

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee October 1, 2016

Community Friends Meeting Cincinnati, OH.

18 Friends were present.

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse sends regrets
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)
Statistician: Frank Huss, absent

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)
Auditing: Veronica Frost
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler
Children's Program: (no representative present)
Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale
Middle Youth and Teen: Jason Dean
Naming: (no representative present)
Nominating: Richard Mitchell
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: (no representative present)
Religious Nurture & Education: Marjorie Isaacs
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger
Yearly Meeting Planning: Martha Viehmann

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost
Whitewater: Diann Herzog sends regrets

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Marci Ankrom
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Deborah Jordan
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley send regrets
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: (no representative present)
Fall Creek: Rex Sprouse sends regrets
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler
Green Plain: (no representative present)
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: (no representative present)

Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Steve Angell & Doug Jones
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Jason Dean

1. Friends gathered for opening worship and the clerk asked all to be sure to report back to their Monthly Meetings and/or committees the business that will be done today.
2. The clerk asked the Religious Education and Nurture Committee to look at the information gathered from the Queries to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting committees.
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others (see above).
4. The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Wilson Palmer presented a report, which is attached. The accounting for the 2016 sessions is still not complete; and we are still waiting for the bill from Earlham. The report was accepted with gratitude.
6. **Ad Hoc External Contributions Committee** – Michele Tomarelli presented their report, which is attached. Paul Buckley will be the clerk. Michele answered questions and took notes of the discussion to address with the committee. The committee was given the support to do as they are led. Report was accepted.
7. The Executive Committee asked the committee to also send a letter to each Monthly Meeting asking them to have a meeting-wide discussion. This was approved.
8. Minutes 1-7 were approved.
9. **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report** – Veronica Frost reported. The Green Plain Meeting has asked to be laid down. Veronica will be researching ownership of the property and cemetery. The meetinghouse is on the national registry of historic places. This will be brought to the attention of the quarter. The report was accepted.
10. Steve Angell reported that a **Joint Quarterly Meeting** will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, 2016 at Camp Kern near Lebanon, Ohio. Registration is due October 9th. Lisa Cayard is collecting registrations. There will be two options for the adult program. Jason has been planning activities for the youth.
11. There is a concern for funding the child/youth care at Joint Quarterly Meeting. It was requested that money be available for the salary and registration for child and youth care workers. The treasurer will pay costs for Joint Quarterly Meeting from reserves. It was also approved that there would be \$350.00 added to future yearly meeting budgets.
12. The report was accepted.
13. Minutes 9-12 were approved.
14. **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report** – Submitted by Diann Herzog. Hopewell Friends meetinghouse has been given to Dublin Meeting in the New Association of Friends. The Hopewell Meeting has not been officially laid down. The report was accepted.
15. **Youth Committee** – Jason Dean and David Funck reported. As the new youth secretary, Jason is learning about his responsibilities and what the yearly meeting and monthly meetings would like to see happen with the program. Information gathering is ongoing. Monthly Meetings are asked to submit the name and contact information of the clerk of their Religious Education Committee and information about the youths in their meeting. The teen page on the website will be active again soon. They also have a Face Book page. Many communication options are being considered. A calendar is being

developed. It is hoped that the activities and communication can be driven by the youth. There is a concern of building a youth community where they can support each other. Report was accepted.

16. Minutes 14-15 were approved.

17. It was suggested that the minutes emphasize action items.

18. There is a concern of communication between the Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meetings.

19. **Handbook revisions** It was discussed that each committee should be responsible for seeing that their section of the handbook is current and correct. Changes should be brought to the Executive Committee for final approval. The current handbook is available in the website.

20. **Religious Nurture and Education** – Marjorie Isaacs reported. The committee reviewed their charge from the Yearly Meeting. The charge had been updated two years ago when the committees were combined. This committee is committed to being more of a resource to Monthly Meetings. They have several ideas for doing this including presentations and a retreat. They are developing a web site for their committee. In their charge, they will be adding this sentence: “Provide support, consultation and materials for children's and youth's religious education to all levels of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting: Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings and Yearly Meeting.” Currently there are no members of Whitewater Quarter on the committee. Friends are invited to attend a committee meeting to explore potential membership. This committee will be meeting Sunday afternoon at the Joint Quarterly Meeting. The report was accepted.

21. The Executive Committee approved Pam Richards from Community Friends as a new member of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee.

22. Minutes 17 - 21 were approved.

23. **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Planning Committee** – Martha Viehmann The theme has been chosen - *Moving Together With the Spirit* - and the plenary speakers were chosen and are being contacted. An announcement will be in the Quill early in 2017. The recommendation of moving Yearly Meeting earlier in the summer was met with vast approval. Very few friends said they were unable to attend. Having it earlier means we can use the facilities that we prefer and we will not conflict with Friends Music Camp.

24. The date change to June 14 – 18, 2017 was approved.

25. Minute 23-24 were approved.

26. **Nominating Committee** There is a concern about finding members for the Nominating Committee and filling officer positions, committee positions and representatives for greater Quaker organizations. Richard Mitchell is currently the sole member of this committee. We will revisit the topic of how we fill the Nominating Committee.

27. Steve Angell's offer to serve on the Nominating Committee was approved.

28. **Nominations Process** Because of the small size of the Nominating Committee, Betsy presented some other questions: Should we limit the size of some committees, combine functions, or otherwise reduce the size of the steward pool? One Friend suggested that it might be better to have committees seek their own members. Another Friend noted that members of the Nominating Committee tend to know only those Friends who attend our annual sessions. There may be Friends willing to do the work of a committee but not interested in attending meetings for business or our annual sessions. It may also be helpful to review the committees' responses to the queries. The Executive Committee will revisit these concerns in February.

29. **Revitalization of OVYM** Because of the lateness of the hour, Betsy presented some thoughts on this topic, but the committee postponed further discussion. Committee responses to the queries may provide useful information. At this past summer's sessions there was strong interest in intervisitation among meetings. The clerk has been asked to develop a prioritized list of meetings to visit. She would appreciate assistance in developing such a list. Friends postponed further consideration until our next meeting. Betsy asked Friends in the meantime to consider this question: *What is needed to do the work that God has given us to do today?*

30. Announcements:

1. Vocal Ministry workshop, Friday and Saturday October 7th and 8th at Lexington Meeting

2. *Finding the Light in You* children's book about silence available at FGC bookstore

3. Susan Hyde has been ill.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: February 4, 2017 at 10 am via telephone conferencing.

Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk