

Reports in Advance 2018

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

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Agenda for Business Meetings for 198th OVYM Annual Sessions (2018)

Wednesday 6/13 3 pm – 5 pm	Thursday 6/14 10 am – 12:30 pm	Friday 6/15 10 am – 12:30 pm	Saturday 6/16 10 am – 12:30 pm	Sunday 6/17 10 am – 11 am
<p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Religious Nurture and Education</p> <p>Statistician</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship</p> <p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Friends General Conference</p> <p>Web Administrator</p> <p>Epistolary Comm. approval</p> <p>Reports from Delegates to Youth Business</p> <p>Youth Service Comm.</p> <p>Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)</p> <p>Friends Peace Team</p> <p>Nominating Comm – final</p> <p>Epistle Summary</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship</p>	<p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Quaker Heights Care Community</p> <p>Earthcare Committee</p> <p>Records</p> <p>Proposed Budget</p> <p>Miami Quarterly</p> <p>American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)</p> <p>Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)</p> <p>Friends Music Camp</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship</p>	<p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Children's Program</p> <p>Registrar</p> <p>2019 OVYM Sessions</p> <p>2018 Epistles from the Youth Middle Youth & Teens Young Adult Friends Adult</p> <p>Minutes of appreciation</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship in Stout Meetinghouse</p>	<p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Children's Program</p> <p>Registrar</p> <p>2019 OVYM Sessions</p> <p>2018 Epistles from the Youth Middle Youth & Teens Young Adult Friends Adult</p> <p>Minutes of appreciation</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship in Stout Meetinghouse</p>	<p>Centering Worship Clerk's introduction Greetings, Roll Call, Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes</p> <p>Reports: Children's Program</p> <p>Registrar</p> <p>2019 OVYM Sessions</p> <p>2018 Epistles from the Youth Middle Youth & Teens Young Adult Friends Adult</p> <p>Minutes of appreciation</p> <p>Review/Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Closing Worship in Stout Meetinghouse</p>
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Friends, please note:

Our agenda for business should be understood as TENTATIVE. Central to our business practice is an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. In particular, if time is short, we may have to make do with the written versions of some items that do not appear to call for the discernment of the gathered body.

Executive Committee Report

We have shifted the schedule of Executive Committee meetings in response to having our annual sessions in mid-June rather than the end of July. This past year we met in August, November, February, and April.

The Executive Committee is the representative body of our yearly meeting that conducts business between our annual sessions. Unfortunately, it is difficult for all our monthly meetings to send representatives. Travel to our meetings requires a lot of time and involves the burning of lots of fossil fuel.

To make attendance easier, we have begun using an internet application called Zoom. This app allows a person with a computer and internet connection to attend our meetings “virtually.” As with Skype, both parties can see each other on a computer screen. Zoom allows multiple Friends to attend via their computers. We have also invested in an external microphone to enhance the sound to those Friends who are attending from other locations.

There is a subscription fee for the use of Zoom. Thus far we have subscribed for a couple of months in order to see how well Zoom works for our purposes. In addition to the Executive Committee, Religious Nurture and Education, Nominating Committee, and the Faith and Practice Committee have used it for their meetings. Feedback has mostly been positive. I hope that the use of such technology can improve participation in our committees and strengthen our yearly meeting. [Some might say, ‘At last, we’re coming into the 21st century.’ ;-)]

Here are a few other highlights of the work of the Executive Committee over the past year. Please review the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings for details of the business conducted.

Religious Nurture and Education continued to encourage intervisitation among our monthly meetings, and some meetings reported doing so. In addition, a few of our Friends reported on their visits to other yearly meetings. I have participated in a Zoom conference among almost a dozen clerks of yearly meetings where our experiences, challenges, and methods for dealing with challenges were shared. These calls will be continuing.

As our yearly meeting evolves, we have lost a couple of old monthly meetings. Green Plain Meeting in Miami Quarter and Hopewell Meeting in Whitewater Quarter were each laid down this year. Miami Quarter Friends visited the historic Green Plain meetinghouse and drove by the Green Plain Orthodox meetinghouse, which is in private ownership. Both meetings dated to the early decades of the 1800s. Fall Creek, which owns an old meetinghouse outside of Indianapolis, remains active and is in the process of evaluating and making repairs to its building.

The Youth Service Committee continued its search for a youth secretary and considered some applicants. They arranged for Chie Togami to organize and supervise the program for middle youth and teens at our annual sessions.

The Nominating Committee reorganized itself and had a productive year.

This is my last year as Presiding Clerk. After our annual sessions Martha Viehmann will transition from Assistant Clerk to Presiding Clerk, and I will become Assistant Clerk. Martha presided at the April meeting of the Executive Committee so that I could attend the memorial service for Bo Huff, longtime member of Lexington Friends Meeting and former attendee at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. My deep thanks to Martha for this service. I look forward to what I know will be her competent leadership of our yearly meeting over the next two years.

Betsy Neale, Presiding Clerk

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

During the past year Whitewater Quarter met to discern the positives and negatives of attending Quarterly Meeting. We continue to struggle with low attendance, but those Friends voiced many reasons for attending, especially renewing our Spiritual growth and community. We continue to support each other if present or not.

We met in April and were uplifted by hearing other meetings' State of Meeting Reports. We love hearing from other meetings and Friends far and near. Paulette Meier gracefully shared her music with us as well as her soul and Spirit. It was interesting hearing about her journey to where she is today. She and Diann Herzog will be going to England to share their gifts with Friends there.

Friends are reminded to attend the Joint Quarterly Meeting this year at Happy Hollow in Indiana October 20-21st.

Yours in The Light,
Terre Holada, Clerk, Whitewater Quarter

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

2017 Fifth Month Quarterly Meeting was ably clerked by Cecilia Shore and held at Miami Meeting in Waynesville.

2017 Tenth Month Quarterly Meeting was held at Yellow Springs Friends. Miami Quarter accepted the deed to the Green Plain Meetinghouse and burial ground. We then accepted the laying down of the Green Plain Monthly Meeting. The Green Plain funds will be transferred as soon as the Miami Quarter Treasurer situation is clarified. Allen and Fran Battin and Caroline Taylor, members of Green Plain Monthly Meeting, were present for the transfer. The adult program was also handled by Yellow Springs when all present were able to ride a school bus over to the Green Plain Meetinghouse and hear about the history of the Meeting.

Yellow Springs began as a preparatory meeting under the care of the Green Plain Monthly Meeting so it was very fitting and spiritually moving that the transfer took place there. Veronica Frost, Susan Hyde and Don Hollister will continue as members of a Green Plain standing committee to oversee any future concerns.

Whitewater Quarter announced that there will be a Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp in Tenth Month 2018.

2018 Second Month Quarterly Meeting was held at Community Friends in Cincinnati. Due to the Clerk's lack of determining proper procedure, the pressing issue of nominations was not completely addressed and will be discussed at the 2018 Fifth Month Meeting. Veronica Frost resigned as Clerk but was appointed Treasurer. After many years and much expressed appreciation, Rachel Moore stepped down as Recording Clerk. Cecilia Shore has stepped into that position. The monthly meeting representatives will meet over lunch at 2018 Fifth Month Miami Quarterly Meeting to discern a new Clerk. Nikki Coffey Tousley will act as Clerk for that meeting.

As outgoing Clerk, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to have been of service.

Veronica Frost

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee met on Tenth Month, Seventh Day, 2017 at ESR and reviewed the books for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

We successfully reconciled everything except for one minor issue with the account for Yearly Meeting at Earlham and that's not unusual to have difficulties with those records.

The Travel accounts have become much easier to reconcile, due to fewer people traveling.

We once again applaud the Treasurer for doing an excellent job of maintaining the records and making sound decisions on the handling of difficult situations.

Budget and Finance Committee Report

Budget and Finance Committee did not have a clerk and only one member besides the treasurer, so there was no committee activity this year. The OVYM Treasurer prepared a sample 2018-19 budget based solely on the previous year's budget and spending activities. OVYM members were invited to discuss the budget in the morning before the April OVYM Executive Committee. But no one attended except for us two committee members. We agreed to leave the suggested proportional share amount at \$120 per member. This budget was forwarded to Executive Committee where it was accepted. The budget is listed in the right-most column of the Treasurer's spreadsheet in the reports in advance.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

Treasurer's Report

(See column "2017-18 YTD")

Thank you dear Friends for the continued strong support from your Meetings, which is one component of our wellbeing. Also my sincere gratitude to those individuals who gave a total of \$5462.72 in extra contributions to our yearly meeting, so far this year, during sessions (a higher number if bookstore gifts were known), the Traveling Ministers Fund, donated travel (a higher number if more gifts were recorded) and general gifts.

There are two new items on my spreadsheet report this year. The balance in the Traveling Ministers Fund is listed on the bottom of the first page. All collected income should be disbursed before you read this report. The fund is temporary and should later disappear from being listed in my report unless the yearly meeting decides to make it permanent. The other new fields appear on the bottom of the second page. Here I record the most recent bank statements from our checking account and our two accounts with Friends Fiduciary. Below that is a comparison of my report totals and those statements. This suggestion from Paul Buckley may be useful to the Audit Committee and myself in balancing the books.

There are more than 2 months left before the end of the current fiscal year, so there is very little for me to report at this point. The budget proposed a \$10,000 loss (see column "2017-18 Budget", page 2, row "Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)"), but with no youth secretary or teen activities I expect the fiscal year will actually end with a surplus. The FGC Friends Meetinghouse fund shut down this year and our \$2500 investment with them has been returned to us. Therefore, the Peace Witness Fund (Table 4) is now invested with the Friends Fiduciary's Green Fund. This means there is no longer a steady stream of predictable, liquid income. Similar to what happened previously with the Benevolent Fund (Table 3), there will no longer be annual disbursements.

Since my fiscal year now ends after OVYM Sessions, I will report on the previous fiscal year. This is column "2016-17 Actual" compared with "2016-17 Budget":

We proposed a balance budget of \$505.00 but ended the year with \$5000 more than that (page 2, row "Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)"). Last year was our first June Sessions and this transition caused us to have some expenses from two Sessions in a single fiscal year. This resulted in \$7000 more Sessions expenses than budgeted (Table 24 "Net Cost of Session"). This extra expense was offset by \$7000 lower staff expenses (Table 15) and \$6000 lower committee expenses (Table 17) due to not paying for a youth secretary for part of the year and no teen expenses. Representative travel expenses (Table 23) were \$4500 less than expected. Finally, the resulting surplus was lowered because we received about \$3800 less meeting income than budgeted (Table 11).

Our Friends Fiduciary Green Fund investments did well last year, growing 14%. In the current fiscal year the increase is 4.5%, so far, but this year is proving to be more volatile.

Report submitted by Wilson Palmer, Treasurer OVYM

2017-18 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 YTD	2018-19 Proposed
Table 1. Fund Balances							
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	3,175.67	683.65	1,683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65	2,683.65	3,683.65
Benevolent Fund-Inv. (Table 3)	5,808.98	5,773.66	5,823.66	6,583.41	6,633.41	6,880.90	6,949.71
Peace Witness Fund-Inv. (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,555.31	2,580.86
Capital Fund-Inv. (Table 5)	5,634.56	5,599.75	5,649.75	6,385.11	6,435.11	6,675.24	6,741.99
Faith & Practice Printing Fund-Inv. (Table 6)	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,014.98	4,532.47	4,572.47	4,737.35	4,784.72
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)	34.44	655.44	-	685.44	-	685.44	-
Spiritual Nurture Fund-Inv. (Table 8)	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,185.22	8,113.12	8,183.12	8,479.96	8,564.76
Braddock Fund-Inv. (Table 9)	68,817.26	68,498.36	69,098.36	76,256.73	76,856.73	77,590.68	78,366.59
General Fund Reserves-Inv		27,223.65	27,420.00	31,041.74	29,200.00	32,443.42	33,500.00
General Fund (Table 10)	43,104.51	38,735.06	39,240.06	44,304.50	34,394.50	60,766.17	48,587.85
Total	140,235.51	160,759.77	162,615.68	182,086.17	171,458.99	203,498.12	193,760.13

Table 2. FWCC Fund							
Starting Balance	2,175.67	3,175.67	683.65	683.65	1,683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Peru 2016)		3,492.02					
Ending Balance	3,175.67	683.65	1,683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65	2,683.65	3,683.65

Table 3. Benevolent Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	5,805.61	5,808.98	5,773.66	5,773.66	6,583.41	6,583.41	6,880.90
Gain or (Loss) from investment	3.37	(35.32)	50.00	809.75	50.00	297.49	68.81
Ending Balance	5,808.98	5,773.66	5,823.66	6,583.41	6,633.41	6,880.90	6,949.71

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,555.31
Gain or (Loss) from investment	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	55.31	25.55
Disbursements	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00		
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,555.31	2,580.86

Table 5. Capital Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	5,632.68	5,634.56	5,599.75	5,599.75	6,385.11	6,385.11	6,675.24
Gain or (Loss) from investment	1.88	(34.81)	50.00	785.36	50.00	290.13	66.75
Ending Balance	5,634.56	5,599.75	5,649.75	6,385.11	6,435.11	6,675.24	6,741.99

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	3,500.00	4,000.00	3,974.98	3,974.98	4,532.47	4,532.47	4,737.35
Gain/(Loss) or transfer from General Fund	500.00	(25.02)	40.00	557.49	40.00	204.88	47.37
Disbursements							
Ending Balance	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,014.98	4,532.47	4,572.47	4,737.35	4,784.72

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 21							
Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance	159.49	34.44		655.44	-	685.44	-
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt)	(125.05)	621.00		30.00			
Ending Balance	34.44	655.44	-	685.44	-	685.44	-

Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance		7,160.09	7,115.22	7,115.22	8,113.12	8,113.12	8,479.96
Income	7,160.09		-		-	-	-
Disbursements	-						
Gain or (Loss) from investment	-	(44.87)	70.00	997.90	70.00	366.84	84.80
Ending Balance	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,185.22	8,113.12	8,183.12	8,479.96	8,564.76

Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry - Invested							
Starting Balance		68,817.26	68,498.36	68,498.36	76,256.73	76,256.73	77,590.68
Income	68,817.26	600.00					
Disbursements		952.92				4,110.00	
Gain or (Loss) from investment		34.02	600.00	7,758.37	600.00	5,443.95	775.91
Ending Balance	68,817.26	68,498.36	69,098.36	76,256.73	76,856.73	77,590.68	78,366.59

Traveling Ministers Fund						1,800.00	
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2017-18 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 YTD	2018-19 Proposed
Table 10. General Fund Summary							
INCOME							
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	72,220.96	68,114.96	69,780.00	65,994.00	64,460.00	39,859.00	63,060.00
Other Income - Appeal letter income		3,980.00	-		-	-	-
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	340.34	514.06	300.00	120.00	300.00	301.00	300.00
Donated Travel Costs	4,618.62	1,688.15	4,250.00	2,115.31	2,700.00	512.75	800.00
Sales of Disciplines							
Total Income	77,179.92	74,297.17	74,330.00	68,229.31	67,460.00	40,672.75	64,160.00
EXPENSES							
Operating Expenses (Table 12)	27,059.19	18,867.41	28,745.00	21,091.83	28,840.00	9,970.03	30,208.32
Committee Expenses (Table 17)	8,130.08	1,298.00	8,900.00	2,886.26	8,400.00	903.68	8,000.00
Representative Travel (Table 23)	6,529.99	3,100.00	6,050.00	1,464.10	4,500.00	2,025.94	2,500.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24)	15,810.24	7,157.48	9,280.00	16,367.68	14,780.00	8,611.43	14,780.00
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500.00		-		-	-	-
Donations by OVYM (Table 25)	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	1,700.00	19,850.00
Total Expenses	78,879.50	51,272.89	73,825.00	62,659.87	77,370.00	24,211.08	76,338.32
Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)	(1,699.58)	23,024.28	505.00	5,569.44	(9,910.00)	16,461.67	(12,178.32)

Table 11. Meeting Contributions							
Bloomington (8760)	4,542.00	2,000.00	9,120.00	7,400.00	5,000.00	2,500.00	7,200.00
Campus	1,550.00	1,425.00	1,740.00	1,400.00	1,740.00	1,050.00	1,620.00
Clear Creek	11,512.00	9,250.00	8,160.00	8,160.00	8,640.00	6,048.00	7,800.00
Community	8,799.96	9,159.96	8,520.00	8,520.00	7,320.00	6,100.00	6,960.00
Dayton	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	2,040.00	2,040.00	2,160.00
Eastern Hills	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,620.00
Englewood	1,500.00	1,500.00	960.00	1,500.00	960.00	1,125.00	780.00
Fall Creek	1,320.00	1,625.00	1,560.00		1,200.00	2,760.00	1,200.00
Fort Wayne	720.00	850.00	720.00	840.00	840.00		720.00
Green Plain	182.00	300.00	1,320.00				
Hopewell		500.00					
Lafayette	1,700.00	1,300.00	720.00	720.00	720.00		720.00
Lexington	4,920.00	5,375.00	5,040.00	5,040.00	4,800.00		4,680.00
Louisville	7,080.00	8,080.00	5,640.00	6,000.00	5,400.00		4,920.00
Miami	5,125.00	5,125.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,920.00		4,920.00
North Meadow	4,440.00	4,625.00	4,440.00	4,309.00	4,440.00	2,396.00	4,200.00
Oxford	1,870.00	1,875.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,280.00
White Rose	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,440.00	1,000.00	1,440.00		1,440.00
Yellow Springs	13,260.00	11,625.00	10,920.00	11,625.00	11,160.00	12,000.00	9,840.00
Total Meeting Contributions	72,220.96	68,114.96	69,780.00	65,994.00	64,460.00	39,859.00	63,060.00

Bold = Meetings who pledged

Bank statements for Yearly Meeting Funds							
General, FWCC and Teen Funds - First Merchants						67,466.73	
Braddock and Peace Witness - Friends Fiduciary						80,145.99	
Reserves + 5 other invested funds - FFC						59,216.87	
Total						206,829.59	

Error messages (blank means totals match):

How GF+FWCC+Teen totals differ from bank statement

3,331.47

How Braddock+PW Fund differs from FFC statement

-

How the other invested funds differ from FFC report

-

2017-18 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 YTD	2018-19 Proposed
Table 12. Operating Expenses							
Administration (Table 13)	927.00	922.10	1,125.00	960.45	1,170.00	1,140.00	1,270.00
Clerical support (Table 14)	781.88	151.40	190.00	51.64	190.00	159.95	130.00
Staff (Table 15)	23,252.09	15,449.43	24,680.00	17,426.26	24,580.00	6,839.55	26,108.32
Publications (Table 16)	1,798.22	2,044.48	2,450.00	2,353.48	2,600.00	1,830.53	2,400.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Total	27,059.19	18,867.41	28,745.00	21,091.83	28,840.00	9,970.03	30,208.32
Table 13. Administration							
Bank Charges	12.00	10.96	15.00	68.50	30.00		30.00
Liability Insurance	897.00	857.14	930.00	870.95	1,000.00	1,113.00	1,200.00
Background Checks	18.00	54.00	60.00	21.00	40.00	27.00	40.00
Officers' Expenses			100.00		100.00		
Treasurer's Expenses			20.00		-	-	-
Total	927.00	922.10	1,125.00	960.45	1,170.00	1,140.00	1,270.00
Table 14. Clerical Support							
Office Expenses	194.11		60.00	11.68	60.00	96.46	
Postage	384.99	85.29	80.00	9.80	80.00	45.08	80.00
Copying	202.78	66.11	50.00	30.16	50.00	18.41	50.00
Total	781.88	151.40	190.00	51.64	190.00	159.95	130.00
Table 15. Staff							
Compensation	21,533.84	14,488.02	23,700.00	16,922.40	23,700.00	6,452.76	25,228.32
Workers Comp	346.80	330.53	350.00	222.34	250.00	236.79	250.00
Cell Phone	456.00	190.00	-		-		-
Internet Access	190.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	150.00	180.00
Travel	725.45	260.88	200.00	101.52	200.00		200.00
Professional Development			250.00		250.00		250.00
Total	23,252.09	15,449.43	24,680.00	17,426.26	24,580.00	6,839.55	26,108.32
Table 16. Publications							
Quill	401.44	605.44	1,000.00	691.85	850.00	619.40	750.00
Web site expenses							
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,149.18	1,189.04	1,200.00	1,296.91	1,350.00	935.52	1,350.00
Directory	247.60	250.00	250.00	364.72	400.00	275.61	300.00
Total	1,798.22	2,044.48	2,450.00	2,353.48	2,600.00	1,830.53	2,400.00
Table 17. Committee Expense							
Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18)	-	561.53	700.00	1,254.70	700.00	531.00	600.00
Middle Youth (Table 19)	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	-
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 20)	55.80	-	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
Teen Program (Table 21)	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 22)	82.17	50.00	600.00	18.14	300.00	-	100.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	200.00			174.12	350.00		350.00
Travel - Donated	1,354.53	519.72	1,000.00	1,283.31	500.00	144.61	300.00
Travel - Reimbursed	137.58	166.75	200.00	155.99	200.00	228.07	300.00
Total Expenses	8,130.08	1,298.00	8,900.00	2,886.26	8,400.00	903.68	8,000.00

