

MINUTES OF THE 188th SESSION OF  
OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
Seventh Month 30 – Eighth Month 3, 2008

**Seventh Month 30, 2008; 2:30pm – 5:02pm**

**1. Opening of Session**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered in waiting worship at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, for its 188th annual sessions. The clerk shared an excerpt from *Claiming Joy, An Invitation* by Nancy Bieber from *Friends Journal*, March 2005.

**2. Greetings and Welcome**

The clerk greeted the Friends assembled to the 188th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

**3. Welcome from Earlham College**

Douglas Bennett, President of Earlham College, welcomed Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends on behalf of the college and noted that Earlham is dedicated to rigorous intellectual pursuit that is nurtured spiritually and extended globally. Friends were asked to hold in the Light the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, which recently was the site of a violent incident.

**4. Roll call of Representatives**

The clerk called the roll of monthly meetings. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to the minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**5. Welcoming of Guests**

Paul Buckley was welcomed as a representative of Earlham School of Religion. Steve Angell was welcomed as a representative of Pendle Hill.

**6. Irvington Friends**

The Assistant Clerk read a letter from Linda L. Buttram of Irvington Friends Meeting that expressed gratitude for the consideration of their queries by the monthly meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The letter described the discernment process they have entered regarding their affiliations in the Religious Society of Friends.

**7. Staff, Volunteer Gratitude**

The clerk recognized staff and volunteers who will work with the young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the 188th session and encouraged Friends to greet and thank them throughout the sessions at meals and other community times. Staff for the Children's program, are Lupe Witte, Maria Hernandez, Jen Filbrun and Cati Reynolds. Staff for the Middle Youth are Jason Dean, Ann Holzer, and Chance Duvall. Staff for the Teen program are Rachel Ernst and Nick Rhein.

**8. Absent Friends**

Friends were reminded to hold in the Light those who were absent from this year's sessions. Friends were asked to provide names of those in our Yearly Meeting family who were prevented from attending this year's sessions.

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**9. Review of Agenda**

The clerk directed Friends' attention to the agenda printed in *Reports in Advance*, pointed out changes, and asked for questions and comments. Friends approved the changes to the agenda as they are known at the moment.

**10. Correction to the 187th session Minute Book**

Corrections were noted in minute number 7 of the 2nd month 2, 2008 Executive Committee minutes. "The full final 2006 Statistical Report was not included in the 2007 Yearly Meeting Minutes. Friends agreed to include the 2006 statistics as well as the 2007 statistics in the 2008 Minute Book." In addition, editing errors were noted. The year for the 7th month 26 morning sessions and those for the 7th month 27, 28 and 29 should read 2007, not 2006 as printed.

**11. Delegates to the Youth Business Sessions**

The clerk requested that Friends interested in serving as visitors and liaison to the Children's and Youth programs business meetings please contact the clerk's table.

**12. Whitewater Quarter Report**

Rex Sprouse presented the report from Whitewater Quarterly Meeting and directed Friends to page 5 of the Reports in Advance. He noted that Whitewater Quarter established Budget and Finance and Advancement and Nurture committees. The newly formed Advancement and Nurture committee performed its first official function by facilitating the discernment process for membership of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. The committee brought back an enthusiastic recommendation that the monthly meeting be welcomed into membership, and Whitewater Quarter accepted that recommendation. It was also noted that ecclesiastical endorsement for the work of Annie Glen is no longer needed as reported in Reports in Advance due to a change in career. It was recommended that meetings consider and enhance adult religious education as new seekers connect with our meetings, and help them to understand the right ordering of business matters in Friends meetings. Friends accepted the report.

**13. Welcome of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting**

The clerk announced that the clerk's table in the hallway outside of the Wilkinson Theater contains a banner welcoming Fort Wayne Friends Meeting to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and a series of puzzle pieces to assemble during the sessions. The clerk invited Friends interested in forming a welcoming committee to visit Fort Wayne Friends Meeting during the fall of 2008 to approach the clerk's table.

**14. Nominating Committee Initial Report**

The members of the Nominating Committee present at this business session (Peg Champney was not available) presented the initial Nominating Committee Report. Friends were reminded that the Nominating Committee is not merely looking for volunteers, but for those who feel a leading to the work of the yearly meeting and knowledge of the gifts of others in their meetings. The committee reviewed the status of nominations, noting opportunities to fill vacancies and explain details of the report. It was noted that the Nominating Committee initial report presented at the 188th sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting only reflects the positions that the Nominating Committee is responsible for. Friends were directed to page 7 through 9 of Reports in Advance for a complete listing. This reporting is a change from previous sessions of the Ohio Valley

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Yearly Meeting. Other positions are appointed by other groups and Friends were encouraged to note those clearly in some manner so that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has a clear picture of the gifts of service to the yearly meeting. Naming Committee, Personnel Committee and Support Committees will be listed by the clerk's table. Friends accepted the report.

