

Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Fourth Month 4, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

1. Opening worship. Friends entered into waiting worship.

2. Roll call. The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff:

Yearly Meeting officers and administrators

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Recording Clerk: Rex Sprouse

Assistant Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes

Committee Clerks

Auditing: not present

Braddock Fund: not present

Budget & Finance: Dale Hayes

Children's: Susan Hyde

Earthcare: David Duvall

Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse

Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: not present

Records: Susan Hyde

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey Tousley

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons

Young Adult Friends: Ute Goheen-Brewington

Youth Services: Jason Swank

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Peter Hardy

Whitewater: Terre Holada

Monthly Meeting representatives

Bloomington: not present

Campus: not present

Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt

Community: Eric Wolff, Deborah Jordan

Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley

Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer

Fall Creek: not present

Fort Wayne: Terre Holada

Lafayette: not present
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: Chris Harmer, Cindi Goslee
Miami: not present
North Meadow: not present
Oxford: Cecelia Shore
White Rose: not present
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting staff
Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson

3. Planning Committee report. The written report is appended to these minutes.

Friends approved the recommendation that no face-to-face Annual Sessions would be held in summer 2020, noting their sorrow about the need to forego gatherings at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friends approved making a one-time donation to Earlham College in recognition of the loss of income the College is likely to experience because of the cancellation of summer events. Budget and Finance Committee is asked to bring a recommendation for the amount of the contribution to Earlham College to Annual Sessions. The amount may be up to \$5000.

Friends approved paying our three child care workers \$595 each in recognition of our usual commitment to employ them and of their long and faithful service to the Yearly Meeting.

Friends approved empowering the Planning Committee to plan Annual Sessions 2020 in an alternative format that achieves as many of the aims of face-to-face Annual Sessions as possible, while keeping Friends safe. Friends endorsed the request from Planning Committee that its representation be enlarged by recruiting helpers who have significant experience holding on-line meetings and who have facility with on-line technology.

4. Appointment to Personnel Committee. Friends approved the appointment of Stephen Angell to serve a second two-year term on Personnel Committee, expiring at the rise of Annual Sessions 2022. At the time of this meeting, Friends were not clear whether Stephen is available for this service. The Clerk will verify whether he is available.

5. Nominating Committee report. Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson presented the report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends approved the following names for service roles at Annual Sessions 2020: Rick Boyce for Epistle Summary; Dale Hayes (facilitator) and David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson (technology) for Memorial Committee; Marti Matthews for Epistle Committee. Nominating Committee is in the process of finding another person for Epistle Committee.

6. Treasurer's report. Wilson Palmer presented the report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends accepted the report.

7. Youth Secretary's report. Kaia Jackson presented the report, which is appended to these minutes. Kaia highlighted the Valiant Together website, which at the time of this meeting is accessible at the URL: ^[P]_[SEP]<http://www.quakers4re.org/valiant-together2020>. She also highlighted

the importance of inviting the Teens to explore alternative service opportunities that can be undertaken from home. Friends accepted the report.

8. Youth Services Committee report. Jason Swank offered a brief report on the work of Youth Services Committee, highlighting the ongoing search for a new Youth Secretary. Friends accepted the report.

9. Religious Nurture and Education Committee report. The written report is appended to these minutes. Nikki Coffey Tousley and Gail Koehler explained that the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative would not be held in person in Summer 2020; however, the Collaborative offers many resources that are available online. Friends accepted the report.

10. Ad Hoc Website Development Committee report. The written report is appended to these minutes. The Committee hopes to have a basic version of the new website up and running in Fifth Month. Friends accepted the report.

11. Sexual Misconduct Task Force report. The written report is appended to these minutes. Betsy Neale and Gail Koehler encouraged monthly meetings to review the draft policy, preferably after some basic education on dealing with sexual misconduct has taken place. Friends should expect resources from the Task Force in the near future. Friends accepted the report.

12. Earthcare Committee report. David Duvall presented a brief report, highlighting the development of queries that might be used during the online Annual Sessions. Friends accepted the report.

13. Support during the COVID-19 crisis and concerns of monthly meetings. Friends entered into a period of worship sharing around the COVID-19 crisis.