2017-18 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 YTD	2018-19 Proposed
Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee							
Pamphlets, copying and printing		25.03	10.00		10.00	11.00	10.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums		536.50	650.00	962.29	650.00	660.00	650.00
Retreat Income						140.00	100.00
Resource Materials			40.00	292.41	40.00		40.00
Total Expense	-	561.53	700.00	1,254.70	700.00	531.00	600.00
Table 19. Middle Youth Committee							
Joint Quarterly Gathering							
Staff							
Supplies and Programming			50.00				
Total Expense	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	-
Table 20. Peace & Social Concerns							
Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop			5.00		5.00		5.00
Postage	55.80		45.00		45.00		45.00
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials							
Total Expense	55.80	-	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
Table 21. Teen/Middle Youth Program							
INCOME							
Contributions	22,245.00	621.00					
Fundraising	1,690.00			30.00			
Registration Fees	14,750.00						
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00
Total Income	44,985.00	621.00	6,300.00	30.00	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
EXPENSE							
Publicity							
Teen Events							
Service Trips	45,045.90		6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00
Cost of Fundraising	64.15						
Total Expense	45,110.05	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)	(125.05)	621.00	-	30.00	-	-	-
Table 22. Adult Young Friends							
(Income)	(295.27)		(300.00)		(150.00)		(100.00)
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions	377.44	50.00	400.00	18.14	200.00		100.00
Scholarships			500.00		250.00		100.00
Total Expenses	82.17	50.00	600.00	18.14	300.00	-	100.00
Table 23. Representative Travel							
Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,768.00	1,160.00	2,000.00	600.00	1,500.00	777.95	1,000.00
Additional Reimbursement	497.90	771.57	800.00	32.10	800.00	879.85	1,000.00
Donated Travel	3,264.09	1,168.43	3,250.00	832.00	2,200.00	368.14	500.00
Total Expenses	6,529.99	3,100.00	6,050.00	1,464.10	4,500.00	2,025.94	2,500.00

2017-18 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 YTD	2018-19 Proposed
Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions							
INCOME							
Contributions	1,914.00	3,975.54	3,500.00	3,011.00	3,000.00	2,916.00	3,000.00
Registration	4,470.00	4,920.00	4,920.00	3,660.00	3,750.00	3,705.00	3,750.00
Room & Board Charges	12,376.50	11,524.00	16,600.00	13,566.00	14,600.00	12,294.00	14,600.00
Bookstore Income	917.04	893.88	900.00	1,786.06	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total Income	19,677.54	21,313.42	25,920.00	22,023.06	22,350.00	18,915.00	22,350.00
EXPENSES							
Administration		890.00	900.00	2,080.71	1,500.00	1,630.20	1,500.00
Adult Program	2,249.75	1,249.33	2,000.00	1,521.96	2,000.00	836.10	2,000.00
Sessions deposit	2,163.00	2,193.54	2,200.00	2,447.30	2,550.00	3,842.15	2,550.00
Teen Program/2017-18 = Coffee Service	1,007.07	1,122.35	1,200.00	1,385.00	1,000.00	922.29	1,000.00
Middle Youth Program + 17/18 = Teens, too	1,375.44	1,294.10	1,400.00	4,175.80	2,700.00	288.37	2,700.00
Children's Program	3,116.81	2,753.73	2,900.00	5,929.82	3,000.00	504.00	3,000.00
Adult Room & Board	11,921.01	8,424.85	13,000.00	11,159.05	14,200.00	10,222.32	14,200.00
Room & Board Subsidies							
Children, middle youth, teens	7,773.00	4,601.00	5,000.00	4,048.00	4,500.00	4,086.00	4,500.00
Staff, officers, and registration discounts	2,523.72	1,960.00	2,000.00	3,030.00	2,500.00	2,453.00	2,500.00
Guests	524.00	538.00	600.00	282.00	500.00	480.00	500.00
YAF attenders subsidy	1,177.00	2,064.00	2,200.00	1,083.00	1,500.00	679.00	1,500.00
First-time attenders subsidy	707.50	1,190.00	1,400.00	570.00	700.00	1,387.00	700.00
Simple Meal Donation	390.00	100.00	300.00	210.00	220.00	196.00	220.00
Bookstore Expenses	559.48	90.00	100.00	468.10	260.00		260.00
Total Expenses	35,487.78	28,470.90	35,200.00	38,390.74	37,130.00	27,526.43	37,130.00
Net Cost of Session	15,810.24	7,157.48	9,280.00	16,367.68	14,780.00	8,611.43	14,780.00

Table 25. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries							
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Subtotal	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	1,700.00	3,700.00
Major Quaker Organizations							
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00		2,650.00
FCNL	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00		4,000.00
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00		600.00
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
Subtotal	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	-	12,250.00
Quaker Education and Outreach							
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus							
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
William Penn House	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Quaker United Nations Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00		600.00
Subtotal	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	-	2,700.00
Total Contributions	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	1,700.00	19,850.00

Statistical Report

MIAMI QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	ENG	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/16	29	61	17	26	13	11	40	45	41	19	93	395
Correction by addition												0
Births/Adoption												0
Request of Parent(s)												0
Convincement			1	1					1		3	6
Children accepted as adults												0
Transfers to												0
TOTAL GAINS	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	6
Correction by subtraction	1											1
Deaths		1					1	2	1			5
Removal by request		1				11		2			3	17
Children becoming adults												0
Transfers from	1	1									1	3
Loss of contact											10	10
TOTAL LOSSES	2	3	0	0	0	11	1	4	1	0	14	36
Net gain or loss	-2	-3	1	1	0	-11	-1	--4	0	0	-11	-30
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/17	27	58	18	27	13	0	39	41	41	19	82	365
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	0	1	2	2	0	0	13	5	0	0	2	25
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	0	5	1	0	0	0	3	4	2	1	3	19
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	0	2	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	14
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	0	10	0	2	0	0	10	2	0	1	5	30
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	0	8	2	3	0	0	20	4	8	3	11	59
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	11	24	15	13	0	0	60	35	25	8	41	232
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	17	19	6	12	13	0	25	21	17	6	31	170
Resident Membership – Adult	17	38	12	17	11	0	34	34	23	13	48	247
Resident Membership – Associate	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	14
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	7	6	5	2	0	5	7	18	1	21	84
Non-resident Membership – Associate	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
United Meetings	*			*	*							3
Budget members	13.5	58	18	13.5	6.5	0	39	41	41	19	82	331.5
Worship attendance – adults	6	29	12	15	13	0	33	16	17	10	33	184
Worship attendance – children	0	5	0.5	0	0	0	5	0.5	2	2	6	21
Regular non-member attendance	0	8	6	3	5	0	20	8	5	2	14	71
First Day School (children)	0	4	1	1	9	0	5	4	12	2	4	42
Friends in school/college	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	3	12

WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	BL	CC	FC	FW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/16	73	72	10	7	6	37	12	217	612	631
Correction by addition								0	0	11
Births/Adoption								0	0	0
Request of Parent(s)								0	0	2
Convincement						2		2	8	5
Children accepted as adults								0	0	0
Transfers to	2	1						3	3	9
TOTAL GAINS	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	5	11	27
Correction by subtraction		6		1				7	8	8
Deaths		2				1		3	8	7
Removal by request	9							9	26	3
Children becoming adults								0	0	0
Transfers from	4					1		5	8	16
Loss of contact	2					2		4	14	11
TOTAL LOSSES	15	8	0	1	0	4	0	28	64	46
Net gain or loss	-13	-7	0	-1	0	-2	0	-23	-53	-19
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/17	60	65	10	6	6	35	12	194	559	612
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	7	0	3	2	2	5	3	22	47	59
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	4	0	0	1	0	3	1	9	28	27
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	8	0	0	1	0	1	0	10	24	21
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	39	55
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	6	15	0	0	1	13	2	37	96	91
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	34	35	4	5	12	16	6	112	344	355
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	20	21	8	6	2	16	1	74	244	238
Resident Membership – Adult	47	29	10	7	5	21	7	126	374	398
Resident Membership – Associate	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	19	23
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	37	0	0	1	10	2	61	145	155
Non-resident Membership – Associate	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	20
United Meetings									3	3
Budget members	60	65	10	6	6	35	12	194	525.5	578
Worship attendance – adults	37	25	5	6	9	21	2	105	289	296
Worship attendance – children	6	0	1	3	0.5	0	0	10.5	31.5	28.5
Regular non-member attendance	14	7	1	3	4.5	8	0	37.5	108.5	126.5
First Day School (children)	6	0	1	4	0.5	4	0	15.5	57.5	46.5
Friends in school/college	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	23

Youth Services Committee Report

The Youth Services Committee has six active members who have worked diligently over the past year to find and hire a new Youth Secretary.

At the 197th annual sessions of our Yearly Meeting we had a successful youth program led by Chie Togami and staffed capably by several young adult Friends, many of whom were former members of the OVYM Teen group. After the annual sessions our committee took a brief break.

In late 2017 we regrouped and began anew the search for a new youth secretary. When we reviewed the job description for the position of Teen Secretary we realized that our criteria were unnecessarily restrictive. We worried that George Fox might not be eligible to apply. We revised the job being sure to retain essential Quaker elements but opening up the possibility that a non-Quaker who was, nevertheless spiritually grounded, would consider applying. We advertised the position widely within the yearly meeting and at Earlham and Wilmington Colleges and we received applications from two excellent candidates. We interviewed those candidates on the telephone and in person and selected one for further consideration. We are currently consulting with that candidate's references and we expect that we will be making a recommendation to hire one candidate before Yearly Meeting.

In the meantime we have planned for this Yearly Meeting an excellent youth program coordinated again by Chie Togami and staffed with experienced and talented young adult Friends.

Peter Hardy (co-clerk), David Funck (co-clerk), Anna Margaret Greene, Michelle Lori, Rachel Moore, Cassie Murray.

Nominating Committee Report

Following a period of stagnation, OVYM's nominating committee is now actively working to fulfill its charge.

The committee is composed of Friends who were approved by their monthly meetings. While not every monthly meeting is represented, the proportion of Friends from Miami and Whitewater Quarters represents the proportion of meetings in Miami and Whitewater Quarters.

We updated the format of document that contains the names of Friends who serve the yearly meeting. The purpose of this change was to make it more understandable. The updated roles and positions document is included in Reports in Advance.

The committee has approved a number of Friends for up-coming terms of service. Their names are surrounded by brackets (i.e., "<>") in the roles and positions document. We submit them to the yearly meeting for approval.

Diann Herzog and Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Co-Clerks

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Roles and Positions Document 2019 - 2021

OFFICERS	4-year rotating terms (Asst/Clerk/Clerk/Asst)
Presiding Clerk	Martha Viehmann (2nd of 4)
Assistant Presiding Clerk	Betsy Neale (4th of 4)
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada (repeating 3 rd of 4)
Assistant Recording Clerk	vacant
Treasurer	<Wilson Palmer>
Assistant Treasurer	<Dale Hayes>

STAFF	
OVYM Secretary	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	vacant

ADMINISTRATORS	1-year renewable terms
Quaker Quill Editor	<Cecilia Shore>
Publications Coordinator	<David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson>
Records Coordinator	<Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder>
Co-Statisticians	Frank Huss (2018)/Bill Heilbron (2019)
Website Administrator	<Lonny Burger>

ANNUAL SESSION ROLES	1-year renewable terms
Epistle Summary	Deb Kociszewski
Epistolary Committee	Paul Buckley & John Edminster
Memorial Committee	Pat Zarowin

Notes:

2019 Term of Service = June 2018 – June 2019;

“<>” - Friends up for approval during annual sessions.

Updated:

05/10/2018

COMMITTEES

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Adult Young Friends (4 - 7 members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	<Madeline Murray>	<Emmett Cartmell>
	<Uta Brewington>	
2020	<Dylan Cahalan>	
2019	<John Lawson>	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Auditing (2 members)	2-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	<Veronica Frost> (4th term)	
2020		
2019		Bob Holada (2 nd term)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Budget & Finance (3 + 2 ex officio*)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	Lynn Funck (1 st term)	
	Steve Angell* (1 st term)	
2020		Fred Feitler (1 st term)

Note: *Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (acts as clerk)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Children's Program (6 vs. 9–12 members?)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	Phyllis Tonne (1 st term)	
	<Susan Hyde> (5 th term)	
2020		
2019	Hannah Branson (7 th term)*	
	Maria Franzini (1 st term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Earthcare	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020		
2019	Bill Cahalan	David Duvall*

Note: Committee submits nominations.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Faith and Practice	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2018	Paul Buckley (3 rd term), Lisa Cayard (4 th term)	Mary Garman (2 nd term)
	Betsy Neale (5 th term), Wilson Palmer (invited)	Rex Sprouse (4 th term)

Note: May be concluding after June 2018 annual sessions.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Nominating (6+ members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020	Rick Boyce (1 st term)	Diann Herzog* (1 st term)
	Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson* (1 st term)	Evalyn Kellum (1 st term)
	Phyllis Tonne (1 st term)	
2019	Steve Angell (1 st term)	Elaine Emmi (1 st term)
	Richard Mitchell (1 st term)	Jan Sims (1 st term)

Note: Members named by Monthly Meetings.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Peace & Social Concerns (9 members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020		
2019	Russ Wheeler	
	Richard Mitchell*	

Note: Committee submits nominations.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Personnel (2 + Treasurer)	2-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2020	Steve Angell*	
2019	Wilson Palmer (Treasurer)	

Note: Executive Committee names.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Planning (6 + Children, Youth & Registrar)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020	<Susan Gerke> (1 st term)	Gloria Bruner (1 st term)
2019	Carol Simmons (1 st term)*	Terre Holada (1 st term)
	Kay Wheeler (2 nd term)*	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Religious Nurture & Education (12)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
	<Shannon Isaacs (2 nd term)>	
	<Gail Koehler (2 nd term)>	
2020	Anne Hutchinson (1 st term)	Kevin Angell (1 st term)
2019	Nikki Coffey Tousley* (2 nd term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Youth (6+ members)	3-year staggered + 1-year teen terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		<James Taylor (J. T.)>
2020		
2019	Cassie Murray (1 st term)	Anna Margaret Greene (1 st term)
	David Funck* (3 rd term)	

Note: Merged Middle Youth and Teen Committees

REPRESENTATIVES

<i>Final Term Year</i>	American Friends Service Cmte (4)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	<Ben Griffith> (2 nd term)	
		<David Duvall> (2 nd term)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends Cmte on National Legislation (6)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	Jamie Young (1 st term)	
	<Rick Boyce> (1 st term)	
2020		
2019		Paul Kriese (2 nd term)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends General Conference Central (3)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020	Andrew Hardy (1 st term)	
2019	Chris Harmer (2 nd term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends World Cmte on Consultation (4)	3-year staggered terms, renewable twice
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021		
2020	<Anne Hutchinson> (2 nd term)	
2019	Footie Lund (1 st term)	

REPRESENTATIVES	1-year renewable terms
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	<Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson>
Friends Peace Teams	Frank Huss
Quaker Earthcare Witness	vacant
William Penn House	Paul Kriese

MINISTRIES		
<i>Final Term Year</i>	Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry (3)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	<Steve Angell> (1 st term)	
2020	Wilhelmina Branson (1 st term)	
2019	Wilson Palmer (1 st term)	

Friends Home Inc. (Quaker Heights) (10)	Life
Frank Huss (Community)	Peg Schorreck (Miami)
Eula McDermott (Miami)	Christine Snyder (Springfield)
Leanne Montgomery (Cincinnati)	Linda Wilson (New Burlington)
Alice Palmer (Eastern Hills)	Eric Wolff (Community)
Wilson Palmer (Eastern Hills)	

Note: Members nominated by the board. Names listed are from website.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends Music Camp (5)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
2021	Jorge Quant	
2020	Drea Gallaga, Gail Miller	
2019	Carl Hyde, Carolyn Stanley	

Note: Members named by board.

Planning Committee Report

The OVYM Planning Committee humbly holds responsibility for planning Annual Sessions, a charge committee members undertake with passion and love for our yearly meeting's shared time together each summer. While fewer in number than recent years, we were happy to have representation of both Quarters, with members from the far corners of OVYM. The physical distance between us, however, in addition to transportation issues for a couple of our members, prompted us to re-examine the committee's typical meeting schedule of three face-to-face gatherings spread out between a meeting at the conclusion of sessions and a site visit beforehand. Following an in-person meeting at the end of 2017 sessions and another face-to-face gathering in August, we proceeded to conduct our business through nearly monthly conference calls. This more-frequent arrangement also allowed us to have shorter meetings in which we focused on one or two significant agenda items. As co-clerk, I can attest to a preference for in-person meetings, where presence of Spirit may be more deeply felt, but the circumstances this year seemed to warrant the change, and Spirit was most certainly felt.

We also attempted to bring Young Adult Friends into more of our discernment process this year, particularly in deciding a theme, plenary speakers, and workshops. A couple of individual YAFs participated in this process, and we are grateful for their contributions. At least one other might have participated if the invitation had been received earlier, and so we will try to be more time-aware in our future inclusion efforts.

Concerning youth representation, we benefitted from active participation by a member of the Youth Services Committee as well as significant contributions by one of that committee's clerks. A member of the Children's Committee also stayed in frequent contact with Planning.

We quickly discerned early in the planning process that the theme for this year's sessions would focus on our response as Quakers to societal ills while looking beyond the transitory political landscape to an eternal call for love, equality, and justice. We reached unity on "Sharing Our Light: Radical Love for the World" as a source of reflection as well as a call to action. We selected our plenary speakers accordingly, and are thrilled that our first choices — Vanessa Juley and Dwight Wilson — responded positively to our theme and invitation.

The 2018 Annual Sessions will be the second year that sessions take place in mid-June, rather than the long-held dates at the end of July. One of the reasons for the change to an earlier week was to encourage attendance by families with children whose school schedules were in conflict with the traditional dates. Happily, we saw a significant increase in the attendance of younger children last year, and hope the trend continues. Toward that goal, the Planning Committee attempted more outreach this year, creating and distributing posters and fliers to monthly meetings the share the Spirit-filled beauty and joy of Yearly Meeting sessions.

Looking ahead to future planning, we hope that Nominating is successful in bringing new Friends to our committee, as experienced members end their terms. Thanks to the organization of previous committees, the tasks are well established and defined. We have put off, however, thinking about a possible return to the Wilmington College campus, which is overdue if we are to continue the rotation of three years at Earlham followed by a year at Wilmington. We also have OVYM's 200th anniversary year to anticipate in 2020. There is work to do, but great joy in the doing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Simmons, co-clerk

Website Administrator's Report

The annual full-site rebuild was completed in January and involved some basic tidying up of the code. The appearance and function of our 49 pages remains the same.

The site was down for two days in late March as server hosting and management of Quaker.org was transferred to Friends Publishing. No notifications were sent to organizations using the Quaker.org domain. Once Executive Director of Friends Publishing supplied new FTP login credentials, the site was back up on March 23rd. The transition also resulted in the loss of our website traffic tracking system, which I replaced with Google Analytics tracking. This required adding the Analytics code to each of our web pages but did not result in a change in display or performance.

Requested updates to pages on OVYM.Quaker.Org are done on the day we received the requests. Recent updates include the removal of links to the three laid down Meetings from the main and side bar menus. However, in the event that someone wants information about those Meetings, they are still listed on the bottom Sitemap. The individual pages for those three Meetings note that the Meeting has been laid down.

Facebook continues to be a well-used alternate source of publicity for OVYM. Many of the updates and announcements requested for OVYM's website were also published on the OVYM Facebook page and the 165 people who "liked" and are following our Facebook page receive notifications of all announcements published on our page. There is a link to our Facebook page on each page of the OVYM.Quaker.Org website.

Total and average visits continue to run much the same as last year with the largest number of visits happening in the two months prior to Annual Sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonny Burger
OVYM Website Administrator

Administrative Secretary Report

All is well, and if it isn't, let me know if there's something I can do to help. On a personal note, my mother worked as a secretary. I never had aspirations to do that, but here I am in this very part-time role for the past eleven years. What a great group to serve; and I particularly enjoy our annual get together! May the Spirit continue to guide our Yearly Meeting's efforts.

Deborah Jordan

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee generally meets about once a year. In 2018, we met on March 8. Steve Angell, Paul Buckley, and Wilson Palmer were present. We reviewed personnel policies. We reviewed salary levels for Yearly Meeting employees and contract workers, and made adjustments as needed. When a Youth Secretary is hired, we stand ready to prepare a contract for that person.

Steve Angell, Clerk, Personnel Committee

Faith and Practice Committee Report

In the expedited revision process approved by the Executive Committee in October 2015, we set a goal of three years to finish the revision:

- Prioritize and focus on the topics most important to OVYM Friends; some topics that are less essential may be left for development at a later date.
- Develop a coherent book.

As we are at the end of those three years, the following committee members have decided to cycle off: Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, Betsy Neale.

Paul Buckley, Wilson Palmer, and Rex Sprouse wish to continue working on the topics and texts that have not yet been reviewed or updated and to complete a coherent book. We recommend that Friends repopulate the Faith and Practice Committee to proceed with these tasks.