**15. Naming Committee Report**

The Assistant Clerk reported that the Naming Committee is waiting for a decision by one nominee to complete its list and will report the results later in the 188th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

**16. Executive Committee Report**

The clerk directed Friends to page 10 of Reports in Advance for the full report of the Executive Committee. It was noted that the work of the Executive Committee in the past year has included significant mechanical work. Of special note was the development and implementation of a policy that ensures a safe environment for the young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A number of job descriptions within the work of the yearly meeting have been modified. Personnel practices were reviewed and updated. The Executive Committee also spent considerable time reviewing our relationship to the Lauramoore Home. In other reports, two recommendations from the Executive Committee work of the past year will be brought forward for discernment by the yearly meeting. The challenges being experienced by the Nominating Committee will be brought to Friends assembled for discernment and recommendation. Also to be considered is an invitation to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting that the Teens to participate in a Spirit Camp to be hosted by Alaska Friends Conference in the summer of 2009. Executive Committee approved in third month 2008, the allocation of \$6000 to this purpose, with additional funds to be made available up to \$ 9200, and some framework for action by the teens.

**17. Lauramoore Home, Inc. Report**

Ron Haldeman and Julie Owen presented the report and distributed a copy of a brief history of the Lauramoore Friends Home as well as the report of the committee. The report was not included in the Reports in Advance. Friends were invited to the Ice Cream Social on 8<sup>th</sup> Month 2. The event will be held indoors due to the possibility of rain. Clarification was made regarding the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) designation. Friends accepted the report.

**18. Summary of Epistles Received**

Barbara Robinson presented a summary of the epistles received by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, sharing news and the richness of the fabric of the Religious Society of Friends. Epistles brought news of Friends across the United States and the world, and from the varied practices of Friends throughout the world.

**19. Closing Worship**

After a few brief announcements, the session closed at 5:02 p.m. with a period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene on Seventh Month 31, 2008, as way opens

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**Seventh Month 31, 2008 10:00am – 12:37pm**

**20. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from an Ernestine Buscemi Walton Lecture dated from 2006 titled “Here I Am, Lord”.

**21. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**22. Introduction of Visitors**

Doug Gwyn was introduced as a visitor from First Friends Meeting in Richmond, Indiana and Noah Baker Merrill is a member of Putney Friends Meeting in Putney, Vermont in Northwest Quarter of New England Yearly Meeting.

**23. Epistle from Young Adult Friends Conference**

The Assistant Clerk read an epistle from the Young Adult Friends Conference held at Earlham College Fifth Month 23-26, 2008. Friends shared greetings and the range of practice in their experience of those gathered.

**24. Delegates to Youth Business Meetings**

The clerk reported that David Wood will represent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at the business meetings of the Children, Michael Birkel will represent at the Middle Youth, and Susan Lee Barton will represent at the Teen business meetings.

**25. Recognition of Hosting Committee for the 2008 Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**

The clerk recognized Barbarie Hill, Byron Branson, Footie Lund, James Morgan, Jeannette Shetter, Krystin Schmidt, Paul Kriese, Steve Angell, William Shetter, Janice Clevenger, Phyllis Martin, Vaughn Peebles and Gloria Bruner for their service as part of the hosting committee for the 2008 Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas annual meeting. Dale Blanchard was recognized for her service as part of the local arrangements committee.

**26. Letter of Thanks from Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**

The clerk read a letter of thanks received from Clemence Ravacar Mershon, Recording Clerk of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas annual meeting. The letter expressed gratitude for the hospitality and care given by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the Section of the Americas meeting in 2008. The skit depicting the history of Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting was mentioned as a special lasting memory.

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**27. Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**

Susan Lee Barton shared her thoughts regarding the hosting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas gathering Fourth Month 3 through 6, 2008. Susan Lee shared the depth of discernment engaged in the selection of Waycross Camp and Conference Center as the site, culminating with the positive evaluations of the site as a model of accommodation and sustainability. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting was commended for its hospitality, its willingness to support the young people's participation in the meeting, and the skit presented. Friends accepted the report.

**28. Treasurer's Report**

Steve Angell presented the Treasurer's Report and directed Friends to page 16 of the Reports in Advance for the summary of the past year. Paul Buckley presented clarification and correction of some of the information, noting that contributions were received after the closing and printing of the report. Friends were made aware of some very special contributions received during the past budget year, and commended for their reporting of expenses incurred while doing the work of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. It was noted that during the past year, the yearly meeting overspent its allocated budget for the Teen and Middle Youth programs, and increased funding for Middle Youth. Friends accepted the report and expressed appreciation for the service of Paul Buckley as Treasurer.

**29. Property Corporation Report**

Friends were directed to page 19 of Reports in Advance report from the Property Corporation, noting that no new business was conducted during the past year, and that the Property Corporation would serve and consult as needed.

**30. Personnel Committee Report**

Steve Angell presented the report and directed Friends to page 32 of Reports in Advance in reference to the most recent work of the Personnel Committee. The committee made adjustments to the base rates and step increases as well as medical reimbursement policies for employees of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends discussed concerns regarding medical benefit coverage for the part time employees of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends requested that Personnel Committee report to the Executive Committee the reconsideration of the recommendations regarding health insurance in Tenth Month 2008. Friends accepted the report.

