

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee**  
**February 3, 2018**  
**Telephone Conference**

1. Roll Call

**Officers**

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale  
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann  
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada  
Assistant Recording Clerk:  
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer  
Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)  
Statistician: Frank Huss, not present

**Committee Clerks**

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)  
Auditing: Veronica Frost, sends regrets  
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer  
Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler  
Earthcare: David Duvall, not present  
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale and Rex Sprouse  
Nominating: Richard Mitchell  
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell  
Personnel: Paul Buckley, not present  
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley  
Website Administrator: Lonny Burger not present  
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons  
Youth Services Committee: David Funck

**Quarterly Meeting Clerks**

Miami: Veronica Frost, sent regrets  
Whitewater: Terre Holada

**Monthly Meeting Representatives**

Bloomington: Christine Carver and Elaine Emmi  
Campus: (no representative present)  
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt  
Community: Deborah Jordan  
Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley  
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer  
Englewood: Kay Wheeler not present  
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog  
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler  
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli  
Lexington: Richard Mitchell  
Louisville: (no representative present)  
Miami: David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and Lonny Burger

North Meadow: Dinah Duvall

Oxford: no representative

White Rose: (no representative present)

Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski not present

### **Staff**

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Youth Secretary: vacant

2. Opening Worship. We held Charlotte Hess and her family in the Light as they go through medical issues with her son.

3. Virtual Meeting, David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

At the last meeting we used Skype and there were connectivity issues. Some suggested using Zoom which is a paid service. It costs \$15.00 a month and you only pay for the months you use. It was suggested to try using it at the April meeting. Using the video connection is optional, attenders can still call in with their phones. It will be better with a separate microphone instead of the built-in microphone. That might be between \$50 to \$100 dollars. We may use the free trial which limits attendees and time, just to see how it works. Friends approved the purchase of a microphone and Zoom service.

4. Budget and Finance Committee, Wilson Palmer

The committee still needs a clerk and a few more members. Currently there is only one member and the treasurer. An assistant treasurer is also needed. The nominating committee is again asked to make these needs a priority. They are also asked to report back to us in April. Thanks were given to Wilson for his many years of service.

Wilson also reported on Fall Creek and their need for funding to improve their Meeting House.

*With just a few emails to a couple of OVYM friends I have collected 4 pages of comments about OVYM's potential involvement with Fall Creek Meeting. I am attempting to summarize some of this in the following comments, from what I consider the most important to the least.*

*1. No action of transferring OVYM financial resources to Fall Creek should be taken except on the floor of OVYM Sessions*

*2. Expressed multiple times and in a number of ways: Those of us outside of Fall Creek do not have a clear sense of the Meeting's skill set in the areas of visioning, practical expertise and commitment. Here are some examples:*

*a. Is there a 5 year or 10 year plan at Fall Creek where they envision where they plan to be 5 and 10 years from now spiritually and physically?*

*b. What is the financial commitment each family is willing to pay over the next 10 or 15 years to pay for major projects and loans?*

*c. Are there people in Fall Creek that know how to prioritize the various projects and obtain multiple bids? There is a concern about giving financial support without knowing exactly how much and for what.*

*d. Are there local people near the Meetinghouse that regularly keep an eye out for the needs of normal maintenance, to say nothing about being regularly around to supervise the contractors?*

*e. Is anyone pursuing grants?*

*3. Although there was little expression of the following sentiment in my tiny sample of respondents, we at OVYM open ourselves up for divisive resentment when we offer to help one Meeting with financial needs while ignoring the serious financial challenges faced by other Meetings currently or in the past. Instead of a one-time special consideration for only Fall Creek,*

*should we be considering setting up special funds so there is published method of assisting others? Here are some examples:*

- a. A special fund established to Monthly Meetings with physical improvements (like we are considering for Fall Creek, but open to all)*
- b. A fund to help for those (after the first year) to attend Sessions*
- c. Funds to help youth travel to OVYM work camps or bring special resources to youth Sessions activities or events.*
- 4. The remoteness of Fall Creek perhaps makes it harder to collect a large enough group of dedicated folks to care for the physical building. It seems there was a nasty split some time ago between two groups of people wanting control over the Meetinghouse. Would this be the time to search for some resolution that could double the number of people wanting to care for this building?*

*collected and summarized by Wilson Palmer 2/1/2018*

Some Friends expressed a level of discomfort at these questions. These are not questions that Fall Creek is required to answer, yet they are important questions to be considered to help them make a good decision. Item 3 is more of a question for the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We are reminded that we are a community who helps each other. Diann Herzog of Fall Creek said that several of these points are being worked on at the moment. She thanks Friends for their concern.

#### 5. Statistician Report.

Frank Huss had been in ICU for several weeks, but he is out of the hospital now. He has said that he may still do the statistics. Deborah will contact him. Perhaps we can find someone to support him. Nominating Committee will look for someone. Friends approved.

#### 6. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell and Martha Viehmann

Richard sent a letter to the committee to set up a meeting. He prioritized tasks: find an Assistant Treasurer, fill the Planning Committee, Youth Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Religious Nurture and Education and find an Assistant Recording Clerk. The committee is hoping to find some young blood. Martha suggested that the need for an Assistant Recording Clerk be switched with the Planning Committee since there are more members than listed on that committee. Terre offered to stay another year to help to transition in the new recording clerk. This will get us back on the right rotation.

#### 7. Personnel Committee

Steve Angell offered to serve as clerk. Paul Buckley and Paul Kreise have been on the committee and both offered to stay one more year, yet cannot serve as clerk. This is not a very active committee. When a Youth Secretary is hired, they will prepare the contract. There are several other responsibilities and many can be done via telephone conference. It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to fill this committee.

#### 7a. Youth Services Committee

David Funck shared the new job description for the Youth Services Secretary. Friends understand the need to move on this so the position could be advertised but many Friends wish to see it. It was suggested to distribute the document then have a called meeting to accept it. It was also suggested to send it out and if there are no strong concerns, we can consider it approved. Friends would like to know what has been changed. Friends approved the second option. This will need to be done by February 9th. David has reached out to several colleges and Earlham alumni group. Information will also be sent to Monthly Meetings. Rachel Moore will

serve as interim Youth Secretary for 60 days and she will be considered in the final applicant pool.

8. Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Contributions, Michele Tomarelli

There was a report circulated. (see attached) Michele suggested that this discussion can wait until April. Any one wishing to comment can email her at tomarelli@fastmail.net. Chris Harmer offered to do a workshop called *Charity Work for Doers and Donors*. This would help Yearly Meeting discern this issue.

9. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Retreat Quaker Hill 9:30 TO 5, March 17th. Sustaining Spiritual Practices for Healing and Refreshment...A one day Spring Retreat.

The committee is also working on updating our policy on preventing sexual harassment of children and how we respond to allegations.

10. Planning Committee, Carol Simmons

Vanessa Julye and Dwight Wilson are the plenary speakers. June 13-17th. The workshops are currently being finalized.

11. We are reminded to continue making an effort on intervisitation. If you or your meeting has been involved in intervisitation, please let Nikki know.

12. The next meeting will be April 7th. Fall Creek offered to host us, but there is a concern about the air quality and Internet connection. Terre is unable to take minutes that day, Christine Carver said she would.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terre Holada