The work of this past year: July 2017 – June 2018

Lightly Edited Texts

The committee made very minor changes to several texts and published them in the Quill issues of February and June:

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS

Work in the World (formerly titled “Business Relations”)

Friends in all fields of endeavor are urged to work in the spirit of service, to avoid exploitation of others, and to make our Quaker values visible in the wider world. The highest interests of employers and employees are mutual and interdependent and can be achieved with understanding and cooperation, fairness and goodwill. We urge all to depend on and to be willing to advocate for these principles. When manifest injustice exists in a workplace, each person should conscientiously seek out just means to remedy that injustice.

Those who are employers or supervisors have a responsibility to show respect for each employee as an individual; seeing that everyone’s workload is equitable, that each one has reasonable working hours, and that pay rates are consistent with the work performed. In setting wage levels it is essential that employers consider the needs of employees and their families. Likewise, it is important for workers to maintain a high standard of work quality.

In our relations with corporations as stockholders, Friends should be governed by the same high standards as in our relations with individuals. If the conduct of a corporation is inconsistent with high standards of individual conduct, it is our duty to first call on the corporation to correct the problem. If such protests are unsuccessful, Friends should divest ourselves of stock ownership. It is also inconsistent to work for or to purchase products from such a corporation.

Accumulation of Wealth and Payment of Debts

Habits of industry and thrift sometimes degenerate into love for wealth and its accumulation. Clear and accurate accounts are essential to keep Friends aware of their resources and expenditures. Friends are advised to make prompt payment of just debts at the time agreed. It is a moral duty to avoid incurring debts beyond our ability to pay and even when legally discharged of a debt, we should feel that our obligation remains. Friends should be cautious in starting a business without requisite capital and experience, or of engaging in risky ventures in order to acquire abnormal profits.

Friends should seek to discern how much of their income or property can be spared, and how it may be wisely distributed for the benefit of others. It should not be a burden but a privilege to be able to contribute when appeals are made to us for the support of our Religious Society and for other worthy causes.

Serving as a Trustee

When Friends are in positions of trust, whether as trustee, assignee, treasurer or other fiduciary capacity in which we are responsible for the administration of property of others, we should exercise great care to discharge our duties with diligence, good judgment and the strictest integrity. We must be scrupulous in abiding by the spirit as well as the letter of our promises, contracts and agreements, in buying and selling, and in all other matters. Any such moneys must be kept strictly apart from our own, with separate accounts maintained, and a careful audit be made at least yearly of all accounts, including the verification of all investment securities.

MEETING STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND PROCEDURES (Formerly Titled “Business Meetings”)

Establishment and Relation of Meetings

The Establishment of Meetings

Friends and seekers who find themselves at a distance from an established monthly meeting may find spiritual sustenance by forming a worship group. These groups often meet in the home of one of the attenders. A worship group is typically not affiliated with any monthly, quarterly or yearly meeting.

A worship group that desires the company and support of other Friends and wants to be recognized as Quaker as defined by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice should request to become a preparative meeting under the care of the nearest OVYM monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting agrees to receive this charge, a defined group of monthly meeting members should be selected to assume the responsibility of organizing the preparative meeting and reporting frequently to the monthly meeting.

Without first becoming a preparative meeting, a worship group could appeal directly to the quarterly meeting to be recognized as a monthly meeting.

A monthly meeting is established by action of its quarterly meeting. The quarterly meeting should investigate and give due consideration to any group requesting to be organized into a new monthly meeting. The quarterly meeting may appoint a committee to render assistance and advice to the group

forming a new monthly meeting. This committee should give regular progress reports to the quarterly meeting. Among other considerations, the committee should verify that the new group's members are familiar with the OVYM Faith and Practice and that the meeting is organized according to it.

The quarterly meeting may continue its oversight for a year after the establishment of any new meeting, in order to strengthen and aid the members in carrying their new responsibilities.

New monthly meetings are typically formed in one of the four following situations:

- The preparative and its monthly meeting agree it is time to recommend that the quarterly meeting recognize the preparative meeting as a new monthly meeting. In this case, it is likely that most of the work of oversight of the new meeting has already been accomplished. Officers and members of the new monthly meeting should be recorded at the quarterly meeting session where the new monthly meeting is approved. certificates of transfer from the overseeing monthly meeting to the new meeting are not required.
- A worship group that appeals directly to the quarterly meeting for recognition as a new meeting for worship places a larger responsibility on the quarterly meeting to investigate that good order is being used among the attenders. The quarterly meeting should appoint a committee for advice and counsel. Officers and new meeting members should be recorded at the quarterly meeting session where the new meeting is approved. An attender who is a member in good standing at another monthly meeting must request a certificate of transfer to the new meeting.
- If the membership of any monthly meeting should consider it advantageous to separate into two monthly meetings, or to establish a new Meeting, they should propose to the quarterly meeting that an approved group of members be set off to constitute the new monthly meeting. Certificates of transfer between the two meetings are not required. The quarterly meeting should appoint a committee to be present at the reorganization to assist in making necessary property adjustments between the two meetings.
- A group of Friends who are members of various monthly meetings that desire to organize a new monthly meeting should bring their request before the quarterly meeting with which they wish to be associated. The quarterly meeting which approves the request is directed to appoint a committee to be present and assist, if necessary, in the organization of the new meeting. Each attender of the new meeting shall request a certificate of membership transfer from his or her monthly meeting to be forwarded to the newly appointed clerk.

A quarterly meeting may be established either upon the initiative of the Yearly Meeting or upon approval of the Yearly Meeting of a request from one or more monthly meetings, or from a quarterly meeting that desires to be divided into two quarterly meetings. The Yearly Meeting, in any case, should appoint a committee to be present and assist if necessary in the organization.

Discontinuance of Meetings

If it becomes desirable, in the judgment of the constituent members of any meeting, to discontinue it, or to unite with another, the request should be laid before the meeting to which it reports. The request should be considered and, if approved, a committee should be appointed to assist in making the necessary business arrangements, and in the case of the closing of a monthly meeting, to arrange for the proper transfer of individual memberships to another meeting. Information of such action should be forwarded promptly through the proper channels to the Yearly Meeting.

A preparative meeting should not be discontinued, or suspended, without first consulting the monthly meeting of which it forms a part; a monthly meeting should, in like manner, obtain the approval of the quarterly meeting, and a quarterly meeting should refer a similar request to the Yearly Meeting.

Reversion of Property

If a preparative meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the monthly meeting of which it is a part. If a monthly meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the quarterly meeting of which it is a part. If a quarterly meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the Yearly Meeting of which it is a part. If two monthly meetings or two quarterly meetings merge or consolidate, all the property of both shall be held by the merged meeting.

Such transfer and conveyance shall be authorized by an appropriate minute, duly recorded, and the assignment, transfer and deed of conveyance shall be executed and delivered by the terminating meeting before such meeting is formally laid down or disbanded, or, in the case of merged or consolidated meetings, at the time thereof.

In the event that such action is not taken by such meetings before they are laid down, merged or consolidated, the monthly meeting, the quarterly meeting, or the Yearly Meeting entitled to receive any such records and property shall be the equitable owner thereof, and shall be entitled forthwith to require the assignment of conveyance of the legal title thereto, to be held by such monthly, quarterly, or Yearly Meeting under and upon the same trusts as the records and property have been theretofore held, if it is practicable that such trusts be carried out; otherwise, upon trusts similar thereto as the successor meeting may determine. No records or meeting property shall be distributed or partitioned among the individual members of a meeting.

All moneys invested in the properties referred to having been contributed for the purpose of maintaining meetings and/or burial grounds under the care of Friends, a moral obligation is laid upon us to see that this purpose is served, even though particular meetings may no longer exist. Upon the meetings receiving such property the obligation rests to receive and provide care for properties and burial grounds conveyed to them.

The Executive Committee is directed to assist meetings in placing their meeting properties in suitable trusteeships, if desired. Funds and/or properties may be turned over to the township trustees, historical societies or other appropriate organizations if it is considered that better care will be obtained in this manner than through the Yearly Meeting structure.

The Monthly Meeting

Organization

Each monthly meeting shall name a suitable person to serve the meeting as Clerk. The duty of the clerk shall be to conduct all business sessions of the meeting, to see that a full and correct record of all proceedings is kept, and to carry out the instructions of the meeting on all matters pertaining to the complete accomplishment of its business. Assistants to the clerk may be appointed if needed.

Many meetings appoint a Recording Clerk who makes a written record during monthly business meetings and records decisions that are made. The recording clerk often reads the “minutes-so-far” during the business session, and the clerk asks for approval of those minutes.

A Treasurer shall be appointed to perform the usual service expected of such an officer, and shall be governed by such rules as meetings think suitable for the safe and orderly holding and disbursement of funds. The treasurer shall report regularly to the meeting and accounts should be audited annually.

Each year monthly meetings send a “State of the Meeting Report” to the quarterly meeting so that these can be printed and distributed with the Reports in Advance at Yearly Meeting Sessions. Meetings should send additional information to the quarterly meeting once a year: copies of official correspondence sent or received by the monthly meeting during the last year, the names of meeting correspondents, and statistical data for each meeting including membership changes, births, marriages, and deaths.

Meetings are urged to appoint a committee of Ministry and Counsel to focus on the spiritual well-being of the meeting community. Other standing committees may be designated according to the needs of the meeting. All appointments should be made for definite terms.

GLOSSARY

This is a list of terms sometimes used in Quaker practice. Some appear in this document; all have been used in Quaker speech and writings.

Advices: Friends have found it useful to regularly remind one another of shared qualities. Advices touch on the foundations of true, personal discipline, on the care of our children, on family life and on the character of our day-to-day living.

Affirmation: A legal declaration made by Friends or others who conscientiously decline to take an oath.

Assistant Clerk: A person who assists a clerk and is prepared to fill in when the clerk is unable to act.

Associate Member: A minor child recorded as a member at the request of parents, one or both of whom are members of the monthly meeting. Associate Members may be transferred to full membership status at their own request, preferably in writing, after they have reached an age of decision on religious associations and are familiar with Friends principles.

Being Moved to Speak: In the quietness of the Meeting one feels urged by the Divine Spirit to share a spoken message..

Birthright Member: A Friend born of at least one Quaker parent and recorded at birth on the membership rolls of the meeting.

Breaking Meeting: The act of closing of the Meeting for Worship when a designated person or persons shake hands with those seated next to them.

Budget: The annual statement listing the Meeting’s financial needs and sources of income for a specified period of time.

Center Down: To endeavor to still our conscious thoughts, clear our minds, and open ourselves to hear God speak directly to us.

Clearness: Confidence that an action is consistent with the divine will.

Clearness Committee: There are three kinds: (1) In a proposed marriage, a committee of Friends appointed to help determine the clearness of the persons intending marriage with each other and of the Meeting to take their marriage under its care. (2) A committee appointed to assist a person who is

considering membership in the Meeting and of the Meeting to take the person into membership. (3) A committee to assist one or more persons or the meeting to discern the right way forward with respect to a decision or concern.

Committee for Sufferings: A committee to support and care for members and their families who suffer imprisonment or other forms of hardship because of their commitment to Friends' principles.

Concern: A quickening sense of the need to do something about a situation or issue in response to what is felt to be a direct intimation of God's will. A concern, whether of an individual or a Meeting, implies an interest so deep and vigorous that it often moves to action.

Consensus: A term used in secular world to indicate a unanimous agreement. Among Friends, it is sometimes used loosely as a synonym for "Sense of the Meeting" (see below).

Continuing Revelation: The belief that God still speaks to people directly and in so doing may reveal God's desires or directions for an individual or a group of people.

Convinced Friend: A member who has become a Friend as a result of being led to this decision by the Inner Teacher after contemplation, prayer and inward seeking.

Correspondent: A person responsible for the transmission, reception and acknowledgement of communications sent from, or to, the Meeting. Frequently, the presiding clerk will assume this responsibility.

Discernment: Spiritual understanding or insight and the ability to apply these to spiritual matters.

Elder: An individual appointed to foster the spiritual life of the Meeting and of the individuals in it.

Eldering: Lovingly expressing concern and tenderly questioning an individual's behavior and encouraging improvement.

Epistle: A public letter of greeting and ministry. Such letters are sent from a Friends meeting or organization to other Friends groups, to supply information, spiritual insight and encouragement.

First Day School: Friends' designation for Sunday religious education programs provided for children and adults.

Gathered Meeting: Those special occasions when a Meeting attains a greater than usual sense of the Divine Presence, touching the hearts of all and uniting them in a common experience of holy fellowship.

Good Order / Rightly Ordered: Those procedures for the conduct of Friends business and witness that encourage a meeting to carry out its corporate activities under divine leading.

Gospel Order: A term used by George Fox and others to describe the new covenant order of the church under the headship of Christ. It concerns how we live faithfully in relationship with God, each other, and all of creation.

Hold in the Light: To desire that divine guidance and healing will be present for an individual who is in distress or faces a difficult situation; also, to give prayerful consideration to an idea.

Inward Light / Inner Light / Light Within / Light of Christ: The direct, unmediated experience of the Divine. Some of the other equivalent terms often found in Quaker writings are: the Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Divine Principle, the Seed, the Guide, the Christ Within, the Inward Teacher, that of God in every person.

Leading: A sense of being called by God to undertake a specific course of action, often arising in response to a concern.

Mind the Light: An expression used to remind Friends that the "Inward Light" can reveal God's will and direction to us. Minding the Light calls for both active obedience to divine leadings and carefully nurturing openness to the Light.

Ministers: Members who are recognized by a Meeting as having a special gift for ministry, both in speaking and in other forms of service.

Ministry: Sharing or acting upon one's gifts, whether speaking during a meeting for worship or in service to individuals, to the meeting, or to the larger community.

Minute: The record of corporate unity reached during a business meeting.

Monthly Meeting: A congregation of Friends who meet regularly for worship and to conduct corporate business. Also, used to describe the monthly gathering of such a body to conduct business.

Opening: A spiritual insight, opportunity or leading.

Opportunity: A spontaneous period of worship, especially one that occurs when a traveling minister visits Friends in their homes.

Out of Unity: Not in harmony with Friends' principles and testimonies.

Overseers: Members of a committee that gives pastoral care and nurture to all members and attenders. This term is no longer in general use; in most meetings, this function has been taken up by the Committee on Ministry & Counsel.

Plain Speech: The practice of early Friends to use of "thee, thy, thou, and thine" when addressing a single person and to refer to the days of the week and months of the year by number (e.g., First Day for Sunday).

Preparative Meeting: A group of members of an established monthly meeting which ordinarily gathers for worship at another place under the care of the monthly meeting.

Presiding Clerk: The person who conducts business meetings and is sensitive to the guidance of the Spirit. The essential task is to discern when the meeting is in spiritual unity. The clerk then prepares a draft minute reflecting the "sense of the meeting" for consideration. The presiding clerk is often assisted by an assistant clerk and a recording clerk.

Proceed as Way Opens: To wait for divine guidance when seeking to solve a problem or address a concern. Spiritual direction may result from a time of active seeking or arrive unexpectedly. Frequently, it points to a previously unforeseen way forward.

Programmed Meeting: A Meeting for Worship, usually conducted by a designated leader, with a pre-determined program, often including music, an offering, sermon, etc. Most programmed meetings among Friends include a period of waiting worship.

Quaker: A member of the Religious Society of Friends. Originally, this was a derogatory term applied to Friends because their excitement of spirit when led to speak in a meeting for worship was sometimes expressed in a shaking or quaking motion.

Quarterly Meeting: A regional gathering of members of constituent monthly meetings, traditionally on four occasions each year, but now three times.

Queries: A set of questions, based on Friends' practices and testimonies, which are considered by Meetings and individuals as a way of examining individual and corporate lives and guiding actions.

Recorded Ministers: A member who is recognized by a monthly meeting as having the gift of vocal ministry or a special gift of service to the Meeting or the wider community.

Recording Clerk: The person appointed to record minutes at regular and called business meetings.

Released Friend: A Friend whose leading to carry out a particular course of action has been approved by his or her meeting. In doing so, the meeting takes on the responsibility to provide such support as would enable the Friend to follow that leading.

Sense of the Meeting: A decision on some issue or concern which is considered to be in accordance with the divine will. This is usually discerned by the presiding clerk and formulated into a proposed minute.

Sojourning Member: When a Friend is temporarily residing at a distance from his or her home meeting, she or he may apply to become a Sojourning Member of a closer meeting. The member's membership and primary financial responsibility remains with his or her home meeting.

Speak to One's Condition: The experience of hearing a message spoken by another person as coming directly from God. This message may help solve a problem or point to a right decision.

Stand Aside: An action taken by an individual who has genuine reservations about a particular decision, but who also recognizes that the decision is clearly supported by the weight of the Meeting. The action of standing aside allows the Meeting to reach unity.

Statistician / Recorder: A person responsible for maintaining a meeting's membership records, including all births, marriages, removals and deaths occurring among members, and recording the attendance at meetings for worship.

Stewardship: Good stewardship directs Friends' investments of time and money in sustainable and renewable resources and in work that supports Quaker values and beliefs.

Stop / Stop in the Mind: A clear sense of spiritual uneasiness in the face of a proposed decision or action, and an inability to follow it.

Take under the Care: The decision by a meeting to take responsibility for an activity, program, or event and to which it gives oversight. This includes a marriage, the ministry of an individual, or a worship group.

Testimony: A public witness to the ways in which one's relationship with God has given direction to her or his life. These may be personal or corporate. Some traditional testimonies are seeking divine guidance in all things, living simply, integrity, peace and nonviolence, temperance in all things, making affirmation instead swearing an oath, and acknowledging the worth of each individual regardless of race, sex or religion.

Threshing Session: A gathering of Friends to consider a controversial issue in a way that is free from the necessity of reaching a decision.

Traveling Minute: A statement of endorsement that a Meeting gives to a member who feels called to visit other meetings and Friends groups to share a concern. It establishes the good standing of the Friend and that the meeting has united with the traveler's concern.

Treasurer: An individual designated by the meeting to manage its financial resources.

Truth: The revealed will of God, as best discerned by a meeting under the guidance of the Inward Light.

Unity: The sense of spiritual oneness and harmony whose realization is a primary objective of a meeting for worship or a meeting for business.

Unprogrammed Meeting / Waiting Worship / Silent Worship: A Meeting for Worship held with minimal pre-planning. Friends gather at a specified time and place in silence, waiting on God and the leadings of the Spirit. Some Friends may be given vocal messages to share with the Meeting or it may be entirely silent.

Vocal Ministry: To share a message or prayer during a meeting for worship.

Weighty Member: An informal term for a Friend who is respected for spiritual depth, wisdom, and long service to the Religious Society of Friends.

Worship Group: A group of people who meet for worship, but do not conduct business. This may be formed under the care of a monthly meeting or by the gathering together of people outside of the yearly meeting structure.

Worship Sharing: A group practice that acknowledges the presence of God during which participants share personal experiences and feelings in response to a prearranged theme or a set of questions.

Yearly Meeting: Friends from a geographically extended area who gather in annual sessions to worship and conduct business together. This term is also used to denote the total membership of the constituent monthly meetings of a designated yearly meeting.

Newly Written or Heavily Edited Texts

Below are the texts reviewed this year by monthly meetings. The committee has considered their responses and developed the versions shown below. Thank you to the 10 monthly meetings who submitted their responses.

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT

Meeting for Business

The property of the true church government, and the practice and path of the true church in these our days, is to leave the conscience to its full liberty in the Lord; to preserve it single and entire for the Lord, and to seek unity in the Light and in the Spirit, walking sweetly and harmoniously together in the midst of differing practices.

Isaac Pennington

Our business meetings are conducted under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Friends believe that everyone has direct access to the voice of the Inward Teacher and thus anyone may be an instrument through which we can receive God's guidance. As such, we need to listen attentively and with forbearance to all messages that we are given in the course of a business meeting. Moreover, we have learned that the discernment of the group is usually superior to that of the individual in seeking to understand where God is leading us as a body. (For a description of the business process, see the section General Business Procedure below.)

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS

Recreation and Use of Time

Friends understand that each day and each hour is given to us as a gift. We seek patterns of living that enrich and refresh our spiritual and social lives and involve us in healthy interactions with all of creation. The daily choices we make about use of our time can strengthen or diminish our connections with the Divine Spirit and with one another. Recreation is beneficial and an important part of a balanced life. Friends are advised, however, to examine their use of leisure time and consider whether our recreation is consistent with our understanding of lives centered in Truth and Love.

For example, Quakers bear a testimony against activities such as betting, gambling, and lotteries. We hold a firm belief that these practices are wrong in principle: gambling promotes the false promise of unearned wealth.

MEETING STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND PROCEDURES (Formerly Titled "Business Meetings")

In addition to meetings for worship, meetings for business have been organized to provide for the orderly care of such matters as are essential to maintaining a religious society. The monthly meeting is where individual membership is recorded. Currently OVYM monthly meetings in Ohio and Kentucky belong to Miami Quarterly Meeting, and Indiana monthly meetings belong to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. The two quarterly meetings belong to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

General Business Procedure

The Society of Friends believes that our best decisions are dependent on spiritual discernment. Therefore it transacts its business by seeking unity under divine guidance rather than by majority vote or even consensus. This means that in our business meetings, each contribution to the discussion is heard in a spirit of prayer. We listen lovingly and respectfully for the voice of God through what each person says.