**31. Friends General Conference Report**

Rex Sprouse presented the report and directed Friends to page 24 of Reports in Advance. Of special note was Quaker Quest from Great Britain, a program encouraging Friends to place themselves in the role of a new seeker. Of additional note, Friends note a concern that funding is available to carry on the work of Quakers to new generations. Friends accepted the report. The clerk introduced Barbara Mays of Friends General Conference Philadelphia office as staff visitor to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions.

**32. Friends General Conference Consultation on Emerging Gifts of Gospel Ministry Report**

Rex Sprouse, Diann Herzog, Paulette Meier, Rachel Dean and Jason Dean participated in the Friends General Conference Consultation on Emerging Gifts of Gospel Ministry, hosted by the

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committee on Traveling Ministries and Youth Ministries at the Gilmary Retreat Center near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Eleventh Month 9 through 11, 2007. Friends spent time considering the traditional role of ministers and elders and the importance of spiritually led eldering that supports, uplifts and guides those in ministry.

**33. Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report**

Richard Mitchell presented the report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and directed Friends to page 25 of Reports in Advance. The committee is sponsoring a workshop on peace between Israel and Palestine, an interest group at 9:00 PM each evening, lunch hour discussions each day during the yearly meeting sessions. The committee continues to look for work camp locations, plans to offer a pre-conference session prior to the 189<sup>th</sup> session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and is looking for ways to be of service to monthly meetings. Friends accepted the report.

**34. Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace.**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting will host a conference titled Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace First Month 13-17, 2009. The program will bring together representatives of the three historical peace churches to consider the challenges and opportunities of building peace in our world. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has been invited to name one representative.

**35. Earth Charter Endorsement**

Friends approved the endorsement of the Earth Charter by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

**36. Return of Traveling Minute**

The clerk announced that due to budget constraints, Friends World Committee for Consultation will lay down the Midwest Field office. As a result of this action, Susan Lee Barton has returned the Traveling Minute issued by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in support of her service, with endorsements expressing joy at Susan Lee's service. Susan Lee reflected her sense of privilege at being able to serve Friends World Committee for Consultation and thanks to Jesus and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. The Traveling Minutes with endorsements will be available at the clerk's table. Friends accepted the report. Friends expressed their deep appreciation to Susan Lee for her years of service.

**37. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 12:37 PM. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 31, 2008 at 3:30 PM as way opens.

**Seventh Month 31, 2008 3:30pm – 5:24 pm**

**38. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a reading from Caroline Stephens, *Quaker Strongholds*, 1890.

**39. Roll call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the

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sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**40. Ad-Hoc Committee on Covenanting Report**

Stan Zarowin presented the report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Covenanting. The new process represents a significant change to the manner in which monthly meetings contribute to the yearly meeting. The committee proposed that the yearly meeting no longer use the term “assessment”, but rather “proportional shares”. As part of the process, each spring, Budget and Finance will propose a proportional share amount to each monthly meeting based on membership. The monthly meeting will respond with the amount that it is able to contribute. In the event of a potential budget shortfall, Budget and Finance will then propose a request for additional contributions, cuts to specific budget items, and/or an amount to be drawn from reserves to cover the potential shortfall. Friends expressed concern about the timing of the proposals each spring. Friends approved moving forward with the process that has been developed. Friends approved laying down the Ad-Hoc Committee on Covenanting, as its work has been completed.

**41. Ad-Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Contributions Report**

Rex Sprouse presented the report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Contributions and noted that it does not appear in Reports in Advance. The first task of the committee was to engage in discernment regarding distribution of \$16,000 allocated in the 2007-2008 budget year. That process was reported to the Executive Committee meeting Third Month 29, 2008. The second task considered a method of organizing Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting contributions. The committee proposes the following categories: Yearly Meeting Ministries, Major Quaker Organizations, Quaker Education and Outreach, and Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with Specific Focus. The committee recommended a process for adding new recipients and a periodic review process for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting contributions. It was proposed that an ad-hoc committee be appointed every three years to review the list of recipients of contributions from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The committee also presented a recommendation for distribution of the proposed 2008-2009 fiscal year contributions, which will be considered with the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Friends discussed concerns with the details of the processes proposed. Friends requested that the process be returned to the Ad-Hoc Committee to work out with Budget and Finance.

**42. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2009**

Steve Angell presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009. Friends’ attention was called to four specific areas. The first area of attention is that contributions are proposed to increase from \$16,000 to \$20,000. The second area of attention is that the cost of the annual session is increased by \$2000. The third item regards the Teen Alaska trip, detailed on Table 7. The fourth item of special attention is that the proportional share represented in Table 8 in the proposed budget, increases from \$ 97 to \$ 106. It was noted that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has active participation with William Penn House, and that the contribution to William Penn House needs to be restored. Friends approved the budget.

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**43. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 5:24 PM. Friends will reconvene Eighth Month 1, 2008 at 10:00 AM as way opens.