14. Update on Monthly Meeting responses on collecting statistics on race/ethnicity. Clerk Martha Viehmann's update is appended to these minutes. Friends lifted up several individuals among Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends who are equipped to lead discussions about race, racism, and white supremacy. Friends noted that several monthly meetings have had deep discussions about this concern and several had made plans for such discussions that have had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

15. Announcements. Friends were reminded to be sure to submit State of the Meeting reports to the Administrative Secretary in a timely fashion. An announcement from Friend Paula R. Palmer is appended to these minutes.

16. Closing worship. Friends concluded with a period of waiting worship.

APPENDED REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Recommendation To OVYM Executive Committee from OVYM Annual Sessions Planning Committee

2020-March-28

The Annual Sessions Planning Committee recognizes the impossibility of holding Annual Sessions at Earlham College in June 2020 as they have traditionally been held. Our committee met via zoom on March 21 st and March 28 th for lengthy, spirit-led, and wide ranging discussions.

We discussed the current risks of holding an in-person meeting as well the challenge of shifting to a virtual format. We searched historical precedent and also the plans of other yearly meetings. Through our labor there emerged a recognition that we should act soon to allow sufficient time for the planning an alternate Annual Sessions. Among our committee there was unity around the following recommendations:

- ❖ That we not plan for face-to-face Annual Sessions this year.
- ❖ That Executive Committee considers making a one-time contribution to Earlham College in recognition of the hardship the College is likely to encounter from cancelling summer events.
- ❖ That Annual Session Planning Committee is asked to begin planning Annual Sessions in an alternative format which achieves as many of the aims of face-to-face Annual Sessions as possible while keeping Friends safe.
- ❖ That the Planning Committee enlarges its representation by recruiting members who have more experience holding on-line meetings and who have more facility with on-line technology.
- ❖ That the Planning Committee is permitted to seek and accept new members.

The Planning Committee is willing to plan Annual Sessions in an alternative format. We expect that the only feasible alternate format will be to hold sessions entirely on-line. The possibility of deferring some of the events of Annual Sessions to Joint Quarter in October 2020 will also be considered. We are aware that running an on-line annual session will be challenging and may strongly affect participation of some Friends. Our work will continue to be guided by the queries we articulated earlier, namely:

1. Why do we have Annual Sessions?
2. What needs of Friends are met by being at Annual Sessions?
3. Can these needs be met in other ways?

If Executive Committee approves this new planning effort, our committee has scheduled its next Zoom meeting for April 11 @ 1pm.

Carol Simmons (clerk), Kristen Brethova, Gloria Bruner, Jim Davidson, Ben Griffith, Peter Hardy, Terre Holada, Susan Hyde, Kaia Jackson (OVYM Youth Secretary), Eric Wolfe
In our brainstorming about holding at least a portion of Annual Sessions virtually the following points were brought up.

Issues of access:

- While many Friends are facile with on-line technology there may be many in the YM who are not. We identified a need to provide training and possibly access for all Friends who wish to participate in on-line events.

- Some Friends without personal computers or internet access might be able to use on-line facilities at their meeting house. However, we wondered if gathering at the meeting house would violate social distancing recommendations or, in the case of meeting houses with caretakers, risk bringing the virus into the caretaker's dwelling.
 - Will holding on-line sessions which run in parallel require households to have multiple computers? Maybe we can stagger events.
 - Do we need more Zoom accounts? Can we "borrow" from our existing accounts? Should we have a dedicated Zoom account?
- Issues inherent in using on-line technology for meetings
- What business of the Yearly Meeting MUST be done? For example, the budget.
 - Having a large number of people in a single Zoom meeting is challenging. Many of us have had the experience of starting to talk only to have someone else begin to talk at the same time. Zoom has the option of breaking into smaller rooms to allow easier communication.
 - Acknowledging the limitations of individuals to maintain attention during on-line meetings, what is a reasonable schedule for events?
 - How will going on-line for Annual Sessions affect youth? Very young people will not find an entirely on-line event as appealing as will older Friends.
- Benefits of using on-line tools
- Can on-line tools be used to support one another during this period of isolation.
 - One Friend suggested starting an on-line book discussion group.
 - Friends recognized that more frequent meetings allowed by on-line technology is a way to ground a group and if we could access presentations from other YMs we could feel even more connected to the wider Quaker body.
 - People have different reactions to holding on-line meetings. For some workshop leaders the possibility of holding a virtual workshop might be unappealing while for others it might open up otherwise unavailable possibilities.
- Possible solutions
- A suggested schedule? 1 hour worship sharing groups in morning, workshop offering(s) in the afternoon, and evening plenary
 - FGC has some resources for this virtual transition in our Quaker communities
 - Educators are receiving Zoom accounts for free now and we have many educators in our YM. Training to use the technology is available.
 - We need a re-envisioning process. Try to bring in as many voices from all corners of our YM community. We don't want to leave people out.
 - If we have on-line events, request people to sign up for them. Maybe even a small charge for this (covering any technology costs) might encourage people to participate as they become invested. It is easier to blow it off if it's free.
 - Partner with other Yearly Meetings for plenary and workshop offerings. Find out what others are doing.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Sessions Roles