Clerks are advised to prepare a tentative agenda for business meetings, so that Friends may consider issues in an orderly fashion. When a matter requiring a decision is placed before the meeting, time should be permitted for careful and deliberate consideration. Friends are advised to seek and wait for recognition by the Clerk before speaking and to speak succinctly and to the point at hand. Friends are called to seek divine guidance, to exercise mutual forbearance and, when speaking, to refrain from unduly pressing their own views.

When the Clerk senses that Friends may be approaching unity around a spiritually grounded judgment, the Clerk should test the sense of the meeting. If Friends appear to be generally united, the Clerk should propose a minute, even if some still wish to speak to the issue. If someone present feels that such a proposed minute does not capture the light the meeting has been given, he or she is free to offer an amendment or substitution. While a clerk is working to compose a minute, the meeting is advised to remain in centered worship, holding the clerks in prayer. When it appears that appropriate wording has been found, the Clerk asks whether Friends are prepared to approve the minute. When the meeting approves the minute, its final wording is written by the recording clerk and becomes part of the permanent record of the meeting. The minute should be accepted by all members, whether they were present or not, as the best current understanding of the will of God for the meeting.

In some instances, the overwhelming preponderance of Friends may feel united around a proposed course of action, while one or more Friends feel serious hesitations. In such cases, Friends are advised to seek Divine Guidance about whether they should stand aside or stand in the way. When a Friend stands aside, he or she faithfully expresses these hesitations but agrees to support the sense of the meeting.

It is important for Friends to bear in mind that standing in the way of a decision on which there is otherwise unity is a privilege granted by the community, not an inherent right of any individual to block an action. When, under a spiritual leading, someone wishes to stand in the way of a proposed action, this means that unity has not been reached. Thus, the proposed action cannot immediately go forward, and Friends will usually continue to labor spiritually about the matter at hand, either at the same meeting for business or in the future. When Friends stand in the way of a decision, they accept the responsibility of continuing to hold the issue in discernment and prayer, are willing to consider that they may be mistaken, and are willing to share a change of conviction, should that occur. On the other hand, there are instances in Friends' experience where the faithfulness of a single individual has made it possible for an entire meeting to come to a deeper understanding of the Divine Will for the ultimate way forward.

When a meeting cannot unite on a minute, the old policy remains unchanged or the new business is not taken up (as the case may be) and the subject is dropped for the time being to allow for careful and prayerful contemplation before being considered again.

This method has been followed by Friends since the organization of the Society. It is more than a set of rules; it is an expression of a deep-seated conviction that as religious communities, our meetings should

seek to be in spiritual unity with God and each other before proceeding. It has been proven by experience to be both spiritually satisfactory and practically effective. Its use is commended to Friends in conducting both business meetings and committee meetings.

The Monthly Meeting

Religious Education

Religious education helps to establish and foster right relationships with God, with other people, and with all of creation. For both children and adults, such opportunities encourage renewed commitment to Friends principles and can support a spiritually-grounded way of living. To meet these needs and to support a lifetime of Quaker learning, each meeting is encouraged to provide study of the Bible, Quaker history, and the beliefs and values of the Religious Society of Friends.

Education of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults

In addition to religious education, meetings have a responsibility for the schooling of their young people. Meetings should exercise care that all their children, adolescents, and young adults receive the education that they need. For some, education at a Friends school or college may be most appropriate. When possible, meetings should help with the costs of educational experiences.

Outreach

If we experience the creative energy and power of God in our lives then we too will want to share it and look for ways to invite visitors or inquirers to join with us. This requires us to make our meetings and our witness visible to the wider world. As we reach out to seekers our overall goal should be to clearly present who we are and what we believe, interpreting the Quaker way with both openness and integrity, remembering that inquirers and newcomers may be drawn to the Religious Society of Friends for a variety of reasons. When we organize or participate in events and activities that reflect our testimonies we should share the spiritual basis of our actions. Our goal is to provide a warm and welcoming spiritual community that invites newcomers fully into the life of the meeting.

Recorded Ministers

Some monthly meetings record gifts of ministry. Among the many possible avenues are travelling in the ministry, speaking publicly, teaching, or other service. Recording a Friend's gifts of ministry implies that a person has submitted to God's will and to the discernment of their faith community. Recorded ministers accept the sacred responsibility to continue to exercise the gift as God intended with the aid and support of their faith community. The process of recording gifts of ministry begins when a monthly meeting forms a clearness committee for the purpose of determining whether or not someone has a call to ministry. A recorded minister should meet at least annually with a support committee associated with the monthly meeting for ongoing clearness and nurture, and to help discern whether the call to ministry continues or if the recording should be laid down.

When a meeting does not formally record gifts of ministry, it remains the responsibility of the meeting to nurture and support all members' gifts.

Ecclesiastical Endorsement

Some Friends may request an ecclesiastical endorsement as a professional qualification. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the monthly meeting to review the professional requirements and the Friend's qualifications. When a meeting unites in an ecclesiastical endorsement, it has a responsibility to provide ongoing nurture and support of the Friend and to regularly review and renew the endorsement.

In addition to the meeting reviewing professional requirements and the Friend's qualifications, the meeting should also discern with them whether they uphold Quaker values in their work, and whether the Friend is a member and intends to continue to remain connected to the meeting.

Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report

The Religious Nurture and Education Committee has served with joy and, we hope, faithfulness this last year. We are happy to see the results of the program on inter-visitation approved last year, and encourage Friends to continue to find opportunities for engagement with other Friends. We have heard from individual Friends who were inspired to travel, and of fruitful joint activities between monthly meetings. One meeting traveled as a whole to a nearby meeting for First Day worship and a potluck, and another keeps a list of checklist of meetings for their members to visit. The RNE committee as a whole visited five meetings over the last year, in addition to visits by individual committee members.

The committee held a retreat on Spiritual Practices for Healing and Refreshment at Quaker Hill on 3/17/2018. It was shortened because of a morning ice storm, but it was a rich experience for those who attended. The numbers were small, with only 19 people, and we continue to struggle to find a good time in the spring when there are few conflicts.

The committee is still discerning how to best support those who labor under a concern or feel led to travel in the ministry. All Friends are called to faithfulness in worship and our daily work, but some of us are called to more particular ministry among Friends. An important element in fostering ministry is reclaiming our Quaker traditions of discernment and support for one another, and adapting those practices for today, while acknowledging ways in which eldership has sometimes been problematic in the past. We proposed a workshop for OVYM sessions on clearness committees as one step in fostering discernment practices. The committee has welcomed input from Friends with expertise on Quaker practices who attended our meetings, including Steve Angell and Brian Drayton. Specific actions we hope to initiate in the coming year include:

- Use the Quill or other platforms to share stories, past and present, of Friends who were faithful to the call to ministry.
- Host a retreat on Spiritual Accompaniment in late summer or fall.
- Develop a set of queries on discernment and spiritual accompaniment which will be sent to meetings, with a request for a response. We are identifying resources which will be included with the queries.
- In the future, we would also like to have a retreat for those who feel a call to travel in the ministry or to other particular forms of ministry. There may be other kinds of support the committee can offer, although the ideal is that ministers have a support structure within their meeting.

The Spiritual Nurture Fund is available under the care of the committee, and can be used to help release Friends for short-term work within the Yearly Meeting. We also recommend the FGC Spiritual Deepening program to both meetings and individuals.

The time of the committee has also been taken in recent months with discussions of how we support meetings dealing with challenging or contentious personalities. These discussions led to consideration of how we as Friends should respond to allegations of sexual harassment and assault in our meetings. We met to listen to the story of a survivor who was assaulted in her meeting, and recognize our community is not always a safe place. We wonder how to best share information about incidents of harassment and assault. We will be bringing a draft policy to the floor of the Yearly Meeting, but this work is more than the committee can carry, given our other responsibilities. We ask that the Yearly Meeting form a task group to further develop and carry out the policy. We expect that this would involve fostering discussions at the Monthly Meeting level. We found helpful models of policies from other Friends groups, such as Homewood Meeting in Baltimore YM and Australia Yearly Meeting.

Earthcare Committee Report

The committee met twice during the course of the year, in person during Fall and by telephone in Spring, receiving reports from Quaker Earthcare Witness. The Committee is encouraged by anecdotal accounts of the conscious conservation measures being undertaken at many Meetings.

We continue to encourage members and Meetings to study and adopt the Friends World Conference for Consultation's minute, Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth. The minute recommends investments and intentional behaviors for individuals and Meetings.

Since the Yearly Meeting's representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a Committee member and is able to attend the QEW meetings, the Committee remains well informed and connected to national discussion. We remain mindful of the carbon footprint involved in remote physical meet-ups and concerned about needing to study more economical means for effective communication.

In a ironically corollary concern, the Committee intends greater presence among OVYM Friends proposed by inter-visitation to better understand the conditions of Meetings.

We continue to concentrate interest in the integrated development of community through understanding sustainable methods of sustenance in our place(s) on Earth. The Committee will, as usual have a presence at Yearly Meeting with evening interest groups on Thursday and Friday and literature.

Respectfully submitted
David Duvall

Ad Hoc Committee on OVYM Contributions Report

At the request of the 2017 Yearly Meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee continued its work from the previous year, with Michele Tomarelli, Peter Hardy and Pat Brubaker on the committee. The organizations receiving funds from OVYM were reviewed. Although not all of them reported directly to OVYM, all have internet presences of one sort or another and were found to be doing good work.

Each organization is supposed to have an OVYM representative to act as an advocate and to maintain contact with their respective organizations. Not all of them do and that needs to be remedied. The Ad Hoc Committee also recommended to the Executive Committee that in place of live reports during business meeting at annual sessions, the representatives should be available to answer questions. It was also suggested that organizations could be offered table space or poster space if they wished Friends to know more about their activities. The Executive Committee approved.

In addition, the Executive Committee approved a proposal that would make it easier for the Budget Committee to balance the budget. The *Handbook*, pp. 32-33, Section 4.4: Budget Policy, Outline of the Budget Process, III. Contributions would be amended by replacing the last sentence in item a. Affiliated Friends Organizations with:

In the event of a monetary shortfall or the urgent need to divert monies to some other worthy purpose, the Budget and Finance Committee may reduce the amounts donated to the Outside Quaker Organizations by the same percentage by which the overall budget is to be reduced. Favoritism may not be shown: contributions to each of the Outside Quaker Organizations will be reduced by the same percentage.

A satisfactory means of insuring that individuals who wish to include new organizations to the budget are given a sense that the rest of the Yearly Meeting is listening and giving serious consideration to the individuals' requests ("feel heard"), was raised at the 2017 session. The issue was discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee, but not settled at the executive meeting.

The difficulty seems to be that the Friends making the proposals want to introduce the proposal from the floor, and are distressed when the proposal is not immediately acted upon. As we understand it, that is not wrong process. The more traditional process of introducing a new organization, however, would be for the individuals making the proposal to return to their Monthly Meeting and, if the Monthly Meeting agrees, a formal request is sent to the Yearly Meeting Clerk for a slot on the agenda to recommend the addition. (Depending on whom one asks, the matter should perhaps go from the Monthly Meeting to Quarterly Meeting and thence to Yearly Meeting.)

The Ad Hoc Committee had considered that the individuals proposing a new organization be directed to the most relevant standing committee for mentoring, but in truth few of the standing committees would be relevant. Thus, we now suggest that when a proposal from the floor is made to add an organization and the proposal is not acted upon immediately, the Clerk's Table should name someone to mentor individuals about taking the proposal back to their monthly meeting. This would ensure that the Friends making the proposal realize that they have indeed been heard and that the correct process is known.

Having completed its work, the Ad Hoc Committee was laid down at the April 2018 Executive Committee. We conclude this report with a reminder that the next review of the contributions to outside organizations should be assigned to an Ad Hoc Committee in 2020.

Michele Tomarelli, Convener

Quaker Quill Report

I am grateful to monthly meeting correspondents and others who send materials to be shared via the Quill. Pictures are welcome. I am especially thankful to Susan Lee Barton for her excellent proofreading. Because the dates of Annual Sessions have changed, the publication schedule has been adjusted. Issues will be published June 1 (in advance of Annual Sessions), September 15 and February 1. In consequence, submission deadlines will be: May 1, August 15, and January 15.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Shore

Braddock Fund Committee Report

The Braddock Fund Committee continues the long Friends tradition of ministering to that of God in everyone, including prisoners. We have funds to help support those from our Yearly Meeting that feel called to prison ministry. The Braddock Fund historically was concerned about education for the incarcerated, helping them to see new ways to live, and so we also accept applications directly from prisoners and ex-prisoners who want school scholarships. This year we sent \$1110 to Adams State University to cover course expenses for one such incarcerated individual.

This year we also supported Alternatives to Violence Project of Indiana with a \$3000 scholarship. Most of the money was to help formerly incarcerated AVP trained individuals to attend a conference on reducing violence in our communities. The rest of the money was used to purchase manuals for AVP participants who are still in prison.

Current committee members are Wilhelmina Branson, Christine Snyder and Wilson Palmer.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

Quaker Heights Care Community Report

2017 was a year transformational change for Quaker Heights both with changes in physical structure as well as key personnel. Throughout 2017 Quaker Heights had changes in the following positions: Director of Nursing, Director of Social Services, and MDS Coordinator. There was also the retirement of our long time Medical Director, Dr. Opsahl, who gave 30+ years of his career to Quaker Heights, and the retirement of our Director of Buildings & Grounds, Woodie Davis, who gave Quaker Heights 17 years. This year of transformational change was capped off with the resignation of our highly tenured Executive Director Wendy Waters-Connell on December 1, 2018.

On to the changes to the physical structure. As you know Quaker Heights launched its first ever Capital Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to raise funds for the organization and specifically for two major phases of renovation projects. 2017 marked the completion of Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign Renovation project. Phase 1 was the addition of private showers to each private room. As the generations change there is a shift in desired amenities. The main of which is private rooms & bathrooms. Since completing this project in November 2017 we have received lots of positive feedback in the form of better census and verbal praise.

We have not yet completed our Capital Campaign and are still seeking philanthropic relationships with advocates and community members. Quaker Heights needs to reach its Capital Campaign goal in order to complete Phase 2. Phase 2 of our renovation will include more common spaces for our memory care residents and their families in an expanded memory care area of the building. Memory care is a growing area of care needs for most long-term care communities.

In the midst of all of this transformational change Quaker Heights has continued to improve itself both clinically and financially. Unfortunately, the improvement is not enough for Quaker Heights to remain a stand-alone. We continue to seek a strong partner and we have currently narrowed our search to Ohio Living. We hope to be able to finalize and publicly announce the partnership sometime this Summer (2018). It is very difficult to operate an organization of our size independently. Affordable care is part of our mission and in order to continue that mission we will likely need a partner. Through these challenging times we continue to ask for your Time, Treasure, Talent, Advocacy, and Prayer.

Sydney McBride
Interim Executive Director/Administrator

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

FGC provides a way for Friends to experience being part of a faith that extends far beyond their monthly or yearly meeting. Most Friends know about FGC's Annual Gathering , which brings together Friends from across the continent for a week of study , worship and socializing together.

FGC, though, has for years provided a wealth of other resources to monthly and Yearly Meetings. The website-- <https://www.fgcquaker.org/> is a trove of great resources!

On the website, there are materials and links to programs on:

- Outreach and Publicity
- Welcoming Newcomers
- Spiritual Growth
- Identifying and transforming institutional racism
- Religious Education
- Meeting Services

Highlights in these and related areas this year:

FGC is Refocusing

We all have a lot to learn from other Friends. More and more, FGC is coming to see that we need to work more to help meetings share their gifts and help tend one another's needs. Central Committee, FGC's policy body, has been considering whether it's annual meeting might become a place where YM representatives come to share and to learn about one another's strengths, weaknesses and needs, increasing the likelihood that meetings would feel more inclined (and able) to help address one another's needs. FGC's Yearly meeting Visitor program is also being realigned to not just to share resources developed by FGC's volunteers and staff, but also to help Yearly Meetings hear about one another's gifts and look at how they can be shared and used more quickly and easily. We want FGC to function as a megaphone, a conduit, a connector.

Outreach and Publicity

An example of sharing one great project of a Yearly Meeting is a Facebook experiment in New York Yearly Meeting by Emily Provence. It is staggering how many seekers are being reached via simple Facebook campaigns targeted at people in a specific meeting's region. The meetings in the pilot have learned how to do it for themselves! Read more on Emily's blog:

<https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/the-social-media-ads-outreach-experiment/>

Welcoming Newcomers and Spiritual Growth

Under FGC's largely volunteer-led Committee on Nurturing Ministries (CNM), the Spiritual Deepening online program has developed e-retreats for Friends and seekers across the country to study and worship together online. In the last year, 320 people participated. To improve the experience, a new e-platform is being tested this year and should be ready for wider use by fall. This platform may have other applications for YMs trying to have ongoing virtual worship groups for isolated Friends or groups of young adult Friends who are dispersed by geography and/or might work nontraditional hours.

CNM is also piloting a new Welcoming Friends training for Meeting or Yearly Meeting trainers for efforts to welcome and retain more diverse seekers.

Identifying and transforming institutional racism

You have probably seen, and hopefully taken, the survey for the FGC Institutional Assessment of Structural Racism. The results of the surveys and focus groups will be analyzed over the summer. The team will bring findings and recommendations for change to Central Committee this fall for implementation. These will be incorporated in ongoing discussions for reorganization and streamlining of FGC's governing bodies, staff functions and committees.

The assessment has been done by FGC staff and volunteers, under guidance of a consultant, so that we build capacity within our Society to help Yearly Meetings and Monthly Meetings with similar work in the near future.

Religious Education

In the arena of children's religious education, FGC publishes Sparkling Still which is both a curriculum built around picture books and a detailed template for designing more lessons.

In conjunction with the Faith & Play Group, FGC has also published Faith & Play™ stories and promotes training in the Godly Play®/Faith & Play™ methodology. Going forward however, the Godly Play organizational relationship with FGC is unclear.

The FGC bookstore continues, but will transition to a volunteer operations model.

Meeting Services

FGC continues to support the Quaker Cloud service for Meetings' websites. The Cloud needs more meetings to be sustainable. The reports on service and performance from Meetings using the Cloud have improved markedly now that more of the work is outsourced.

Annual FGC Gathering

The 2018 Gathering is right around the corner. Holy Toledo!

Details remain, but he recommended 2019 Gathering site is Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, where the Gathering was held in 2011. The campus is compact and largely flat, with good proximity to local businesses and the local hospital. It offers flexible dietary options in the dining hall, and a variety of dorm and classroom spaces to support our programs. The Site Selection Committee noticed explicitly welcoming language throughout the campus and found that the college seems to be actively addressing the intersection of race, gender, and sexual orientation. Plan to attend!

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. As Friends, our faith and experience convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. This year we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Founded in 1943 in Richmond, Indiana, FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for the past seven decades.

Setting the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

One of the distinctive features of the Friends Committee on National Legislation is our practice of asking Quakers around the country to help shape our collective work. Every two years, FCNL asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and worship groups all over the country to discern which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress.

The core question as part of this process is, where is the spirit leading us? How are Friends called to influence government today? Your discernment is the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL will establish at our annual meeting in November of 2018. This summer, FCNL's Policy Committee will read all the responses and consider a set of priorities to bring to the annual meeting.

Learn. Lobby Lead. Update on Annual Meeting 2017

FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day drew some 450 people to Washington, DC to lobby against huge increases in Pentagon spending. More than 300 of that number stayed for FCNL's Annual Meeting which celebrated the successful conclusion of our World We Seek Capital Campaign, affirmed the direction of the Forward Plan outlined by staff, and showed off the first materials prepared for celebrations of FCNL's 75th Anniversary in 2018.

One of the most exciting moments of the 2017 Annual Meeting was the celebration of the successful conclusion of FCNL's five-year capital campaign and opening of the new Quaker Welcome Center at 205 C Street. On October 5, we held a ribbon cutting event attended by Washington, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, as well as FCNL's Executive and Education Fund Board. In the past few months, we have begun hosting conversations and programs to promote the world we seek. We are excited to offer the Quaker Welcome Center as a meeting space where lawmakers and staffers can have quiet conversations and speak across political divisions. FCNL has always been known as a place where people across the political spectrum feel welcome, and the Quaker Welcome Center will help us continue that tradition.

Every aspect of this building's construction minimized environmental impact and furthered the goal of creating a carbon-neutral building. FCNL was honored to be able to open the first LEED- certified building on Capitol Hill in 2005, and we're glad to continue our legacy of lobbying for an earth restored with this new Quaker Welcome Center, located next door to our office. The convenient location means that partner organizations working for peace and justice can easily take part in workshops and trainings as part of their lobbying efforts, and we look forward to welcoming FCNL supporters and activists like you before your visits with congressional offices.

We invite you to visit the Quaker Welcome Center and enjoy our expanded presence on Capitol Hill.

The Critical Role of Young Adult Friends

As we look to sustain FCNL's persistent and prophetic advocacy for another 75 years, we know how critical it is for young adults to play a central role in both FCNL's advocacy work and its governance. We are glad to report that FCNL's Standing Committees are stronger because of young adult participation. We are blessed to have these young adults playing leadership roles in the governance of FCNL.