**Eight Month 1, 2008 10:00am – 12:45pm**

**44. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk posed the query “What is it like to be really awake to God?”

**45. Roll call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**46. Introduction of Guests**

The clerk welcomed visitors Alicia McBride, representing the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Ruth Dobyns, curator of the Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College, Alice Palmer and Wendy Waters-Connell representing the Quaker Heights Care Community, Amanda Yauger, the Administrator of Quaker Heights Care Community, and Violeta Tribandiene Gwynn, the Chaplain at Quaker Heights.

**47. Friends Home, Inc. Report**

Friends heard the report of Friends Home, Inc. which included a description of the strategic planning process undertaken in the past year, and the introduction of Violeta Tribandiene Gwynn as the Chaplain at Quaker Heights. Amanda Yauger reviewed the results of recent state health inspections of Quaker Heights, and Wendy Waters-Connell summarized the Commitment to Diversity program. Using graphs and pictures, they shared how standards are being met and there is a growing awareness of diversity among staff and residents. Dale Hayes spoke to Friends as the first Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting liaison to the Quaker Heights Care Community Trustees.

**48. Discipline Revision Committee Report**

Betsy Neale presented the report of the Discipline Revision Committee and directed Friends to page 40 of Reports in Advance. The committee worked on the section on Membership. Monthly meetings will be asked to consider and respond to drafts of portions of the section on Membership during the coming year.

**49. Approval for Membership, Part 1, Draft 5 to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline**

Friends heard a reading of Draft 5 of Part 1 of the section on Membership from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline. Friends expressed concern with the sentence “A member of a monthly meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting should not hold membership in another religious body, including another monthly meeting.” After hearing the concerns of many

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Friends and entering into worship, the clerk asked that this section be set aside. Friends approved.

**50. Threshing Session on Membership, Part II, Draft 4 to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline**

Friends entered a period of 25 minutes devoted to consideration of the fourth draft of the second part of the section on Membership proposed for inclusion in the revised Book of Discipline. The Assistant Clerk made a list of Friends' thoughts and concerns, which is appended to these minutes and will be forwarded to the Discipline Revision Committee. The fifth draft on the second part of the section on Membership will be included in the minutes of these Yearly Meeting sessions.

**51. Threshing Session on Membership, Part III, Draft 2 to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline**

Friends entered a period of 15 minutes devoted to consideration of the second draft of the third part of the section on Membership proposed for inclusion in the revised Book of Discipline. The Assistant Clerk Ben Griffith made a list of Friends' thoughts and concerns, which is appended to these minutes and is to be forwarded to the Discipline Revision Committee for further deliberation. An error was noted to the text printed on page 45 of Reports in Advance. The fourth sentence of the first paragraph was corrected to read "One person *cannot* make this commitment for another..."

**52. Friends Representing Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to Quaker Organizations**

The clerk recognized Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting representatives designated to report for other Quaker organizations. Paul Kriese is the representative to William Penn House, Marcia Ankrom is the representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, Frank Huss is a representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation, Phyllis Martin is a representative to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation, Ron Haldeman is a representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation. Phyllis Martin introduced Erin Polley of the Great Lakes Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee, who has brought the Eyes Wide Open exhibit to the Earlham College campus in the Landrum Bolling Center.

**53. Closing of Session**

The session closed at 12:45 PM. Friends will reconvene Eighth Month 2, 2008 at 10:00 AM as way opens.

**Eighth Month 2, 2008 10:00am – 12:50pm**

**54. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The Clerk shared Advice 3 from Faith and Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting and a quote from Isaac Penington, "And when thy children ask thee any questions of this nature, "What God is? Where he dwells? Or whether he sees them in the dark? –do not reject it; but wait to feel somewhat of God raised in thee..."

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**55. Roll Call of Representatives**

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

**56. Introductions**

Teen participants and young adult staff for the Teen program introduced themselves.

**57. Letter From Sybilla Bryson**

The clerk read a letter from Sybilla Bryson. Her report on her attendance at the Woolman Semester is included in the Reports in Advance.

**58. Minutes of Eighth Month 1, 2008**

The minutes of Eighth Month 1, 2008, 10:00 a.m. were read and approved with corrections.

**59. Friends Music Camp Report**

J.P. Lund presented the report for the Friends Music Camp Board of Trustees. This year's camp featured a reunion of former campers. Unfortunately, each year the camp overlaps with the dates of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions.

**60. Report from Delegates to Children and Youth Business Sessions**

David Wood reported on his visit with the young Friends group. He shared with them the responses to the queries that they had presented to the Yearly Meeting. Susan Lee Barton reported on her visit with the Teen group. The teens raised several concerns related to roles and responsibilities and expressed their thanks for the support of the Yearly Meeting. They also made a special request that they receive epistles from teens in other yearly meetings. The Clerk reported on behalf of Michael Birkel who visited with the Middle Youth. They have prepared queries which will be posted as well as distributed in the Quill for reflection and response. Friends accepted the reports.

