming a Thriving Meeting, as Discovered by Midlothian (VA) Friends Meeting," and a second page entitled "A Self-Evaluation of Our Monthly Meeting." Maurine is available to assist meetings in the processes outlined in these pages.
38. The clerk requested that yearly meeting committees send copies of their minutes to the clerk of the yearly meeting, and to the Administrative Coordinator.
39. Friends thank Clear Creek Meeting for their hospitality. Appreciation was also expressed for Maurine Pyle's work as Field Secretary.
40. Minutes 35 to 39 were read and approved.
41. The meeting closed in silent worship.