We are also grateful to the 25 Yearly Meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL's General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

With gratitude for your partnership,
Bridget Moix
Baltimore Yearly Meeting Clerk, FCNL General Committee

William Penn House

The William Penn House has hosted and participated in many of the years rallies and events in Washington D.C. The William Penn House staff participated in, and hosted Friends from around the country for the Healthcare Vigil to save Medicaid and Medicare. The Student Farmworker Alliance held their Annual Meeting at the William Penn House in May of 2017. Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals recipients stayed at the William Penn House in order to fight for immigrant rights in February and March of 2018. The staff also hosted Adam Funck of Community Friends in Cincinnati, Ohio for the Friends Committee on National Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend in March 2018. Friends, as well as friends from around the country and the world utilize the William Penn House to do important lobbying on Capitol Hill. A Quaker work camp that is hosted by William Penn House staff were held in West Virginia last summer and Friends are looking to return with a new group this summer.

Adam Funck

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

I was afforded the opportunity to attend the annual Corporation meeting for AFSC, representing OVYM, at Philadelphia, 4th Month 12 to 14.

Joyce Ajlouny has assumed the position of General Secretary. She comes to AFSC from the Ramallah Friends School which she served as Director after attending as a child.

AFSC continues to maintain offices in 34 US cities and programs affecting 16 additional countries and a UN office. Responding to fiscal constraint, the Kansas City office has been closed after 30 years of service. There have also been some program cut-backs affecting other offices. During the past year income and net assets have increased, as expenses decreased.

Global and domestic program activities are too numerous to recount here. Many Friends may be aware of AFSC having been listed as a restricted NGO by the State of Israel, pursuant to its promotion of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement in support of Palestinian rights. Another longstanding AFSC program of current interest may be its longstanding agricultural development cooperation with North Korea.

Within OVYM's region, I am most aware of activities in the Indianapolis Office, focusing on immigrant right, anti-Islamophobia work, and support of Palestinians through the BDS program. During April Indianapolis hosted a media event, Hearing in the Heartland, bringing a colloquium of witnesses to testify regarding US policies affecting the Palestinian occupied territories.

Dayton Office which maintains program focus on racial and work-place equity issues, also conducted a public event this Spring, a White Privilege Forum.

Respectfully submitted
David Duvall

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) Report

Over the past year FPT has continued its substantial transition in structure and governance. We thoroughly examined our origins as well as the principles and values approved by the founders of FPT, recorded our current practice in the manner of Friends, proposed changes, and seasoned them. At our annual meeting, this year held in the meetinghouse of Nashville Friends Meeting in April, we reviewed all five documents again: (1) Guidelines for MOUs and Letters of Agreement; (2) Delegation of Authority; (3) Bylaws of the Corporation; (4) Structure; (5) Conflict of Interest Statement. In right order, we approved them all in a welcomed unanimity, invigorating and nourishing for us all.

Another transition for us is that the volunteer leadership (e.g., coordinators) in two of our three initiatives, AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative) and PLA (Peacebuilding in Latin America) has now shifted to part-time paid staff. Each initiative has a Working Group that carries the authority and responsibility for the guidance and supervision of its work. Previously those working groups functioned only as support for the volunteer coordinator in charge of the initiative. Now with a paid staff member as coordinator, each Working Group must actively supervise and direct that coordinator—an all-new challenge.

Even so, we still wanted to and will retain our bottom-up practice in the manner of Friends that has served us so well and has distinguished us as a Quaker organization operating in the manner of Friends. We try hard not to succumb to the temptation of top-down that has led so many Quaker organizations into deep challenges and difficulties in recent years.

And all along the way, the peace work by volunteers with local partner organizations in violence-torn communities proceeds vigorously with remarkable success. Our stories of peace are recorded in our newsletter – *PeaceWays*. The current issue is Spring-Summer 2018, and Friends are encouraged to bring copies home to their monthly meetings.

For another year FPT has kept administrative expenses low, actually below 11%, by careful budgeting, planning, and spending. The vast majority of our donations are devoted to program—the actual peace work on the ground. Very few administrative responsibilities or tasks are required from those doing that peace work – only brief reports of the workshops, activities and events, and receipts and documentation that funds requested and provided were actually used for those purposes.

This year we welcomed three new part-time staff members: Allie Prescott as Communications Specialist with PLA; Anne Hutchinson as Publicist with AGLI; and Bess Keller as Communications Specialist for FPT.

Please know that there are many opportunities for you and members and attenders of your monthly meeting to participate in our work with one or more of our initiatives. We also have many at-home opportunities to serve in administrative tasks that do not require international travel.

As always, we are very grateful for the spiritual and financial support of so many Friends,

Respectfully submitted,
Anne M. Hutchinson

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report

FWCC Section of the Americas has continued to implement aspects of the Strategic Plan drawn up at a regional gathering in Mexico for 2015-2020 and recently extended to 2023. The original plans have been modified as the situation has evolved but the goals remain the same: “We envisage an integral network of Friends from the Arctic to the Andes, woven together in transformative faith, learning to love, listen and witness.” Spanning the rich diversity of the Quaker community, the regional cultures, beliefs, and styles of worship, and drawing on our Quaker heritage, FWCC is now engaged in a process of ‘Weaving the Tapestry.’

Older Friends will recall the World Triennial Gatherings (now called Plenaries) of the past, but these were expensive and did not necessarily create the closely-woven ties envisioned for the present times. They will still be held but much less frequently. The next Plenary will be held in 2023. The venue has not yet been announced. No sectional meeting was held in 2018; rather the emphasis has been on local gatherings. Planning is underway for a Section of the Americas meeting in 2019, which will take place in March outside St. Louis, Missouri.

Two key resources are central in the weaving of the tapestry: The Traveling Ministry Corps and a greatly expanded online presence. The Traveling Ministry Corps is the essential ministry of FWCC's Section of the Americas. In this project, ministers do cross-branch visitation at Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings, or other gatherings. The visits are at no cost to the hosting meetings. Further information about the Traveling Ministry Corps and the process to request a minister visit, can be found at <http://fwccamericas.org/visitation/traveling-ministry.shtml>

Contemporary digital communications are important resource that can put Friends of different traditions in touch worldwide. Some are an excellent introduction to Quakers full of educational, informational, and creative suggestions.

- For example, an excellent introduction for newcomers addresses the questions: Who are Friends, Beliefs, Types of Worship; Organization; Find Friends; and ask a Friend.
- In 2016, FWCC Section of the Americas produced five videos in conjunction with Quaker Speak, a Quaker YouTube channel that addresses core questions through interviews with Friends of different backgrounds.
- World Quaker Day on October 1, 2017, was observed across the world. The FWCC website had a compilation of ideas and links to websites on all manner of resources. One useful resource is a new FWCC map that can be printed up and displayed in a foyer, used in First Day School, or for a conversation starter (all available through the websites: <http://fwccamericas.org/> or www.facebook.com/fwccamericas/; or <https://twitter.com/FWCCAmericas>).

For activities of the FWCC World Office in London and information on other international sections, see: <http://fwcc.world/>

Donations to FWCC can be made securely online or by mail. Legacy giving is also welcome.

Executive Committee Minutes 2017-18

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee

August 26, 2017

Community Friends Meeting

1. Opening worship

2. 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

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler, not present

Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: Paul Buckley

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Web Administrator: Lonny Burger not present

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons

Youth Services Committee: David Funck

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost

Whitewater: Diann Herzog sends regrets

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess

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: Rex Sprouse sends regrets

Fort Wayne: Terre Holada

Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli sends regrets

Lexington: Richard Mitchell

Louisville: (no representative present)

Miami: David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Steve Angell and Doug Jones
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: vacant

3. The clerk expressed thanks for all who are attending especially Charlotte who is in via Skype.

4. Youth Services, David Funck

We had a great Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting with more children than last year. Last year we didn't know how many would attend, the committee was unprepared. This year, Chie Togami was hired and she did a wonderful job combining different groups. She will prepare a detailed report. The canoe trip had to be cancelled because the river was too high and water from the reservoir made the river higher and colder, but alternate plans were made and everyone had a good time. Thanks were given to Lucas Blanchard-Gluckert, Dylan Cahalan and Andrew Hardy. We are still searching for a Youth Secretary. There is a candidate. At this point nothing is planned for this fall for the youth except Quarterly Meetings.

5. Personnel Committee

Betsy told us that it is the Executive Committee's responsibility to populate this committee. The committee needs "new blood". Paul Buckley is willing to remain on the committee for another year, but not as clerk. We need someone to join the committee soon. The committee is responsible to set salaries. Every year they evaluate pay rates. They also initiate annual reviews. The committee prepares updated contracts for all contractors. The committee does not meet often and much of the work is done through emails and phone calls. The clerk asked for names to be brought forward. Some friends mentioned people they could contact. If anyone has suggestions, please talk to them and let Betsy know. They are welcome to contact Paul for more information. We will revisit this at the next meeting.

6. It was suggested that as this meeting goes along, we should compile a list of things that this committee should share with Monthly Meeting clerks and representatives.

7. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell

In sharing the responsibility of this committee with Monthly Meetings, it is hoped that we can encourage more involvement from younger Friends.

Members:

Steve Angell, Oxford
Rick Boyce, Eastern Hills
Christine Carver, Bloomington
Charlotte Hess, Bloomington
Evalyn Kellum, North Meadows
Richard Mitchell, Lexington
Rachel Moore, Community
Jan Sims, Clear Creek
Phyllis Tonne, Dayton

Richards suggests that we should again ask the rest of the Monthly Meetings for additional members. They have not met yet. He hopes to have on face-to-face meeting a year, but other meetings will use technology.

It would be nice to have a list of Young Adult Friends (18-35) but under 50 would be great. But, since we have representatives from each Monthly Meeting on the Nominating Committee, we don't need a list. It would be nice to know how many attenders fit this category.

Nominating Committee Priorities:

- 2 people for Budget and Finance
- Friends General Conference Central Committee Representative (there is someone in mind)
- 3 people for Yearly Meeting Planning, hopefully from Whitewater
- Assistant Treasurer
- Assistant Recording Clerk
- Publications Coordinator if David would take another role
- Youth Committee
- 2 more for AFSC
- 2 for FWCC
- 1 for FCNL

Richard updated the latest nomination list and told us about these changes:

- The dates should be 2017-2018
- 2017 Epistolary Meeting, Lisa Cayard and Ben Griffith
- 2017 Summary of Epistles, Deb Kociszewski
- 2017 Memorial meeting, Richard Mitchell
- Religious Education - remove Rod Dixon and add Kevin Angell
- Yearly Meeting Planning - Martha Viehmann and Richard Mitchell are off, Kay Wheeler and Carol Simmons are co-clerks, other members are Terre Holada, Gloria Bruner, and Susan Gerke
- Youth Committee, Michelle Tomarelli?, Peter Hardy and David Funck are co-clerks
- Earthcare, David Duvall is clerk, Bill Cahalan will continue
- Budget and Finance, Anne Pellegrino has resigned, Paul Buckley may resign
- Paul Buckley is not Assistant Recording Clerk
- Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson is on Nominating Committee representing Miami Meeting

8. A Friend raised a concern about inclusion of Young Adult Friends in Business Meetings. Betsy shared that she is concerned about changing business sessions to balance people feeling that there are too many reports, and giving our respectful attention to those giving reports. The floor of business meeting is not always the time for discussions that should be held in committee meetings. Young Adult Friends raised a concern that their voices are not heard.

9. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Report is attached. A Friend suggested that we extend invitations to Yearly Meetings around us. Perhaps some of our youth could make videos to share with youth in monthly meetings. This could happen during YM. Perhaps intervisitation could be extended to youth. RNE will look into this with consultation with youth.

10. Minute Books are ready.

11. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

Report is attached. The number for Yearly Meeting is inaccurate because the 2017 sessions were paid partly from last year's budget and this year's budget due to the date change of sessions. There were discrepancies in the bill, so Wilson recalculated the bill and sent the money. There has been no response from Earlham. Our investment in the Green Fund did very well. Wilson reminded us that he is willing to be a resource for Monthly Meeting treasurers. The report was accepted with gratitude.

12. Yearly Meeting Planning, Carol Simmons

We are reaching out to Young Adult Friends and asking them to attend our next meeting to decide on the theme and find plenary speakers. A list of writing prompts was sent to monthly meetings asking children and adults to share their experience at yearly meeting. These will be made into posters to be distributed several times a year to monthly meetings. Looking ahead, 2020 will be our 200th anniversary. We would like to start thinking now about making that year a special year. June 13 - 17th 2018 are the dates for next summer. Report was accepted with gratitude.

13. Whitewater Quarter, Diann Herzog sent an email to Betsy regarding Hopewell. The deed for Hopewell has been turned over to Dublin Meeting which is a part of the New Association. The quarter will be responsible for laying down the meeting formally. The report was accepted with thanks to Tom Hill for keeping a database of monthly meetings in North America. Friends may search "monthly meetings in North America" and use their data base for information on Quaker properties.

14. We received a letter from FGC in regards to our work on challenging racism. Marta Rusek is making a list for the FGC website which will have links to YMs and their information on the issue. 12 other YMs have that information. FGC wants to know what we do in this regard. Betsy suggested a working group to address this issue that could work in coordination with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Betsy Neale, Steve Angell, Martha Viehmann and Carol Simmons volunteered. The goal would be activities for the Yearly Meeting and resources for Monthly Meetings which would then be posted on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. There was a concern that we have something on the website soon.

15. Handbook Maintenance

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to update the handbook. Deborah Jordan and Lonny Burger have been working on this. Friends are asked to look at any section of the book that they are responsible for and make any changes known to the Executive Committee. Richard said that currently the handbook (*section on Executive Committee*) asks each Monthly Meeting to send one representative to EC for every 15 members. Richard suggests changing that to ask each Monthly Meeting to appoint a representative and an alternate. A Friend suggested that perhaps Monthly Meetings should be made accountable if they do not send a representative or at least send them the information they missed and ask that they send a representative next time. Richard volunteered to write a draft as a starting point. Perhaps there could be an ad hoc committee to meet via the telephone to do that and present a draft for the next Executive Committee meeting. Deborah, Richard and Terre Holada volunteered. Google Hangouts is a possibility for Executive Committee involvement. David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson will research options and considerations for remote access to meetings. Doug volunteered to help. It was suggested that we could possibly meet at a public library which would have Wi-Fi and equipment. Martha will do some research.

16. The minutes have been posted on the website without the attached reports. Deborah will reformat the minutes to include the reports so they don't have to be attachments and separate links on the website.

17. The meeting ended in silence.

The next meeting will be November 4th at Earlham College.

Respectfully submitted,

Terre Holada

Report to Executive Committee from Religious Nurture and Education

8/26/2017

The committee met once since Yearly Meeting sessions, and enjoyed a visit to Louisville Meeting where we saw signs of new growth and listening to one another. We plan to meet again in Ninth Month, and visit another meeting. We find it helpful to combine our committee meetings with intervisitation. We continue to work to promote the intervisitation program approved at Yearly Meeting sessions. Monthly Meetings, OVYM Committee Clerks and Quarterly Meetings will be receiving a letter from us soon, and we will be writing something for the Quill and website. We then plan to turn to plans to foster more formal travel in the ministry. Gail Koehler and Anne Hutchinson were able to travel to Baltimore Yearly Meeting at their invitation. BYM has a strong commitment to intervisitation both within and outside their Yearly Meeting, and some good resources are provided on their website. Gail has a separate report. They use a form for Friends to use following a visit, and we would like to find a similar way to assess how intervisitation is proceeding and impacting the Yearly Meeting. We do not have staff to collect forms, but encourage Friends to reach out to a member of the committee to share your experiences. We also discussed ways in which we might better connect Friends around specific issues, such as parenting, and will further investigate online meeting software and reach out to Planning Committee to share ideas.

We would like to encourage Meetings and individual Friends to consider using the Spiritual Deepening Program from FGC, which a few meetings are using. Members of the committee have agreed to join an online version of the program which begins in September. Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut is the FGC staff person for the project, and a member of Community Meeting. We encourage Quarterly Meetings to invite her to provide one of the programs for your meetings this year.

We have been in discussion with a meeting which has been challenged by the behavior of specific individuals, and members of the committee will be developing some guidelines to help other Monthly Meetings in similar situations.

We were happy to welcome Kevin Angell of North Meadow onto our committee. He may be new to many OVYM Friends, but grew up in New York Yearly Meeting and serves on Ministry and Counsel at North Meadow. He is our only member from Whitewater Quarter, and we would welcome names of people who might serve.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
November 4, 2017 – Earlham College

1. Opening worship. Prayers were requested for Ken Bordwell, who died unexpectedly this week. He was a member of Community Friends. We also were asked to hold Paul Kriese, who is not well, in the Light.

2. Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk: (vacant)

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler not present

Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present

Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse via Skype and Betsy Neale

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: (no representative present)

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley via Skype

Web Administrator: Lonny Burger not present

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons

Youth Services Committee: Peter Hardy via Skype

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Whitewater: Diann Herzog

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess sends regrets

Campus: (no representative present)

Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt

Community: Deborah Jordan

Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley via Skype

Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer

Englewood: (no representative present)

Fall Creek: Diann Herzog

Fort Wayne: Terre Holada

Lafayette: (no representative present)

Lexington: Richard Mitchell

Louisville: (no representative present)

Miami: David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson via Skype

North Meadow: (no representative present)

Oxford: Steve Angell and Doug Jones

White Rose: (no representative present)

Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Youth Secretary: (vacant)

3. Personnel Committee, Betsy Neale for Executive Committee

We are looking for a person to serve as clerk for the Personnel Committee. Paul Buckley is willing to stay on for another year to help new members. Paul Kriese is willing to remain on the committee.

Neither is willing to clerk. The term is two years and members should be part of the Executive Committee. We need a Youth Services Coordinator. It was thought that this committee also reviews contracts and assigns raises to staff. The committee should review their part of the handbook. The committee will also look at the idea of staggering terms for members and when they want the terms to begin. They will bring it back to the Executive committee. Steve Angell is willing to clerk this committee. Friends accepted his offer with gratitude. Also, thanks was expressed to the two Pauls for remaining with the committee.

4. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell.

The committee has not met. The Yearly Meeting clerk asked if anyone has ideas to help this committee. Perhaps the committee needs new members since the clerk and others may be very busy and this may be a reason that the committee isn't meeting or following through. The committee did a lot of work at sessions and thanks was given for their service. Perhaps having a co-clerk could help. Richard, who is currently the committee clerk, apologized and expressed hurt at the situation. It was approved that Richard will work with Martha Viehmann to schedule a meeting to get the committee moving again. It is hoped that the committee will meet in the next two months.

5. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Religious nurture and education committee meeting met on Saturday night 16 Ninth Month at North Meadow Circle of Friends, and then stayed over and travelled to Lafayette Meeting the next morning for worship. We have found it enriching to spend more time together and to connect our committee meetings to meeting visits. We plan to attend Oxford Meeting this month. We were happy to welcome Kevin Angell to the committee. Anne Hutchinson was not able to attend because she has taken a job with Friends Peace Team and was traveling in Africa.

As a beginning to a new year, we considered our charge. We noted that offering workshops at YM sessions is in our charge and Andy Garrison agreed to contact the Planning Committee. We would like to encourage individuals and meetings to make use of the new FGC Spiritual Deepening Program. Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut is willing to present an introduction at quarterly meetings if invited. Members of the committee joined in with an online version of the program.

We continue to discuss intervisitation, and are happy to hear of individuals and meetings that have taken initiatives to visit among Friends. We would like to hear from others who have had successes or failures with intervisitation. We noted the need to offer more help with outreach to meetings with children and find ways to connect Friends around specific interests and concerns. We are sending a letter to meetings asking for a response to the intervisitation proposal.

We began a discussion about how to support more focused travel in the ministry, which we will continue at our next meeting. Travel in the ministry requires discernment of a call as well as an ongoing listening presence. We recognized that supporting traveling ministry requires thoughtful eldership/spiritual accompaniment and clearness practices, both in advance and afterward. We hope to develop some resources and structures to help monthly meetings identify and discern leadings that arise individually or collectively in their meetings. We hope to develop queries for monthly meetings that will help them begin to notice calls to the ministry in their midst. Eventually this may lead to consultations and retreats. We suggested a prompt follow-up after the 2018 YM sessions (Shannon intends to lead the planning of such an event).

We are beginning planning for a spring retreat, which we would like to be held in late March. We are considering a focus on sustaining spiritual practices for healing and refreshment for the long haul, and are reaching out to potential leaders.

There was further discussion of intervisitation.
The report was accepted.

6. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

- A. Updated report is attached.
- B. The Yearly Meeting numbers on page 5 of the budget are the best guess for yearly meeting sessions expenses. It is difficult to put this together with the information from the registrar.
- C. In the past, our Peace Witness Fund's \$2500 was deposited in FGC's Meetinghouse Fund. The \$75 of interest we received each year has been donated to the federal lobbying group, the National Campaign for a Peace Tax fund. FGC has closed down the Meetinghouse Fund and the \$2500 is now invested with our other funds in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's fossil-free Green Fund. This financial instrument's value fluctuates over time and gains, if any, are reinvested. There are no longer steady or easily accessible funds to donate. Executive Committee asked Wilson to take this issue to Budget and Finance Committee and similarly, Richard Mitchell to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Working together these committees should bring back a recommendation.
- D. Report was accepted with gratitude.

7. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Carol Simmons

- A. The theme was decided. *Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World*
- B. One plenary speaker has been confirmed: Dwight Wilson from Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting.
- C. The dates are June 13 - 17th, 2018
- D. It would be nice to have a few more committee members to learn what needs to be done before the experienced committee members leave.
- E. Posters will be shared with MMs showing how wonderful it is to attend sessions.
- F. The meeting was a conference call, it was a lovely meeting and things came together in a very Quakerly way. In fact, we agreed to do more telephone committee meetings that will only focus on one topic each meeting.
- G. The report was accepted with gratitude.

8. Whitewater Quarter, Diann Herzog

- A. Terre Holada will be the new Whitewater Quarter clerk.
- B. The next Joint Quarterly Meeting will be at Happy Hollow October 20 - 21, 2018.
- C. The quarter does not have the finances to host the Joint Quarterly meeting, but Miami Quarter is

giving us some money collected from the Joint Quarterly Meeting held at Camp Kern.

- D. Fall Creek meeting will have a called meeting to discuss the viability of the meeting staying in its meeting house. One estimate for repairs was \$30,000.00. But the issue is more than just the repairs needed, but how a small group can stay together even though there are several small children we hope to be raised in a Quaker Meeting. Please hold them in the Light.
- E. Fall Creek's Meetinghouse is very special and a place of power with a deep sense of the Spirit where the veil is thin. The future of this meetinghouse is a concern to the entire yearly meeting.
- F. A Friend suggested that the money in the capital fund could be given to Fall Creek as a grant and the remaining amount could be given as a 0% interest loan with a payment plan to be arranged. Another Friend suggested maybe we could work to help clean the mold and work on some repairs. Friends approved that Diann should tell her meeting that the yearly meeting is willing to help with labor, money, or whatever Fall Creek feels is needed or would be helpful. Knowing that the movement of the Spirit will help Fall Creek discern what is needed, the EC will wait to hear the discernment of the Spirit among Fall Creek Friends. The clerk is empowered to call a meeting of the Executive Committee on this issue if needed.
- G. The report was accepted.

9. Miami Quarter, Steve Angell

Green Plain meeting has been laid down. At the Quarterly Meeting, Friends rode a school bus to visit the Green Plain meetinghouse. They also saw the old Green Plain Orthodox meetinghouse.

10. Betsy received a very detailed report from Chris Harmer on his visit to Northern Yearly Meeting. Deborah will send copies to EC members.

11. Youth Committee, Peter Hardy

The committee is working on finding a youth secretary. There is one possibility.

We closed in silence to meet again on February 3, 2018, at 10 am, via telephone conference.

**Called Meeting of the Executive Committee
for the Purpose of Aiding Fall Creek Friends Meeting
December 9, 2017 Telephone Conference**

Betsy Neale began the meeting calling for gathering worship.

Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler sent regrets and a message
Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale
Nominating: Richard Mitchell
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Paul Kriese and Paul Buckley
Religious Nurture & Education: (no representative present)
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Youth Services Committee: (no representative present)

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost sends regrets. She joined the call later.
Whitewater: Terre Holada

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Elaine Emmi
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Deborah Jordan
Dayton: (no representative present)
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: (no representative present)
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: (no representative present)
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: (no representative present)
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: (vacant)

Others in Attendance

David Duvall

Discussion on helping Fall Creek regarding its meetinghouse repairs:

Updates from Diann Herzog
She shared that having the support from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting boosts the spirits of Fall Creek Friends and gives them the strength to go on.
There is a new member who is a great help in the project of repairing the meetinghouse.

David Duvall made a report on condition of the building. This report was distributed to the Executive Committee in advance of this meeting. He gave an oral report on his findings.

Three issues:

1. Basement flood damage needs to be repaired as soon as possible. The first step would be to remove material from the basement because of the mold. Drainage needs to be added to the exterior to prevent future flooding.
2. The building is not entirely accessible especially since the only bathroom is in the basement, which can only be reached via stairs. To make this accessible may be a long-term project. A restroom could be installed in the upstairs resting room, but that room needs extensive repair before such a conversion can be done.
3. The building has a basic good structure, but some work should be put into making the property and building more pleasant and workable for Friends' use.

David also shared information on obtaining matching funds from the Indiana historical preservation agency.

A friend said that there is a Quaker tradition that we do not over-value a building or land because our faith is in the people and the Spirit, not the property. Friends do not believe that any place is holy.

Another Friend noted that the veil between the Spirit and Friends is thin at the Fall Creek Meetinghouse. Diann noted that Fall Creek Friends have undergone discernment regarding their meeting and their building, and they have decided that the meeting will continue whether or not they are able to make the building viable for their use.

Fred Feitler, Finance Committee sent this:

My thinking is that Fall Creek would like to address their physical plan problems and not have to be laid down. Similarly I would guess the Yearly Meeting would like to help with a solution, if possible. As a member of Budget and Finance Committee, I believe we have funds that could be used to help with Fall Creek expenses. The Yearly Meeting might also be able to assist with raising special funds to be used and paid back. Another possible solution to help is the Friends Meeting House Fund that is under the care of FGC. My guess is this is a situation that might require more time and consideration than a simple phone call. Perhaps having interested persons meeting with Budget and Finance Committee could continue further discussion and problem solving.

Diann asked that right now Friends are needed for a work party next Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am to clean the mold in the basement. A few people present volunteered. Others will ask Friends at their Meetings tomorrow. Friends are asked to confirm with Diann during the week. Her number is 765-778-7143.

Martha mentioned the money that is available in the Capital Fund that can be given to Fall Creek, as discussed at the November meeting of the Executive Committee. Wilson explained that other money had been earmarked in the past to aid Friends who didn't pay their taxes as a testimony. If Friends were to change the purpose of that fund, it might be available to assist Fall Creek. At the November Executive Committee meeting, we discussed making a loan from existing funds to Fall Creek. One Friend expressed concern about Fall Creek FM's ability to repay a loan. Two Friends said they felt that we should not make a loan unless we are prepared for the possibility that it may not be paid back in full.

It was requested that the Budget and Finance Committee be asked to look further into the issue of a loan and/or a grant to Fall Creek.

Ownership of the building was brought into question, but Diann believes that this issue is close to resolution, and the ownership of the property is still with the Meeting.

Diann said that by the February Executive Committee meeting, the estimates of the cost of the needed work should be more accurate.

The clerk asked if the Budget and Finance Committee, small as it is [Fred Feitler and Wilson Palmer (*ex officio*)], could look at this issue before the February EC Meeting. Friends agreed. Diann will prepare a report and get it to Wilson and Fred, who will bring their recommendations to the February Executive Committee meeting.

The Meeting closed with silence.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be February 3rd at 10:00 am, via conference call.

Minutes prepared by Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

**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, attendees 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. 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

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
Fourth Month (April) 7, 2018
North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis

The Meeting opened with silent worship at 12:10 PM.

1. Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale, sent regrets

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann, present

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada, sent regrets; Christine Carver, substitute present

Assistant Recording Clerk: vacant

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer, present

Assistant Treasurer: vacant

Statistician: Frank Huss, sent regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: no representative

Auditing: Veronica Frost, not present

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer, present

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler, present

Earthcare: David Duvall, sent regrets

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale, sent regrets; and Rex Sprouse, present via Zoom

Nominating Committee: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and Diann Herzog, both present

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell, present via Zoom

Personnel: Stephen Angell, present

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley, present

Website Administrator: Lonny Burger, sent regrets

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons, present

Youth Services Committee: David Funck, present via Zoom

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost, not present

Whitewater: Terre Holada, sent regrets

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Christine Carver, present

Campus: Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt, present

Community: Deborah Jordan, sent regrets

Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley, present

Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer, present

Englewood: no representative

Fall Creek: Diann Herzog, present

Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler, present

Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli, present

Lexington: Richard Mitchell, present via Zoom

Louisville: no representative

Miami: David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, present via Zoom; and Lonny Burger, sent regrets

North Meadow: Dinah Duvall, present

Oxford: Doug Jones, present via Zoom; Stephen Angell, present

White Rose: no representative

Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski, present

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan, sent regrets

Youth Secretary: vacant

2. The clerk read the agenda, made several additions, and it was approved.

3. Correction to the Second Month (February) 3, 2018 Minutes

We approved a correction to the wording in Item 7. Personnel Committee, regarding the committee's role related to hiring a Youth Secretary and the addition of a heading, 7a. Youth Services Committee, to identify David Funck's report.

4. Treasurer's Report

Wilson Palmer presented the FY 2017-2018 YTD income and expenses. There was nothing remarkable. It was accepted.

5. 2018-2019 Budget

Wilson Palmer presented a General Fund Budget for next FY. It indicates about a \$12,000 deficit, but in recent years we have had surpluses mostly because of the unfilled Youth Secretary position. He noted that \$1500 in income has been lost as a result of lost membership.

6. Requests for Traveling Minutes

Paulette Meier, Community Friends Meeting, has a leading in the ministry of music and has shared this at both Quaker and non-Quaker venues. She has been invited to travel to Britain Yearly Meeting for presentations at Woodbrooke, Swarthmore Hall, and several monthly Meetings. Diann Herzog, Fall Creek Meeting, has a leading to be a traveling companion to Paulette in the role of an elder. We approved providing traveling minutes to Paulette Meier and Diann Herzog.

7. Ad Hoc Committee for Donations to Outside Groups

Michele Tomarelli gave a report with a proposal to amend the Handbook, pp. 32-33, Section 4.4 Budget Policy, Outline of the Budget Process, III. Contributions by replacing the last sentence in item a. Affiliated Friends Organizations with

In the event of a monetary shortfall or the urgent need to divert monies to some other worthy purpose, the Budget and Finance Committee may reduce the amounts donated to the Outside Quaker Organizations by the same percentage by which the overall budget is to be reduced.

Favoritism may not be shown: contributions to each of the Outside Quaker Organizations will be reduced by the same percentage.

We approved this change. The Ad Hoc Committee also suggested that in place of reports during business meeting at annual sessions, representatives could be available to answer questions. Finally we approved, with gratitude for their service, laying down the ad hoc committee since their task is complete.

8. Web Friend's Report

The clerk presented Lonny Burger's report: there was a problem with the Website, which he has fixed. We accepted the report with appreciation for his proactive approach.

9. Religious Nurture and Education

Nikki Coffey Tousley reported on their activities. They held a retreat at Quaker Hill Conference Center on Third Month (March) 17, on *Spiritual Practices for Healing and Refreshment*. The committee continues to discuss ways to support travel in the ministry and tentatively plan a retreat on Spiritual Accompaniment in late summer. They also feel they may be led to develop a policy on Sexual Harassment/Abuse for adults. The committee continues to encourage inter-visitation between monthly meetings outside of Quarterly Meetings. Meeting representatives shared examples of these experiences. We accepted the report.

10. Nominating Committee

Rhonda Pfalzgraff-Carlson provided a report. They have developed a new report format for annual sessions called “The Roles and Positions Report”, which will be much easier to use. We approve the following slate of nominees that she presented:

Lynn Funck	Budget and Finance
Stephen Angell	Budget and Finance
Bill Heilbron	Co-Statistician with Frank Huss, to enable him to learn this new role
Jamie Young	FCNL Representative
Phyllis Tonne	Children’s Program

We agreed that Nominating Committee members are responsible for notifying Friends that their service has been approved by the Executive Committee.

11. Annual Session Roles Filled by Executive Committee

We approved Deb Kociszewski to provide the Epistles Summary

We drafted a slate of names to be contacted by the Clerk for their interest in serving on the Epistolary Committee and the Memorial Committee.

12. Development Committee

Fred Feitler discussed how to proceed with fundraising plans. The Handbook does not refer to this committee, which was set up 3 years ago as a sub-committee of Budget and Finance. We directed Fred to first develop a charge for this committee, to indicate specific activities it will undertake, to be brought to Budget and Finance for approval.

13. Youth Services Committee

David Funck reported on the status of hiring a Youth Services secretary. They have circulated the job description to Earlham School of Religion, Wilmington College and all the OVYM monthly meetings. Chie Togami has agreed to lead the Youth program at the annual sessions. We accepted the report.

14. OVYM Planning Committee

Carol Simmons reported that the theme this year is *Sharing Our Light: Radical Love for the World*. Registration opens on Fourth Month (April) 15, 2018 for the Sixth Month (June) 13 to 17 Yearly Meeting sessions to be held at Earlham College. One poster to promote participation has already been distributed and more will be forthcoming. We accepted the report.

15. FGC’s Display at Annual Sessions

Susan Lee Barton would like to leave the FGC display with our Yearly Meeting. Dinah Duvall agreed to take it from Yearly Meeting to Joint Quarterly Meeting.

16. Review of Zoom

Today's meeting was delayed by 10 minutes due to technological problems. 5 people participated in the meeting via Zoom. Several who called in reported Zoom was better quality than Skype for them. A monitor and microphone are very important equipment to have for larger groups. The set-up should be tested well in advance of the meeting. We need to know where the wi-fi reception is best as well as the password at the host site. When two consecutive meetings will be held via Zoom, it is better to set them up as different Zoom meetings. The cost for Zoom is \$15 per month, but only if we use it. If we do not plan to use it, we can notify them and there will be no charge.

Our meeting ended at 3:25 PM with waiting worship.

Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Recording Clerk: Christine Carver

Ad Hoc Committee on Donations to Outside Organizations

Report to the OVYM Executive Committee

~~Second Month, Third Day, 2018~~

Fourth Month, Seventh Day

Over all, this committee has found that the organizations to which OVYM contributes money are active and worthy groups doing work in line with Quaker Principles. We have had a difficult time finding specific statistics on some of the organizations, but it appears that they all are using the money sent to them in a responsible way.

Each organization is supposed to provide an annual report to *Reports in Advance* and to have an representative (a.k.a. an advocate/witness) who is a member of OVYM. Failure to report is supposed to result in removal from our budget, but that has not been enforced. We feel that it should be.

We do not have a complete list of who our current OVYM representatives are; Michele is willing to continue working on that with the Nominating Committee. The Representative's job is 1. to remind their organization that they have a report due for *Reports In Advance*, 2. to provide OVYM with the name of their organization's contact person, 3. maintain information on the organization, 4. stand up for the organization at Yearly Meeting to answer questions about the organization's report. Note: the current policy is that organizations are to send a liaison (visitor) to Yearly Meeting, but we don't want to give an organization a couple of hundred dollars and then expect them to spend it on a trip to Yearly Meeting. We recommend that a report submitted to *Reports in Advance* would be enough, and that a live presentation merely eats up session time. As we said above, the representative would be at the annual session to answer questions.

The Ad Hoc Committee is still considering ways to allow Friends to propose new organizations to be added to the list, or to remove inactive ones. We are not feeling a call to create a standing committee (God forbid), but are trying to ensure that there is enough corporate memory so that the yearly Meeting and the next Ad Hoc committee have the information needed to do a good job.

One way to ensure corporate memory would be to propose more oversight of the Outside Organizations by placing them under the care of the appropriate standing committees. So, for example, Earthcare

Witness and its liaison would be under the observation of the Earthcare Committee. It would be the Committee's job to be aware of the activities of the organization, to work with the Nominating Committee to make sure that there *is* a representative, and to look to see if there is, indeed, a report in *Reports In Advance*. If there is a question about whether OVYM should continue funding an organization, the standing committee would then be able to advise.

The Standing Committees can also help with requests for additional organizations. Traditionally a Friend petitioning for an addition does so during the Yearly Meeting Sessions, but requests are often made on the passion of the moment following a presentation at the Session. If there is not solid support for the addition, the request may be set aside for seasoning. The Clerk may ask the petitioner to confer with an appropriate Standing Committee between Yearly Meeting Sessions to assist the seasoning.

The Ad Hoc Committee regrets that we will be unable to give a Yearly Meeting program session. None of us can be absolutely sure that we will be able to attend Annual Session this year, largely due to family obligations. We would like to propose instead that space be set aside for a poster session. The posters should be provided by the organizations and can be left in place so that Friends may peruse the posters at leisure. As a rule, OVYM offers hall space for organizations wishing to promote their information, but it would be good for Friends to see the organizations to which OVYM contributes. This is, of course, a matter for the Program Committee.

A concern has been raised about how a request is made that OVYM contribute to a new Outside Organization.

Finally, the Ad Hoc Committee wishes to amend the Handbook section on Contributions to Outside Organizations to read as follows:

In the event of a monetary shortfall or the urgent need to divert monies to some other worthy purpose, the Budget and Finance Committee may reduce the amounts donated to the Outside Quaker Organizations by the same percentage by which the overall budget is to be reduced. Favoritism may not be shown: contributions to each of the Outside Quaker Organizations will be reduced by that same percentage.

Please note that this amendment to the Handbook has been approved by the members of both the 1016-17 and the 2017-18 Ad Hoc Committees.

State of the Meeting Reports

BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

Bloomington Friends continue to meet at Harmony School while progress is made on the renovation of the old Meeting Room and the rebuild of the rest of the former Meeting House. We extended our lease with the school for another 6 months. Friends rallied to raise the money necessary to begin work and to agree on building plans for renovation and demolition and construction. During the Fall, the contractor moved forward with refurbishing the Meeting Room and foyer. Demolishing the old fellowship extension and construction of a new fellowship and classroom wing will begin in the Spring/Summer of 2018. In order to secure a mortgage and to limit personal liability of individuals, the Meeting achieved designation as an incorporated non-profit organization.

The care of the Meeting's children and families continues to be a major concern as the Meeting held a number of forums and committee discussions focused on strategies for the care of children, teens, families, and newcomers. This year, the Meeting created a new position, Childcare Coordinator, to ensure that childcare is provided at all Meeting events. A new Religious Education Curriculum Group began meeting and working out a plan for the religious education and childcare during Worship.

Throughout the year, the Nominating Committee led an effort to update the job descriptions of the 15 committees and 7 officers that are the organizational base of our meeting. This took a considerable effort but it was worthwhile since we are now "on the same page." The task was accomplished by early 2018. In the course of 2017, the Ministry and Counsel Committee updated the list of Meeting Members to be more reflective of the Meeting's active membership.

Throughout the year, a number of endeavors to nurture the Meeting community were undertaken. Pastoral Care Committee worked on solutions to the challenges faced by the hearing impaired in the Meeting. They also led community building activities at the end of Worship. Ministry & Counsel and Pastoral Care Committees shared responsibility for planning and leading the monthly First Sunday "Conversations on being a Quaker." The Evening of the Arts, where Friends share their individual artistic talents and endeavors, was held in April. In September, the annual Retreat was held at Solsberry Hill, west of Bloomington. Dinners for Friends took place in October where Friends met in small groups for dinner at individual Friends' homes. The Annual Christmas Party took place on December 16.

The Meeting also engaged with outside groups on efforts to improve the local community or the wider world. In October, the Meeting hosted the Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. The Meeting hosted the OVYM Earthcare Witness Fall meeting in November. Members and attenders of the Meeting formed an FCNL Advocacy Team, inviting others from outside the Meeting to join. The team has had successful meetings with the congressional offices representing Monroe County as well as publishing letters to the editor in papers throughout the state encouraging less spending on the Pentagon and more on the social safety net.

In August, the Meeting cosponsored a sing along concert, "Hope and Strength," presented by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, creators of the Rise Up Singing songbooks. In September, the Meeting cosponsored a fundraiser for the Capital Campaign and for AFSC, in honor of the organization's 100 years. Food, music, and displays told the stories of AFSC and of the Bloomington Friends Meeting. In

October, the Meeting cosponsored a talk organized by Bloomington Peace Action Coalition and given by Geoff Wilson from the Ploughshare Fund on “A New Generation of Nuclear Dangers.”

We have been heartened by the attendance of several new young families at our Meetings for Worship. In their energies lies the future of our meeting. Sadly, a longtime attendee, Betty Qualls, died. Her sons buried her in the Meeting Burial Grounds next to her husband; the Meeting hosted a Memorial Meeting with a potluck and fellowship following a worship that celebrated Betty’s life. A Clearness Committee for Marriage met with Laura Gleason and Mat Gordon who were married at the Friends Meeting of Washington DC on August 26 with Tunia McClure, representing the Meeting, in attendance.

As we report on what may seem a myriad of activities, we are reminded that Practice is only possible through the ongoing renewal of our Faith and the traditions of Friends that sustain us. Without our Meeting House Home, we at times can feel scattered, sometimes moving in the dark. Yet, through it all, our community remains strong, sustaining us and filling us with hope for the future. Above all, we cherish our First Day Meetings for Worship where we collectively draw on the power of the Spirit. Even in a school gym, with not-so-comfortable hard chairs and surrounding distractions, we continue to draw strength from gathering together faithfully. We love the tall windows where the sunlight streams in and sheds Light on us all.

CAMPUS FRIENDS MEETING

1. How does your meeting live in the life of God’s truth?

In our individual and corporate lives, we experience the truth of George Fox’s powerful insight that “Christ has come to teach the people Himself”. In our worship, we share the Truth with each other in our spoken ministry. We endeavor to discern God’s truth with expectant waiting as practiced in our meeting for worship. As our numbers have declined, we are still experiencing God’s presence amongst us.