**61. Teen Committee Report**

The Clerk reported for Cynthia Sibrel who had to leave these sessions unexpectedly. She highlighted our new policy requiring training and background checks for all those working with our children.

**62. Youth Secretary Report**

The Clerk introduced our new Youth Secretary, Lauren Baumann. Lauren Baumann. Lauren used a slide presentation to illustrate reports from Chie Togami (Lexington Meeting), Uta Brewington (Yellow Springs Meeting), Lee Toliver (visitor), Corrigan Eckert (West Richmond Friends), and Laura Hyde (Yellow Springs Meeting) on the events they participated in during the previous year. Friends accepted the report\.

**63. Middle Youth Committee Report**

Gail Koehler reported for the Middle Youth Committee. In addition to the report printed in the Reports in Advance, the Middle Youth presented a query "How do you live by your values?"

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How do you live those values in the present? How does your way of living contribute to your happiness and the happiness of others?" Gail expressed the committee's gratitude for the Yearly Meeting's support of the Middle Youth and encouraged each of us to be mentors for these young people in their developing Quakerism. Friends accepted the report.

**64. Letter from Lynda Ream and Uta Brewington**

The Clerk read a letter of gratitude from Lynda Ream and Uta Brewington for the support of the Yearly Meeting for teen activities and for Uta's candle-making project in particular.

**65. Children's Committee Report**

Hannah Branson reported for the Children's Committee. She emphasized that each member of the committee has specific skills and strengths that are brought to the planning of activities for our children. The complete report from the Children's Committee is appended to these minutes.

**66. Reconsideration of Minute Number 40 on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Covenanting Report**

Minute number 40 was read and approved as corrected.

**67. Miami Quarter Report**

Tom Nowel, Clerk, reported for Miami Quarter, highlighting several items of business accomplished and emphasizing the fellowship of meeting together. Friends accepted the report.

**68. Religious Education Committee Report**

Diann Herzog presented the report. The Committee is seeking ways forward as Religious Education continues to flourish in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends accepted the report.

**69. Advancement and Nurture Committee Report**

Linda Coppock presented the report indicating that the written report in Reports in Advance identifies various travels among meetings undertaken by the committee this year, and she expressed her own joy in doing this work. However, she also reported that committee members worked primarily as individuals, conflicts remained unresolved among members, and attendance at meetings was low. She challenged us to consider whether we have the committee because we 'should' or because we have people with the burning desire to serve in this way and the committee gives them a structured opportunity. In either case, we must decide whether to lay it down or to consider better ways to facilitate this service. Friends accepted the report. Friends then reflected on several aspects of the committee's concerns and approved embarking upon an in-depth consideration of the role and function of this committee in relation to other Yearly Meeting committees and Quarterly Meeting committees. The Clerk will consult with the current committee members to determine how they wish to move forward while this process takes place.

**70. Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

Richard Mitchell and Jane Stowe presented two proposed minutes for consideration. The first minute concerns support for the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act banning the use of cluster bombs near civilian areas. The second minute opposes a potential attack on Iran and expanded warfare in Afghanistan based on our testimony against war. Friends approved both minutes. Text of the minutes are as follows:

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**Proposed OVYM minute regarding Cluster Bombs**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) unites with the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines to urge our government to join the 107 countries who in May 2008 agreed to a treat to ban the production, use, stockpiling and export of all existing cluster munitions. Cluster bombs, like landmines, often kill or maim civilians months or years after a war is over, especially children, since many (one study found over 90%!) do not explode in the air or on impact and they look like softballs or soda cans on the ground. Cluster bombs also cause many civilian casualties during military strikes when they do explode as they disperse hundreds of bomblets over an area the size of several football fields.

In keeping with the peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting calls upon our Congressional representatives to support the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act, S. 594 (Senate Bill) and H.R. 1755 (House bill), which would ban the use of cluster bombs near civilian areas. We also urge our senators and representatives to join 13 cosponsors of a joint resolution introduced in May calling on the United States to sign on to the Convention on Cluster Munitions when it becomes open for signature in December 2008.

**Minute regarding potential attack on Iran and escalation in Afghanistan**

To Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio Representatives and Senators,

Ohio Valley Yearly, the regional body of traditional Quakers in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio reaffirms our 348-year-old testimony against war and for peaceful resolution of conflict. We are concerned about our nation's threats to attack Iran and its plans for expanded war in Afghanistan.

The war in Iraq has lessons for us. Some felt that war could quickly achieve objectives that could not be achieved nonviolently. Not only did this war fail to achieve many of its objectives, but it has worsened our nation's position in the Middle East. And the costs of war have been high: too many Americans and Iraqis have died; too many Americans and Iraqis have been physically or psychologically wounded; too many persons have responded to a perceived U.S. attack on their lands by joining resistance groups, some of which use terrorist tactics; too many nations in the Middle East and elsewhere have become alienated from the U.S.; and, too many dollars have been spent.