Nominating committee is bringing forward the following nominations for approval:

- Epistle Summary – Rick Boyce
- Memorial Committee – Dale Hayes (facilitator) and David P-C (technology)
- Epistle Committee – Marti Matthews

We are in the process of finding another person for Epistle Committee.

These roles are all for the 2020 annual sessions. These nominations attempt to take into consideration the likelihood that annual sessions will be virtual rather than in person.

Other Roles and Positions

The committee has made some progress toward filling the yearly meeting officer roles, the Development Committee and Youth Services committee positions, but is not ready to report on them.

Our next priorities are to fill the Budget & Finance committee and find representatives for wider Quaker bodies prior to annual sessions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

3/22/2020

OVYM has approved helping all of us to protect the children under our care by allowing constituent Meetings to use the OVYM background check service. We are requesting Monthly Meetings to reimburse us when we check names on their behalf. On the spreadsheet, page 3, Table 13, I have added two rows to show what this service costs OVYM and a line for resulting income we receive back. So far 3 Meetings have used the service and one has reimbursed us.

With the year 3/4ths finished, I will speculate on our current financial status. The income that has been generously donated to us by our constituent meetings also stands at nearly 3/4ths of the money we hoped to receive this fiscal year. Assuming we receive the rest of the pledged income, assuming no Yearly Meeting Sessions and looking at our expected expenses through June 31, 2020, I think we might break even this year. Not our budgeted \$15,500 loss.

Our loss last year was less than \$1700 and our gains the previous 3 years were much greater than this. Even with the recent downturn of the market, our reserves are strong and the rest of our investments are still ahead of where we started 5 years ago. The investment numbers in my report reflect the Friends Fiduciary Corporation Green Fund values as of 3/27/2020. In the ten years I have been treasurer, we have not needed to draw on our reserves to pay our bills, so I do not plan to lock in our losses by using our investments now.

Next year's budget has not been approved yet, but it is possible we will accept one calling for a \$15,500 loss. In the short term, I am not concerned about a number this size. In the long term the new Development Committee is supposed to help close the gap without adding to the burden our Meetings are carrying.

Wilson Palmer, OVYM Treasurer

YOUTH SECRETARY'S REPORT

3/28/20

OVYM Middle Youth and Teens program is in the process of researching approaches to virtual youth programs, and envisioning a way forward in these uncertain times. Our upcoming events include:

Tea-Time for Teens of OVYM

Sunday, **April 5th**, 2:30-3:30pm

Teens of OVYM are invited to gather together to check-in, talk about the strangest food they've eaten since social distancing became a thing, check in about upcoming teen service opportunities, and chat about what we want and need from future events in the virtual world. Please feel free to wear a hat or other headdress, as you feel led.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/7469508147>

Middle Youth Booth

Sunday, **April 5th**, 4pm-4:45pm

Middle Youth of OVYM are invited to tune in to check-in, play show & tell, try a new game or two, and listen to a little good ol' fashion storytelling!

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/7469508147>

At each of these virtual gatherings, Kaia will seek feedback from youth on their interests and needs for future virtual offerings. Additionally, Kaia is working closely with Planning Committee for Annual Sessions, Youth Services Committee, and peer religious educators to navigate plans for interactive activities and service opportunities in the next couple of months. If you have an idea, resource, or concern, please don't hesitate to contact Kaia at ovymyouthsecretary@gmail.com anytime.