2. in what ways does the truth of Christ set you free, and from what?

The written experience of early Friends, ‘live up to the Light (Truth) thou hast, and more will be granted thee’ is our reality as well. We are living at a time of internal and external conflict, divisiveness and rhetoric that is not a reflection of Divine Truth. With the daily-ness of this 21st century reality, Campus Friends and Eastern Hills Friends Meeting are joining together for a retreat on the topic: The Challenges of being a Friend in 2018. Our conversation will center around the Pendle Hill Pamphlet by Rex Ambler, *Living in Dark Times*, based on his talk at the 2016 Friends General Conference Gathering. It is our hope and intention that this retreat in April will help us discern how our Quaker faith can address our fears for the current world.

3. in a time of fake news, how do we as Christians discern the Truth?

We turn to trustworthy Quaker news sources such as the FCNL newsletter and web site, as well as other well-established news sources such as the New York Times. We cherish the wisdom and experience of our meeting Elders as guiding lights. We balance what we hear and see in the world around us with the scriptural truths which speak of love, forgiveness, walking the extra mile and giving aid to neighbor.

“Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)” declares the FCNL bumper sticker of choice among Campus Meeting Friends!

We continue our corporate gatherings of First Sunday Fellowship Meals, monthly Book Club meetings and Fifth Sunday Sharing as these continue to strengthen and empower us to live lives of Truth to the best of our ability as individuals and as a meeting for worship.

CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Where is the Spirit active among Clear Creek Friends?

Our first answer would be in our meetings for worship. These have tended to be quieter in recent times, but many see this as a sign of deepening rather than dormancy. If one measure of our faithfulness in worship is our dedication to a more just and peaceful world, then we are on the right track—though we must also admit that the new national administration that began in 2017 has played an important role in springing many from their political slumbers.

This past year has been a time of renewal of social concern. As a result, some rededicated themselves to the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation and formed a local advocacy group. Some were drawn into concerns for immigrants, and toward the end of the year we began consideration of a minute on becoming a meeting in solidarity with the sanctuary movement. A sense of urgency has been alarming for some yet focusing for others. There is certainly much work to be done, and we have sought to be Spirit-led in our activism.

This activism has led us into more interaction with other Friends meetings in our town and region. Such cooperation has in turn strengthened ties as we have increased our number of shared worship times with other Richmond Friends. The Spirit calls us singly and calls us together.

There is vitality within our meeting community. A monthly book group thrives. A spiritual discussion group is also active. Our Adult Religious Education Committee leads us in monthly discussions on such topics as religious life and civil society, responsible reading of scripture, writing in the Spirit, and the nature of community. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has led occasions to consider various themes, including Right Sharing of World Resources, white privilege, sustainability, and sanctuary & solidarity.

We remembered our dead as two long-time members passed away, and we have sought to be supportive to a faithful attender whose spouse died this year

Like many Friends meetings and other religious communities in our country, we are an aging group, desirous of younger participants but not proving attractive to many. We remain open to the Spirit as we seek to discern our purpose as a meeting at such a time.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING

This past year Community Friends Meeting has felt the ebb and flow of the spiritual currents in the life of our meeting community. We mourned the sudden loss of Ken Bordwell, who slipped peacefully away at home the day after sharing his spiritual journey following meeting for worship in October. Ken's message of listening to that of God in one another was a powerful reminder that each of us can be a channel for God's love unawares. Some of our meeting members are experiencing health challenges and have had to step back from responsibilities long carried. Others have stepped up to take on these tasks. The community pulled together to support Frank Huss during his ongoing miraculous recovery after a sudden injury.

But in spite of these losses, we remain steadfast to our deeply rooted spiritual path, and people do keep discovering the vital energy at work in our midst. We have welcomed a good number of visitors and new attenders including several who have become active in the life of the meeting. One new couple has expressed that they have "found their spiritual home!" Outreach Committee is hosting "Coffee with a Quaker" for newcomers, and offers a packet of literature on Quakerism to those who have been attending regularly. Several outside groups are using our meetinghouse space, including faith and justice groups, a holistic mental health group, and a permaculture group, and occasionally a visitor will come to worship with us after learning about us at such an event.

The FCNL lobbying group has been lively! We have hosted meaningful conversations about decreasing military spending with Congressional representatives who traditionally back the military such as Brad Wenstrup and Steve Chabot. It was a testament to the human connections these conversations can build when Steve Chabot spoke at Ken Bordwell's memorial meeting!

Spiritual deepening has been nurtured through another series of Inreach groups, on topics including the Parables, Quaker book study, Mindful Living: Opening to Natural Spirit for Healing, and Intervisitation to other meetings in OVYM. Friendly Six groups met for social activities throughout the year, and an Intro to Quakerism class was offered in early 2018. Ministry and Counsel held a series of three Second Hour discussions about our Quaker roots and practices, which provided opportunities for good sharing and discussion. Our fall Renewal was led by Dale Hayes around the question, "How is the Quaker tradition of Christianity relevant today?" Outreach to the community has included our ministry to Tender Mercies, a shelter for formerly homeless persons with mental illness, where we provide and serve a meal once a month.

There are usually only two or three children and two teens attending meeting, but the two First Day School classes have been very successful. The teens have been doing an in-depth book reading of Phil Gulley's book on Quaker Testimonies, "The Quaker Way," and the intermediate class is also learning about Quaker testimonies. A special joy was having the Funcks' two foster children active in First Day School, and having them share in the life of our meeting community over the past year.

Meeting for worship continues to be the center of our spiritual life together. Worship is often centered, and vocal ministry has been mostly spirit led and well received. We are reminded, in these times of division, violence, and tragedy, that we live in the midst of a holy paradox of beauty and suffering, and that calamity in the world calls out for courage, hope, and compassionate action.

DAYTON FRIENDS MEETING

A year ago, on the last First Day in Third Month, Dayton Meeting moved into our new home after a year of planning, tearing down and rebuilding. This past year has been one of settling in, planting seeds, and building a home, as we fan the flames of witness and hospitality at the center of our hearth and hearts. When we pause to look around, we are thankful for our cozy new home and are seeking ways to open it up to the surrounding community. We held an open house in late May, and enjoyed the company of some of our neighbors. Our fall retreat focused around the theme of Hospitality. We reflected on welcoming God into our lives, shared our experiences of being “at home,” and practiced articulating our faith tradition to imagined guests. British Friend Harvey Gilman writes,

“Community grows when we can offer a sense of home at the same time we remember what it is to be a guest ourselves. A biblical parallel here is the injunction given to the Israelites, who are to treat their neighbors with justice because they themselves were strangers once in Egypt and knew what it was like to be the stranger. There is always a danger that we end up designing the home of our faith in such a way that only close relatives feel at ease.” (Pendle Hill Pamphlet 314).

We have attracted new visitors, some of whom have joined into the life of the Meeting. We regularly have 12-16 Friends at weekly worship, yet we miss the presence of children, as we do not have any regularly attending. One of our members felt a leading to use her abundant gifts in education, music and drama, and has just begun a weekly music class for preschool and early elementary children in the Meetinghouse. We are thankful for her faithfulness, and hope that this will attract families to the meeting as well as serve a need in the neighborhood. She is also encouraging us to create a welcoming children’s space in our side yard.

We are happy to report we have one new member, a Friend who attended occasionally for many years but has been now become an integral part of our Meeting. We also have two other requests for membership in the clearness process. Attendance was higher last summer, but travel, family concerns and work kept some of Friends away over the winter. Two seasoned Friends have faced serious health concerns, and their absence has been felt when they have been unable to participate. Both serve on our Ministry and Counsel Committee, which has met with only two members more than once this year. We do see the development of other leadership within the Meeting, and hope that we can spread out the work of the spiritual care of the meeting. We held a Meeting for Healing for both, and want to continue this practice for other Friends in need of prayer and support. We approved an Abuse Prevention Policy this winter to protect children in the meeting. The policy had been brought forward several years ago but had not been finalized.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been energized this year by new members, and has been meeting at a regular time each month. They are hosting discussions on a web series called *“The Future We Need... and How to Get It”* by Nancy Glock-Grueneich of Santa Cruz Friends (Pacific YM), who attended our meeting while sojourning in the area three years ago. The committee continues to discern how we can best serve the community, especially the local refugee population. We recently decided on the simple contribution of gathering before worship to pick up trash along the street once a month. We also have an outside “help” box with resources for neighbors in need. Funds were collected for both the Right Sharing Fund and Quaker Heights during events this year.

Other activities at the heart of our community include monthly pot-lucks, work days, second hour discussions and our monthly writing group. The writing group led a well-received workshop at Yearly Meeting to share their format with other meetings. We had a Christmas celebration where the artists in the Meeting shared their work, and held a New Year's Eve worship, inviting other local meetings. Earlier in the year, some Friends attended a Ramadan event at a local mosque, which is attended by the daughter and grandchildren of one of our members. These activities bind us together in Friendship and provide opportunities to deepen our faith.

There is still practical work to do in settling into our home, including painting and installing more insulation, but thanks to the generous gifts of funds and sweat equity, we are in place without a mortgage. A gift of 24 new upholstered chairs has made our meeting room more comfortable and harmonious. We are clarifying policies for others who might want to use our space, and hope it can become a gathering spot for other groups. We hosted a meeting of Ohioans to Stop Executions last spring. Several visitors from other Meetings have brought us joy this year, including a corporate visit from Oxford Meeting, who joined us for worship and a pot luck.

This report is being written toward the end of a long, cold early spring. We look forward to the coming warmth and eagerly anticipate the opening buds on the trees and shrubs we planted last year. Seeds of early greens are waking up in our raised bed garden, which was provided by Mission of Mary, a local non-profit and CSA which is working to provide fresh food in our urban environment. It is good to pause to ask ourselves what other seeds God has planted here at 345 Wyoming Street in Dayton's South Park neighborhood? What kind of Spirit is being kindled at our hearth?

EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS MEETING

We seek to live in Truth. In this quest, the signs of success are found in how love prospers among us.

We support one another in many ways. We have several small groups for Bible study or for spiritual nurture. In one session following worship, we challenged each other to name our ministries, and encouraged each member to live into their ministry. Regularly, we hold meetings for healing; these have taken on special significance as many of us have faced serious health challenges during the year.

We serve our local community. Several of us are involved with hospice care. We support Greater Anderson Promotes Peace, a local organization that we helped get started. Monthly, we serve lunch at Jimmy Heath House, a "shelter first" house for people experiencing homelessness, and over the years, we have built a sense of community with these people by simply eating together, conversing with them as they are willing.

We have helped people serve the larger community: some, through active participation in Habitat for Humanity, one, through a service project to Guatemala. We have also provided both our time and treasure to a neighbor's medical mission to Haiti.

We are pleased to welcome a new member this year, and we have been blessed by the regular participation of new attenders. They tell us that we have been welcoming. They appreciate our support for their own spiritual journeys, and our commitment to our rich Quaker heritage. We are happy for the presence of very young children, a presence that had characterized our meeting for many years but had been absent for far too long.

Eastern Hills is a bridge meeting, with membership in both Ohio Valley and Wilmington Yearly Meetings. This has been a part of the definition of who we are, and how we see ourselves fitting in the context of the larger Quaker world. We take the responsibility of membership in these larger bodies seriously, and have always had members who are active in each. We also have members who have long been active in Friends World Committee for Consultation. Thus, our meeting has prospered though working with meetings with very different points of view. We value love and fellowship over theological purity, and we find our faith enriched by seeking to understand others' experience.

Recently, conflicts over a number of issues, especially same gender marriage, have been bubbling up in Wilmington Yearly Meeting. We pray that a way forward can be found for Wilmington Yearly Meeting that accepts how God's Truth is manifest among its diverse meetings while preserving both integrity and community, values central to our testimony.

In this time where pretense and propaganda seem to dominate the air, we strive to make our meeting an oasis where humility and honesty are fostered, where we can breathe in the love that God so freely offers us all.

ENGLEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING

This past year has found us with low attendance from our active members due to a variety of reasons.

We are currently engaged in the process of discussion on whether to lay the meeting house down or invite others who may be in need of a place to gather to share our meeting house. We ask that you hold us in the light as we explore our options.

FALL CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Fall Creek Friends are often few in number on First Day mornings. Several of our members have been prevented from attending regularly by health issues and other personal concerns. These absences are keenly felt, particularly in our meetings for business. Nevertheless, our worship together is deep and enriching. Vocal ministry, when it is offered, is received in a spirit of openness and love.

This year, we have joyfully welcomed several new children, attenders and a new member. Our thoughts have naturally turned toward plans for more regular religious education, which has been sporadic in the past. We will shortly begin a Quakerism 101 course, which we expect to be nourishing even to those of us who have called Quakerism home for many years.

The size and age of our physical meetinghouse continue to consume a great deal of our meeting's energy. Last fall we held a called meeting to discuss some of our challenges and to discern our way forward. Though these challenges have not disappeared, we recognize that our physical home is a precious gift. Maintaining it is work we feel led to do together. We understand that our burdens are not ours alone, and we are grateful for the love and support that have been offered by Friends from our wider community.

As a result of our fundraising efforts, the meeting is at present financially healthy. We have decided to proceed with several short-term projects on the meetinghouse, such as the construction of a wheelchair-accessible ramp. We continue to discern the scope of larger renovations, for which we will need to seek outside assistance.

FORT WAYNE FRIENDS MEETING

2017-2018 has been a busy year for Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. Our small numbers (between 4-15 members and attenders) does not inhibit us from being active in the community. We attempt to be guided by the spirit in our activities together, searching for the light within and without our small group. We have had visitors and attenders who have enriched our experience with their questions and input. We continue to serve wider Quaker concerns such as AFSC committees and OVYM offices. Our meeting has partnered again with our host church, Plymouth Congregational Church, in serving meals at a homeless shelter, assisting with cleaning supplies to those affected by the recent hurricanes, and providing seasonal gifts for the LGBTQ families in need. In addition, we participated with other congregations in exploring becoming a Sanctuary city to immigrants. We agreed upon a statement to endorse Fort Wayne as a welcoming city for those from other regions and ethnicities.

Our lives have been enriched by the young families who have been attenders and actively involved in the life of our meeting. Several members of the meeting were involved with and attended the Religious Education Collaborative held in Richmond this summer. The adults have enjoyed meeting with the children for their education in Bible studies and Quaker Queries. We are amazed and uplifted by their participation and enthusiasm. We are saddened that one of these families will be leaving us for warmer climates.

Our Meeting has been challenged this year with discerning what we can do in the face of the diminution of rights for immigrants and continued violence in our community and nation. Some of us have stood in solidarity with the recent March for our Lives, and assisted with a high school program to promote peace and justice. We are a small but active group. We at times struggle with discerning the best ways to be supportive of one another as well as being active in the larger community.

LAFAYETTE FRIENDS MEETING

Family issues have loomed large among Lafayette Friends this year and that has hampered our activities as a meeting somewhat. Many of us have had an illness or a death in the family and this has offered us the opportunity for practice at ministering to each other and holding each other in the Light. Even so, it has been a productive year, with interesting events.

After a decade of service, our busy clerk, Ann Pellegrino has stepped down and Karen Acheson has taken her place. Karen is not new to the job and we are in good hands. While it was a surprise to discover how many things Ann had been handling, we have reassigned the jobs more evenly, and Ann is still active in the meeting, so the transition has been a smooth one. We are all very grateful for Ann's hard work and her patience with us and happy that Karen has taken the reins as clerk.

This transition has challenged us to examine our priorities individually and as a Meeting. In a small Meeting such as ours, fulfilling the duties as well as meeting the spiritual needs of our community can stretch us thin. After prayerful discussion, we again see how important it is for our Meeting to strive to ensure that Friends are led rather than pushed into service to the Meeting.

Over the past year, we have been striving with our state and local politicians. Two of our member/attenders, both active Adult Young Friends and both active in FCNL and the Yearly Meeting,

have completed their educations at Purdue, and moved to California. Without their presence, we will probably become less effective lobbyists, but so be it. Another attendee has moved to Bloomington. She has always kept us abreast of events in the wider faith community and we will miss her.

We have felt the leading to reach outward more this year. We are trying to make it easier for the Wider World to find us and have reached out to Purdue whenever the opportunity arises. In that regard, one of our artistic attendees has fashioned a welcoming banner to hang outside during Meeting for Worship, and we have installed the large blue “Love Thy Neighbor, No Exemptions” banner in the front yard. (The banner vanished, but efforts are being made to retrieve or replace it.) We’ve had various students visiting from Purdue. A student from the Psychology of Prosocial Behavior class came to meeting and afterwards did a fine presentation on the Hanna Center. The Hanna Center is a community center here in Lafayette that was founded by and named after our own Hanna Hellinger Meisner, the Friend who left us her home for our meeting house. Our presenter and her team mates got an A, both from us and from her professor. We also had a visit from students from the Sociology of Religion class. Each team of students in the class chooses a religion and this team chose the Society of Friends! They sat with us in meeting and asked questions for their report.

Also, Lafayette Friends Meeting now has a Facebook page, thanks to the diligent care of one of our tech savvy attendees. We now have a site with Quaker Cloud as well, which we hope will make it easier for folks to find us. We are still tinkering with it, but after a few meetings on how we want it to look, are not unhappy with the way it is turning out.

After several years with no children, we have been blessed with the company of a few wonderful young Friends for the last two years. In our effort to meet their needs for spiritual education, our First Day School provided time for one of these two younger Friends to complete his “Duty to God” project for the Boy Scouts of America, under the Friends Committee on Scouting, an affiliated program of FWCC. He worked on it for a long time and gave us a report of his final booklet on his Faith Journey that was very interesting. Some weeks later a uniformed representative from the Friends Committee on Scouting/BSA came to meeting and afterwards she formally presented our Scout with a great big medal for his uniform. None of us had seen such a ceremony before and we are positively sinning with pride. Now we are looking to FGC curriculum materials.

In the past we have taken meeting to Friends who could not come to us. We are doing this again with a long-time member who has moved into assisted living due to mobility problems. Now and then, when he feels able, we have meeting for worship at a gathering room in his new home, leaving a Friend behind at our meeting house in case of visitors. We miss him and it is a fun outing for all of us.

Our Meeting has found it valuable for many years to devote time once monthly for communal reflection and study of a topic one of us has brought forward, a time we call “Quakerism 102”. This spring we have added the worship sharing format to some of these times, and many of us, though not all, found this format insightful and fulfilling.

We are a small Meeting, but find our worship, effort and fellowship to be an enriching and connecting part of our lives. In addition to the work we do as a community, we peruse diverse callings as individuals and the Meeting tries to support those efforts, as well. As always, we recognize that there will always be new challenges as a community, and new opportunities for us to grow in the Light.

LEXINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

It is with joy we can report that a vibrant, passionate, and committed group of Friends continue to gather for worship and fellowship each week in Lexington, Kentucky. We hold dear our tradition, actively embrace change, and celebrate the Spirit, which goes before our community on its journey toward each other and toward the Light. As we reflect on our recent reports from previous years, we have the privilege to reiterate many of the praises, and some challenges found there; and in addition we recognize the positive contribution of new practices to our Friends' experience.

Our Meeting has been blessed and encouraged by several young families and attenders whom, as we have noted over the past few years, have become an integral part of our core fellowship. We have also continued to welcome new and regular attenders throughout this current season. From those numbers, we gladly record that two have joined the official membership of our society. We excitedly have witnessed an increased involvement from these individuals including service on our committees, taking ownership and further developing the First Day religious education program for our students, and stepping into various other leadership roles. We recognize the vital part each newcomer is playing in our community and hail the pitter patter of little feet as one of our Meeting's most distinguishing qualities.

We believe that our growing and active community is a testament to the home, meaning, and spiritual enrichment that members are finding here. First Day worship is a key component of that experience. We host a supportive and educational First Hour conversation on a variety of subjects based on Meeting interests and current events. This past year we have notably introduced a new series that we endearingly call "The Quaker Way 101," held on the first Sunday of each month. These sessions feature varied speakers and have been extremely well attended by newer and steadfast attendees alike. Members have indicated this series in particular has increased our collective understanding of Quaker values, principles and history; clarified our traditions; and brought about a further unity and cohesiveness.

Enlivening our First Day worship is the group of talented musicians who sing, play the piano or oftentimes another instrument to begin our weekly meeting. One specific First Day this year our young students organized, selected, and shared all of the music to the joy of those present. The room fills with celebration and welcome as Friends settle to lift voices together. Some of our members use this time to care for and nurture those who may have been absent for a week or two as they check-in and focus on how the Spirit has been moving. We have come to value how our music frequently provides a wonderful segue as our minds slow and reverently settle into silence and expectant waiting. Vocal ministry during the meeting changes from week to week but in general is of a prominent, diverse, uplifting, and connected quality. This year we have begun to reserve the last five minutes for Friends to speak concerns, praises, and joys for our community to hold in the light. We find this practice has enriched our worship by providing a dedicated space to hear and share in the lives of our fellow Friends.