We urge you to work for a more realistic foreign policy that emphasizes multilateral diplomacy and working through international organizations. We urge you to resist the idea that war is an effective strategy for addressing terrorism. Terrorism is a criminal activity that is best addressed by good intelligence and cooperative international police work. War is incredibly expensive, too often produces unforeseen results, and often does not even achieve what was intended. Quakers believe war is wrong, but you need not be a pacifist to see that peaceful approaches are more successful than war at much lower costs. Please work for peaceful alternatives to war in Iran and Afghanistan.

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**71. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 12:50 p.m. Friends will reconvene Eighth Month 3, 2008 9:45 a.m. as way opens.

**Eighth Month 3, 2008 9:45 am – 11:26 am**

**72. Opening of Session**

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk read the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting State of Society Report prepared by the Advancement and Nurture Committee.

**73. Welcome, Final Roll Call of Monthly Meetings**

The clerk welcomed Friends to the closing session of the 188th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends who had not introduced themselves previously did so at this time and were welcomed.

**74. Report of Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial  
Report of Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**

J.P. Lund presented the report. The text of the report is appended to these minutes. The next meeting of the entire body of Friends World Committee for Consultation will occur in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. This will represent a five year interval instead of the customary three year interval between meetings, and is a response to the rising cost of travel and complexity of arranging travel documents for representatives. The result of the capital campaign has resulted in budget cuts for Friends World Committee for Consultation, most notably the closing of the Midwest Field Office. The report expressed gratitude for the service of Susan Lee Barton, who has accepted a post with Pittsburgh Friends Meeting. Susan Lee welcomes correspondence from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. Friends accepted the report.

The Assistant Clerk read a letter from 2007 Triennial meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation expressing greetings to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and encouraging support of Friends who would like to travel to the 2012 meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

**75. Nominating Committee Final Report**

The Nominating Committee presented its final report to the 188th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, detailing names that have been added during the sessions of the yearly meeting. The final report of the Nominating Committee will appear in the minute book, and will be added to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. Friends agreed to lay aside the nomination to the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, as no Friend has stepped forward for several years with a leading to participate in the work of this organization. The committee explained the extended service of Friends on various committees. Friends accepted the report.

**76. Naming Committee Final Report**

The Assistant Clerk presented the final report of the Naming Committee. Terry Reynolds has agreed to accept a one year appointment to the Nominating Committee. Friends approved this naming.

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Nominating Committee

The following Friends have been named to the Nominating Committee:

Byron Branson	2M	2009	
David Wood	1M	2009	
Terry Reynolds	PT	2009	
Peggy Champney	2M	2010	
Evalyn Kellum	1W	2010	Clerk
Rachel Dean	2M	2011	

Personnel Committee

The following Friends have been named to the Personnel Committee for a two year term that is renewable:

Steve Angell  
J.P. Lund  
Tom Nowel, Clerk.

The Support Committee for the Presiding Clerk, the Clerical Staff Person, and the Youth Secretary will be named during the coming year by Executive Committee.

**77. Minute of Appreciation for Those Leaving Service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

The Assistant Clerk read a minute of appreciation to those leaving service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

“Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting wishes to acknowledge with appreciation all those who have completed their service to us and will be moving on to other service. Your work on the Yearly Meeting committees, your travel as our representatives, your willingness to serve has helped make our yearly meeting body to function. Thanks for running this leg of our collective journey.”

Friends approved this minute.

**78. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report**

Jim Morgan presented the report of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. The committee noted that the Earlham staff was called upon to help with a number of last minute requests from the yearly meeting.

“Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting would like to express its appreciation to the staff of Earlham College and particularly to Rich Dornberger, Kathy Guyler and Wes Miller for their extra help in this year. We deeply appreciate your willingness to accommodate the last minute requests and changes that added to the success of our meeting this year. We hold you in the Light as the Earlham community mourns the loss of a member of its family. We are grateful for the friendship you share with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.”

**79. Announcement of Site for 2009 Annual Session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting**

The 189th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be held Seventh Month 29 through Eighth Month 2, 2009 at Earlham College.

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**80. Registrar's Report**

Lisa Cayard presented the Registrar's report. 200 Friends registered for the 188th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, including 15 children, 15 middle youth, 11 teens, and at least 20 Young Adult Friends. Yoshia Togami will be the Assistant Registrar for the 2009 yearly meeting session. Friends accepted the report.

**81. Statistician's Report**

Tom Hill presented the report and directed Friends to page 20 of Reports in Advance, requesting that Friends pay attention to accuracy and consistency in the presentation of numbers. Friends accepted the report.

**82. Reading of the Epistles**

The complete text of all these epistles is as follows:

*Children:*

Fifteen school age children met at the 188th annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 30 to August 3, 2008 to consider the theme "Delve Deeply, Walk Lightly, Dwell in Harmony."

We delved deeply in discovering who we are and how we are each similar and yet unique. We discussed the need to walk lightly on the earth and take care of her. We dwelled in to harmony of our music and songs. Through stories we learned how people changed when they were known more deeply.

Our speakers and leaders shared teachings from how to appreciate our name to how to see similarities in others to how to make a violin.