Kaia Jackson

RELIGIOUS NURTURE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Religious Nurture and Education Committee of OVYM met on March 7, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Nikki Tousley, clerk; Gail Koehler, Dale Hayes, and Marti Matthews

Some of what we discussed will be on hold because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been hosting an OVYM worship the last three weeks online via Zoom. There was good attendance the first two meetings, but only 5 on 3/29. There may be less need as many monthly meetings have organized their own worship, but we will continue as long as there seems to be interest. We remain committed to staying in contact with our local meetings. We have been working on programming in two areas:

First, we planned to do a program to connect parents, First Day School teachers and others concerned for our children and youth. We were planning the program at Whitewater Quarter in

April and looking to gather people in Miami Quarter in late summer or early fall. We also hoped to offer an interest group on religious education and a meal for parents at Yearly Meeting.

Second, we want to focus energy on Hospitality and Outreach. We planned a workshop on the topic at OVYM. We offered a longer program for Joint Quarter in October but found Earthcare committee was also making plans. Instead we will offer our spring retreat on Hospitality and “Weaving a Wider Welcome” on March 27, 2021 at Quaker Hill with Rachel Ernst Stalhut as resource person.

There will be a meeting of the FGC “Quaker Religious Education Collaborative” in North Carolina August 14-16. We encourage people to go and we will provide scholarship money from the Spiritual Nurture Fund. Finally, we are looking ahead to try to plan a Faith and Play training in sometime in 2021 as well as programming around conflict among Friends.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

AD HOC WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The ad hoc website development team continues to meet online and develop the new website. We had hopes to complete it by April in preparation for annual sessions’ registration but have been delayed by the personal demands of the pandemic. Still, we hope to have the essentials on the new website sometime in the next month. Thanks to those of you who contributed photos. We do have a question about how many past documents to archive on the website and will consult with the Yearly Meeting officers about this.

Report submitted by Deborah Jordan 3/30/20

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TASK FORCE

A few meetings have responded to our request that monthly meetings review the draft OVYM Policy on Sexual Misconduct, presented at last year’s annual sessions. Community has drafted its own statement and hosted Gail Koehler and Peter Hardy to facilitate one in a series of discussions. Oxford sent its response to our draft. North Meadow has requested Task Force members to lead them in their deliberations and Bloomington consulted with us as they made plans to do their own work.

Gail Koehler and Betsy Neale have been working further, including consulting with our local sexual violence resource center, and tracking down further resources. Another aspect of our work is developing tools to facilitate discussions of the topic of sexual misconduct in order to help us as individuals and meetings better understand the topic. We have some materials and plan to work with the entire Task Force to develop materials to help monthly meetings expand their understanding of this complex and challenging topic.

Gail Koehler and Betsy Neale

REPORTS FROM MONTHLY MEETINGS ON COLLECTING STATISTICS ON RACE/ETHNICITY

Seven of our 16 Monthly Meetings have submitted reports about their conversations on this issue. Of these, one has not reached unity about collecting statistics that reflect the racial/ethnic makeup of our members and regular attenders. Four of the meetings expressed interest in continuing conversation regarding racism, and two others noted the value of “examining behavior” or “fac[ing] racism,” which implies a desire for further exploration. The remaining report lacked detail in this regard, so continuing the conversation about race and racism may be a point of unity.

Is it worthwhile to continue to seek more input from Monthly Meetings on the original request?

Who among OVYM Friends is equipped to lead discussions about race, racism, and white supremacy?

Martha Viehmann 3/3020

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PAULA PALMER

Subject: Traveling Ministry in early August 2020

Contact E-mail (preferred): Paularpalmer@gmail.com Phone: 303 443-0402

Friends, I travel in Quaker ministry with a concern for seeking right relationship with Native Peoples. I will be speaking in Bluffton at Lake Erie YM annual sessions and could also offer programs at monthly meetings within OVYM during the first week of August. Can you suggest Friends who might be interested in exploring possibilities? Thanks for any suggestions you might offer. In Joyful Friendship, -Paula Palmer