Our activities took us on a treasure hunt where we shared revelations about ourselves and shared the treasures at the end of the hunt. We listened to each other's leadings to construct a skit and song that brought us all together.

Our concerns range from the homeless and hungry to the war. Our hopes for the future include peace and the sharing of world resources.

The query we posed at OVYM 2008:

"How do you contemplate life, the universe and everything, while still being light hearted and easy going?"

Our Song:

Walk lightly little friends  
Sing and dance and feel alive  
Walk light little friends of mine.

Delve deeply little friends  
Think and read and play aloud  
Trust your spirituality and live in harmony

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Dwell in harmony. Enjoy your family,  
Your pappas and your grammys,  
Your mommy's and your daddy's and  
Dwell in harmony.

Delve deeply little friends  
Walk lightly little friends  
Laugh / love / play / hugs and  
Dwell in harmony.

*Middle Youth:*

Dear Friends,

We're the Middle Youth group, and our theme this year was to see how we could Tread Lightly and Delve Deeper in our lives. We did lots of stuff like canoeing, biking, swimming, ping-pong, the variety show, and most importantly, spending time together as a community. We learned new things, such as bike safety and lots of new games like Mao! These were important because it helped us learn to work together and really helped us become closer and be a true community. It makes us sad when we realize that we only get to see each other and spend time like this once a year, but that just makes us really enjoy and cherish every moment we have together. Connecting with each other really helped us find that place within our selves to Dwell in Harmony.

Sincerely,

The Middle Youth

*Teens:*

The Teen epistle was read by Chie Togami and Shannon Isaacs

Greetings, Dear Friends around the world,

This yearly meeting began, as always, with the joyful reunion of close friends and the excitement of meeting new people as they slowly trickled into Richmond, IN. We began our first meeting by playing a few games and introducing the shining new faces to our collective body.

On Thursday, we set out on our annual canoe trip. We spent the day in the sun, swimming, swinging from ropes, sitting on mud-encrusted wooden canoe-seats, and of course, smashing spiders. There were also some invaluable opportunities for thinking and great conversation. Some of us even felt the need to transport ourselves back to the age of pirates. Overall, the canoe trip was quite fun, and in parts exciting, tiring, invigorating, exasperating, thought-provoking, and (occasionally) sublimely spiritual.

That same evening, after returning from our day excursion, the Quaker teens had the pleasure of attending a plenary session with Jens Braun. We also had our own time for worship sharing

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during which we explored the query, “what message can we as Quaker youth share to better the world?” We came to the conclusion that this world needs everyone to treat each other with greater love, dignity, respect, and acceptance. We decided that one way to start is to simply treat one another better on a normal day-to-day basis. Later on we were introduced to the metaphoric imagery of throwing rocks into a clear pond as a way to understand worship sharing.

Another experience that had a great effect on the Quaker teens was our involvement with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. On Friday morning we aided with setting up the display of hundreds of boots to represent the lives of soldiers lost in the Iraq war. It was a truly poignant and moving experience. Another important aspect of the exhibit was that it commemorated the lives of Iraqi civilians that have died in the war. Most of us agree that the atmosphere was something not experienced every day.

On Saturday, the teens had the opportunity to hear the story of a living witness, Hank Swain. His disarming humor and stories of powerful ministry effortlessly bridged the generation gap. Later that day, we created another opportunity to intermingle with older Quakers by opening communication regarding the controversial issue of teen drinking and privacy. By breaking into small discussion groups we intentionally set up an environment where people could feel comfortable enough to truly speak from the heart. We would like to share with others what we learned from this experience: frank discussion and humor are powerful tools for creating intergenerational dialogue.

With Love,  
The Teens of OVYM

*Young Adult Friends:*

Nick Rhein presented the Epistle from the Young Adult Friends.

**Epistle to the Yearly Meeting from the Young Adult Friends**

Dear Friends,

The Young Adults of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met Friday evening to discuss our experience thus far, our current status within the Yearly Meeting and our ideas, hopes, and needs for the future of the group.

In the process of checking in with each other, we discovered that many of us feel isolated and not adequately nurtured and supported within our home communities and within the Yearly Meeting. For many of us the meeting on Friday was the first experience we had since teen group where a grey head was not to be found. While we appreciate the mentoring and relationships we have with our older Friends there is a shared need for a stronger community with each other.

This is a difficult time for us. The scattering influences of changing environments, relationships, and communities, combined with the sheer distance between small groups of

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young adults makes it hard for a strong network and program of nurture to develop. Support from the yearly meeting is needed to enable these relationships to grow and enable us to rise to the challenge we feel is often placed on us by our elders, that though we are the future, we are also the present of the yearly meeting.

We considered the following ideas for future developments of our program; already several of us have joined committees, however due to the transitional nature of our lifestyles, this is not always possible. The development of a Young Adult semi-program which would interact with teens, adults, and each other, would help bridge the gap between these groups and provide us with time for reflection and worship. This semi-program, along with an institutional counterpart of interested adults and young adults, would also provide a point of growth for other developments. We don't feel a whole committee or block of programming is necessary, however it may be useful to have a mentor, elder, pointperson, or some combination of those to brainstorm activities and network support. We also feel strongly that a young plenary speaker would be refreshing and empowering both for the young adults and for the yearly meeting.

Outside of the yearly meeting, connections with FGC's Youth Ministries, FWCC's support, Young Adults in other Yearly Meetings and other religious groups such as house churches, should be encouraged to foster religious conversation between OVYM Young Adults, and to enable us to take roles in larger religious developments. To some extent this can only happen organically, but a method of developing these connections has been missing up to this point.

Within our monthly meetings it may be helpful for members to keep track of the young adults, and not let graduating teens slip through the cracks of communication. It also may be useful for there to be some mechanism of maintaining purpose for young adults so that there is not a shock of emerging from a program into the bewildering world of business meetings.

Already there has been some realization of our goals. We've had a great time this session reconnecting and enjoying each others company. We hope that the young adults continue to meet, maintain and build upon our community within the larger Yearly Meeting. We look forward to working along with adults and teens as we negotiate this transitional time. We appreciate the support that we have been given so far and anticipate an easier facilitation and self-recognition of our needs, abilities, and gifts.

Third day, eighth month, 2008

*Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:*  
Greeting to all Friends everywhere,

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Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met for its 188th annual session on the campus of Earlham College, July 30-August 3, 2008 using the theme “Delve deeply, walk lightly, dwell in harmony” to shape our time together. Early in our sessions we saw how the strains of our theme were echoed in epistles from Friends around the world as they expressed common concerns for deepening the spiritual experience, caring for the earth, and fostering understanding among us. A sense of connectedness and an appreciation for the richness of the fabric of the Society of Friends provided the backdrop for our sessions.

The different strains of our theme were pulled together by Jens Braun of New York Yearly Meeting as he drew from his experiences working in Costa Rica and the Gaza Strip and from his later leading to participate in an intentional community in New York. While working to walk lightly on the earth, he realized that sustainability is not enough. We want much more than the stasis implied by that word, as we delve more deeply into the values that sustain us and allow those values to guide us in our efforts to dwell in harmony. He challenged us to break away from the societal architecture that shapes our situations and step into a world where wealth consists of wellbeing and wholeness rather than tradeable goods.

Doug Gwynn of Indiana Yearly Meeting took us from the divergent beliefs of present-day Quakers back to the set of tenets that defined the early Seekers in 17th Century England. Doug led us in an examination of the historical context that shaped the Society of Friends in the 1640s, and helped us to understand the societal influences that fed the fervor of early Friends. We were left to ponder how we might recreate that sense of urgency and longing for a reawakening to Christ’s message.

A set of queries helped us delve deeply into our understanding of God and to share our experiences of the Spirit in worship sharing sessions. Considering questions such as how we have experienced the leading of the Spirit, how we share our faith with others, and what convictions sustain our commitment to service or witness, we challenged ourselves to find the spiritual center we all share. Workshops, too, helped us explore how we can find commonalities and dwell in harmony as we considered topics ranging from discovering Convergent Friends to finding paths to peace between Israel and Palestine.

Business sessions continued our discussions of the revision of our book of discipline and of the equitable division of responsibility for our financial needs among the monthly meetings. We struggled to find common ground on definitions of membership in the Society of Friends and what it means to be a member. We searched for ways to be sensitive to the burden of our financial expectations on struggling meetings. While the process can at times be uncomfortable, we also see the Spirit moving among us as we work to resolve these issues.

We rejoiced in the participation of a vibrant community of teens and young people, and welcomed a growing group of young adult Friends. They challenged us with queries, contributed to workshops, and joined with us in plenary sessions while conducting their own

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business sessions, working on service projects, and enjoying their leisure time together. In their hands, we're confident of a bright future for the Society of Friends.

Our time together in these sessions has been rich and full. We have challenged ourselves to delve deeply. We have explored our commitment to walk lightly. We have searched for ways to dwell in harmony. We take away from this place the sense of renewal necessary to continue the process, and we share with all Friends everywhere the desire for God's loving presence in our lives.

**83. Minute of Appreciation for the Service of Virginia Wood to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.**

The Assistant Clerk read the following minute of appreciation for the service of Virginia Wood: "Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Virginia Wood. Her service these past 4 years as Presiding Clerk has been a rich blessing to us all. Across generational and geographical boundaries, across community and committee structures, she has fostered a deeper awareness among us all that certain wisdom in the power of letting go to see what love can do. Thank You Virginia for your many gifts and blessings, and for your selfless service to us."

Friends approved this minute.

**84. Closing Worship**

The session closed at 11:26AM and moved to Stout Meeting House for worship. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will reconvene Seventh Month 29, 2009 at Earlham College for the 189<sup>th</sup> annual session.

Presiding Clerk: Virginia Wood

Assistant Clerk: Ben Griffith

Recording Clerk: Deb Kociszewski (assisted by Barbarie Hill on Minutes 54 through 71)