We believe it is necessary to point out that our First Day meetings have been affected by the politics of today. These subjects are close to home and weigh heavy on the hearts of many among our number. We are proud of the way our members stand in their passions, beliefs, and values. We think that the toll today's societal division has taken on our spirits speaks to our engagement and care for the world. We encourage individual involvement through our Peace and Social Concerns committee and yet want to be careful that, in a world where we recognize that the political is very personal, our vocal ministry during worship is not becoming partisan and showing signs of a particular bent. Additionally, members have expressed concern that our passion can lead to lack of space between messages, taking away time for

Friends to reflect and meditate. We continue to take these observations to heart and discuss the concerns openly as a group.

Outside of First Day we continue to enjoy potlucks twice a month. These events provide opportunity to come together during the week and enjoy food and fellowship with those close to us. We discuss a topic of interest or share and learn from the spiritual journeys of our members. When there is a fifth Sixth Day, we have begun to host a special potluck that focuses on the artistic talents in our community: the talents range from visual art to performance and music. These days are full of laughter and celebration. Additionally, over the past couple of months we have turned to the testimony of Friend Rex Ambler and others and begun the practice of a monthly “Experiment with Light Group” on a Fourth Day. Although this is a new exercise, attendees have seen value and appreciate this methodical approach to bringing circumstances into the Light and before the Spirit.

While we have wonderful and encouraging updates to share, we want to be transparent regarding the pain and wounds of those in our companionship. Previously reported events regarding conflict with a difficult attender, another member who was released from prison, recent situations such as the passing of a treasured and longtime member and personal experiences with tragedy frequently occupy our hearts and minds. We actively seek healing within ourselves and in our community. To this end we continue our biweekly Meeting for Healing which remains important to our Friends. We have met with Friends from another Meeting to address some misunderstandings. We have also sought outside assistance by bringing in a guest speaker to our First Hour to collaborate on setting boundaries and ensuring that Lexington Friends Meeting is a safe space. These conversations about creating a safe space are ongoing, and we look forward to some planned programs hosted by our members on topics like vulnerability and belonging as we continue to learn together.

Our fellowship delights in our traditions and where they have brought us. We reflect on our past and see the meaning, growth, celebrations, and happiness it has contained. We are also aware of the hurt that lies therein. We embrace our present as a source of joy. Each day we gather we have the privilege of seeing our dearest friends and experiencing our newest friendships while observing what each one brings to the circle. We love bearing witness to the growing and thriving preschool under our care. And as we look to the future we have the greatest hope for the possibilities, empathy, and unity we believe it will bring.

LOUISVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Louisville Meeting is showing signs of being ready, as one Friend put it, to get unstuck.

We have a group of parents and others who have re-energized our Religious Education committee. The annual statewide Friends retreat—All Kentucky Gathering—last fall saw several of these families participating for the first time, and the activities and interactions have renewed our quest for engaging educational programming for our small, age-diverse group of children. Of course, weekly variation in the numbers of children attending is also a challenge.

All the new people and energy around religious education could not have come at a better time. Beth Parrish-- former Louisville clerk and long-time teacher and planner for our First Day School—has moved to Berea, KY for her retirement. Beth’s life is literally a testimony to her Quaker values. Our loss will be an inestimable gain for Berea Friends Meeting.

We still are adapting to meet our budget from current donations. We have large reserves and it has been a temptation to use them significantly to meet our basic ongoing needs. However, our Meeting did decide to use the annual net increase in our reserves for our charitable contributions, so we are wanting to keep that amount higher by not drawing down the reserves for month-to-month and annual expenses.

We have had fewer, but better attended, adult education Second Hours. Maybe not surprisingly, we find food and potlucks in particular help us draw people in and the discussions themselves keep us there. Topics we have addressed include: values; what it means to us to be Quakers in our lives; what comes in and from meeting for worship that helps people; revisions to the Faith and Practice; and others. The conversations are always personal and they broaden our understanding of each other as well as our understanding of Quakerism itself.

Even as he is still being “group-mentored” into the job, our new clerk is leading us into more business meeting topics—like the financial reserves issue-- requiring deep discernment and choices. We are considering a pilot of changing the time when children are with us in worship. We are also pondering how we make ourselves more visible in the community, and what we are called to stand for. While we have slightly lower attendance at Meeting for Business than last year, we have a bit wider span of ages, and that makes the discussions and insights richer.

We continue to see a stream of visitors, and not just those with Quaker connections. We have much to learn yet about making them feel authentically welcome, but we are being better about inviting them into small roles around potluck, on planning committees, and with standing committees.

We are asking ourselves how we can expand the life of our Meeting beyond us, both into the larger community and into the future. There is movement of the Spirit here. More are listening for our Guide. We hope to maintain and build from that energy in the rest of the year.

MIAMI MONTHLY MEETING

The Friends of Miami Monthly Meeting continue to maintain and enjoy an increase in the numbers of attenders and members at Meeting on Sundays as we gather in the spirit of love and peace to build our commitment to our Quaker faith. We have welcomed for membership a former member of the Monteverde Monthly Meeting in Monteverde Costa Rica, and have reaped the benefit of the history and perspective this new member has brought to our First Day School discussions. Another of our newer members has attended the School of the Spirit and presented a paper she wrote on Spirituality in Organizations.

We continue to grow our spiritual education with rotating topics in First Day School that include Quaker History, Bible Study, and discussions of writings from other branches of Christianity and other religious traditions. We have also enjoyed visiting speakers to our First Day School – Paul Buckley from Community Meeting in Cincinnati, who spoke on his book, *The Essential Elias Hicks*; and Russ Adams from Columbus Meeting who discussed his work on Lake Erie Meeting’s Quaker Earthcare Committee.

Our Quaker witness in the wider community continues. We visit the residents of Quaker Heights Care Community (QHCC) every two months where we provide inspirational readings, Bible verses and songs to the residents. Several of our members also continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of QHCC. Additionally, we continue to support the Waynesville Area Heritage and Culture Center through our

volunteer service to the Waynesville Museum, and have begun participation in supporting the Waynesville Food Bank through the regular donation of canned goods collected each Sunday at Meeting for Worship.

Again this year, members of our Meeting gathered at Fort Ancient for our annual outdoor worship and picnic. Joined by Friends from other OVYM Meetings, we experienced a very spiritually and uplifting Meeting for Worship under the trees of this ancient Native American site.

This year, our Meeting provided the Children's Program at Quarterly Meeting in March with a trip to Pioneer Village at Caesar's Creek.

As our numbers increase, and our sense of community grows, we at Miami Monthly Meeting find ourselves blessed with a strengthened sense of the Divine Spirit in our Meeting House and among the Friends who gather there.

NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

It is Spring. As I look at the greening of new shoots and even some blossoms appearing it seems to reinforce the stability and the new experiences our meeting and the yearly meeting and FGC offer us.

We have some things that have become perennial issues for us as we try to make not enough income go further in our desires to support causes that are important to us in the wider Quaker world and in our city. We are once again starting to have discussions about our meeting house and how it does and doesn't meet our needs. We need to be open to the Spirit on both of these issues to see where we are led.

At the suggestion of our insurance company we had a threshing session regarding our response to physical threats to our meeting. Our conclusion was that our primary concern was for the safety as best we can achieve it for those present in our meeting house and any who might choose to challenge that. There was no concern evidenced for the physical space or contents of our meeting house.

Our first day school has become more stable. We have about 10 attenders divided into two classes--teens and elementary school age and younger. Meetings are held regularly to share teaching ideas and solutions to difficulties. This ad hoc committee allows parents and potential teachers gather to discuss the special work of sharing our Quaker faith with our younger attenders.

One of our attenders introduced us to a Spiritual Deepening exercise. Every other First Day those of us who are interested meet to read and discuss essays by Quakers. It brings us to interesting discussions. We may only get through a very few paragraphs each time but we are free to thoroughly discuss the material--and look up with surprise when our time is up.

Some of us have taken advantage of the eRetreats that FGC offers on line and learning about implicit bias at the Peace Learning Center. There are those of us who are involved in the opportunities that our yearly meeting offers us. We have involvement with AFSC and National Friends Committee on Legislation as well as the Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation.

Our annual experience at the Festival of Faiths was moved into the World War Memorial--an irony not lost on us--due to a rain storm. I am not sure how many outsiders came but the participants were using the time to look over each other's booths.

This year a group in the community is making use of some of our green space to create garden plots to grow food. There will be a farmers' market located in a parking lot adjoining our meeting house this summer. This will provide more visibility for our meeting house and opportunities for us to engage with the community around us.

We have lost some of our group to death. Marshall Gibson died last summer and Joyce Felton and Denny Troth died during the winter.

We have had two members/attenders move to Kendal in Oberlin Ohio. And we added a new member this last year. There was a wedding this year that the meeting joyfully helped plan and helped celebrate.

We also had two new babies born into the meeting. The parents of one of the children introduced us to a baby welcoming service that had been observed at their previous meeting. It was simple but quite moving. This will probably be something that we can offer all new parents. And we do delight in the voices and sounds our young friends bring to us.

OXFORD FRIENDS MEETING

How does Truth prosper among us?

Experiences of worship

Our meeting for worship is often silent, and people do find it helpful, even transformational, to be in communal silence, and also find vocal ministry meaningful. We allow space for God to move, to meet us where we are. The circle centers us, connects us to our fellows, and reminds us that God is with/in us, and that the circle is everywhere, infinitely expandable.

We are enriched by our practice of sharing thoughts after meeting. People experience meeting as a place where we feel welcome to speak our personal truths. Meeting is a sanctuary, a safe place for sharing. Truth can come out without fear. Several people are especially touched by experiences of synchronicity, when others express having a similar leading, thought, feeling or experience, either in the silence or in the subsequent conversation.

We are inclusive of a range of contemplative practices in meeting, such as reading of inspirational texts, journaling, prayer and meditation. We are also nourished by a number of different contemplative practices outside of meeting: e.g., journals, gardening, hiking, meditative practices. We are inclusive of a range of religious beliefs and language. The Truth speaks itself differently among us, and we treasure that diversity. We also appreciate our practice of grounding our meeting monthly in reading of an OUYM query. Not only does this remind us of shared values, but the query form engages us in self-reflection.

United in service

We treasure the fact that many of our group traditions express a culture of service. We annually participate in the Church World Service school bag and hygiene kit project. Our community-building potluck events typically culminate in service activities. At our Fall Potluck, we discussed environmental sustainability actions that we could take collectively, and we chose to purchase recycled paper goods for the InterFaith Center where we meet for worship. At our Advent Event, we focused on food insecurity. One of our members is helping to organize a student-led food pantry for students at his school who need food over weekends and holidays. We brought groceries to help stock the pantry and collected monetary donations for the local Community Choice Pantry. Support for the summer needs of the student food pantry will be featured at our Spring Fling event. The meeting annually participates in the local Empty Bowls fundraising event. This year we were represented at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Habitat house in Oxford. We are grateful for these opportunities for collective action because these underscore the spiritual roots of our service, enhance our connection to one another, and magnify the impact of our action.

Invigorated by our youth

Our youth vary in their preference for staying in meeting vs. participating in First Day School activities. We are trying a more flexible model of two-part lessons, so that some youth can participate for one part and then return to meeting, while others stay to complete an additional component. Some recent sample topics have been: Quakers and abolition, social activist journalists, the simplicity testimony and the civil rights movement. We always benefit from hearing our youth report about their discussions in First Day School. They actively engage with the topics, and enjoy the challenge of thinking about their views and sharing them with the rest of us. We experience this as multigenerational ministry, where ministry flows both directions.

Broader Quaker connections

We are grateful to our members who connect us to the broader Quaker world because these connections remind us that we are part of a network of faith and practice. Many of our second hour activities have emphasized this theme. It was a meaningful communal activity to help host the May Quarterly Meeting at Miami Meeting in Waynesville. We also traveled to visit Dayton Meeting in their new meetinghouse. We were inspired by a Yearly Meeting workshop to have a second hour collective writing session. We celebrated World Quaker Day with a cake and intergenerational activity. We learned about FCNL Advocacy teams, discussed Faith and Practice revisions, and will soon undertake discernment of FCNL priorities. Our monthly meeting has a higher than average per-capita participation in the Quarterly and Yearly meetings and beyond; our experiences in our local meeting help support us in working for the broader Quaker community.

Growing edges

We meet in the InterFaith Center, which has experienced considerable struggles this year, including leadership and financial difficulties. We would like to update our lease with them to reflect our current needs for use of the building, the level of financial contribution that we are already making, and the potential for a permanent sign representing our tenancy for outreach purposes.

The meeting wrestled this year with the roles and functions of the meeting, and made some major changes to our committee structure and to the roles of Clerk and Assistant Clerk. We continue to individually and corporately discern what the core functions of the meeting are, what gifts are needed to carry out those activities, and who (preferably more than one) among us can serve.

The meeting is conducting a series of outreach-inreach discussions on questions such as: What is the best use of our time as a small meeting to serve our visitors and attenders as well as prospective attenders? Before we do outreach we need to examine what we have to offer. Our goal in doing both inreach and outreach is not just to add numbers but to add to the quality of our community. We treasure our willingness and ability to share what is important to us about our meeting. These discussions have helped to deepen our understanding of how Truth prospers among us.

An area of challenge for us, and an opportunity for growth, is to respond effectively to external events with action that visibly expresses our faith.

Sense of community

We experience our meeting as a spiritual home, a community within our larger communities, where we can share things that might be uncomfortable to share elsewhere, a safe place in the world from which to reflect on that world. We treasure the open conversation, the smiles, the sincerity of those who respond to requests for guidance, and the feeling of family in shared meals.

We also experience our meeting as a nest, where some people sojourn briefly, others for a longer time, but it is a place for growth. We are glad that the differences among us challenge us to grow and to learn things that hadn't occurred to us. We appreciate the Quaker practice of group discernment, which overcomes distortions that may occur in solitude. Our location on the edge of a university campus contributes to our potential to be a source of light and support for those who sojourn with us during their education and careers.

WHITE ROSE FRIENDS MEETING

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We continue to meet the first and third First Day of each month for fellowship and worship. We are presently at three regular attendees. Three of our members make up the Ft. Wayne Worship group, and they on occasion meet with us in Wabash, and we on occasion join them in Ft. Wayne. We would welcome more Friends to join us.

Due to the activities of each, we do not meet some of our scheduled days by mutual agreement. The size of the meeting does not easily allow participation by the meeting itself in many activities, but we believe the commitments of the individuals to their various organizations takes the place of these responsibilities, which are usually fulfilled through the meeting. We remain, each in our own way, active in Christ's and Quaker's affairs.

YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS MEETING

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting gathers for worship and fellowship at Rockford Chapel on the Antioch College Campus, 515 President St., Yellow Springs, Ohio. As a Meeting we welcome and support a wide range of theological understandings and commitments.

Worship:

YSFM offers multiple meetings for worship each week. There are early worship meetings on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and a Thursday afternoon worship-sharing group; each of these attracts a core of faithful attenders, not all of whom would identify themselves formally as Friends. A regular Meeting

for Worship gathers at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays; this is typically attended by between 25 to 40 members, attenders, and occasional seekers. We have again this year been graced by the steady presence of Antioch students in our Meeting.

First Day:

First Day for Children:

The young children's First Day program at 10:00 a.m. draws its lessons from the Godly Play and Faith and Play curricula. This year our numbers of children have been lower than in years past. We only have 2 consistent attenders in the young children's program. The kids will arrive on Sunday for hands-on storytelling steeped in the Montessori tradition. Like many other meetings we continue to long for more families able to commit to regular attendance to energize our program even more. We continue to plan intergenerational events that build our relationships with young attenders. Some examples being game nights, talent shows and retreat activities that bring us all together.

Middle Youth and Teens:

Our middle youth and teens have continued to meet with a rich program that invites individual members of the meeting to come and speak about their spiritual journey. Members sign up for available slots; then individually come and share (20 minutes) with our teens. Teens then engage the member with that which was important for them. The youth have expressed a lot of enjoyment over this program. We have from two to five young teens attending at the 10:00 hour.

Adult Learning:

This year the Meeting for Adult Learning at the 10 a.m. hour turned to a structure that split each month's programming into three themes. This structure stretched across all the First Days of the year: in each month, the first First Day was devoted to topics addressing the spiritual life of the Meeting (e.g., listening for Spirit, spiritual mentorship); the second First Day considered one of the Quaker testimonies; the third First Day explored Friendly history and traditions, including Biblical materials. As is customary at YSFM, the fourth First Day of the month was devoted to singing for joy.

Membership and Pastoral Care Committee:

For M & PC, there were two notable highlights this year. First, there was the experience of using the nominating process to contact all members, in and outside of Yellow Springs, to see how they are experiencing our Meeting. Eight "angels of the meeting" volunteered to help with the effort to contact everyone in our wide and sometimes geographically far-flung community. Everyone seems to have enjoyed the communication, and all memberships and clerkships were filled in the process. Second, the Meeting created a new means of caring financially for members within our community by other YSFM members. We established a Friends in Need account, which is to be administered by the M & PC committee. Through the use of that account this year one member was able to receive needed funds for healthcare.

Ministry and Advancement:

Quakerism 101:

Bruce Heckman taught an eight-week Introduction to Quaker Faith and Practice course in the Fall, which offered the opportunity to learn more about Friends' history and practice to Meeting participants and the general public alike.

Retreat:

For our 2017 retreat, YSFM invited two facilitators from Lexington Friends Meeting to guide us in a workshop retreat on "The Integrity Moment: Friends' Resources for Bystander Intervention." Gail Koehler and Michelle Lori helped us to work towards grounding our actions in the core Quaker testimony of integrity in order to engage and act wisely in situations of violence. Children spent the afternoon session with a naturalist at Glen Helen Nature preserve, while the adults who remained at the Meeting House were offered strategic tools and direct practice in responding to negative interactions, with the goal of being better prepared to engage in positive cultural and spiritual change in the world. In accordance with the current AFSC initiative, "Sanctuary Everywhere," it is the intention of M & A to follow up on the themes and issues raised by our retreat experience in the year to come.

Book groups:

YSFM held two separate Book Groups this year. In February, Friends met at Friends Care to discuss Timothy Snyder's *On Tyranny*. In April, Friends met at Friends Care to explore the text and connected meditative practices of Rex Ambler's *Light to Live By*, which has spurred some in the Meeting community to form "Light Groups" for spiritual growth.

Spiritual Life of the Meeting

This year M&A wrestled with the challenge of determining a helpful response to an issue of problematic ministry in Meeting for Worship. We cast a net widely within the literature of Quaker guidance and took action accordingly. We found several resources especially helpful, including the Friends Journal article on "Challenging Conflicts in Our Meeting" (Dec 2017); the FGC ebook, *Dealing with Difficult Behavior in Meeting for Worship*; and FGC's online resource manual for *Fostering Vital Friends Meetings*.

Peace & Social Justice:

The Peace and Social Justice Committee (P&SJ) held two overarching goals for the year — make our Peace Witness more visible both in the Meeting and in our community, and seek inter-faith collaborations whenever possible. Our traditional witness is an interfaith regular Saturday morning Peace Vigil along S.R. 68, and ongoing involvement in statewide efforts to end the Death Penalty, including interfaith vigils at the Ohio Statehouse and the Lucasville prison on the day of the executions. A weekly Piecework for Peace Project also met Friday mornings at a local coffee shop to crochet and knit blankets for refugees and talk peace with others. As a response to the increased militarism of our country, we organized a program in the local high school to share information, discuss military recruitment issues and options for CO status in the event of a military draft. Students appreciated sharing with Dr. Larry Gara, a Quaker elder imprisoned during WWII, for refusing to register for the draft, and Mike Miller, a Vietnam veteran, now working for peace. P&SJ also purchased the FCNL seventeen-foot banner, "Love Thy Neighbor, No Exceptions," and moved it around our village as an inter-faith Peace message. It spent time on the outside of the First Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Fellowship Meeting House and now at the United Methodist Church. We intend to keep the message moving! P&SJ tried to help the Meeting stay connected to FCNL by spending more time and effort with the annual priorities report. We carried out a survey on issues and held Forums emphasizing FCNL as "our Voice in Washington." We drafted a Meeting letter to the Ohio Legislature on Gun Control, and to our Senator on Immigration Reform. We try to stay aware of all the ways racial justice intersects with peace & justice issues.

Memorial Committee:

The YSFM Memorial committee stands ready to serve all of those who have filed a Registration of Intent form. It is our desire to minister to the physical and legal needs of a Friend's dead body, and to minister to the spiritual needs of the Friend's family.

In February of 2018 one Friend passed. This was our first opportunity to complete the entire process without involving a funeral home. It went fine. The Unitarians have been doing it this way for a while, but we have not. This death was a little unusual in that it occurred in Montgomery County, therefore all of the legal matters were handled in Dayton. This event allowed us to reaffirm our good relationship with the Woodland Cemetery and Crematorium in Dayton.

YSFM Library:

Thanks to Meeting support, the Meeting library has reached a strong and stable level of service to the Meeting community. We subscribe as a Meeting to Friends Journal and as of this year we have committed to a standing order for all newly published Pendle Hill Pamphlets, which augments our already substantial collection of the full run of that publication. Both of these resources are available in the Library, in recently acquired containers that facilitate use of these materials. We continue to add Quaker-centered titles to the bookshelves in ways that are responsive to the particular needs and interests of our community. As a support for a Meeting interest in exploring the spiritual practice of "Light Groups," the library acquired dedicated extra copies of Rex Ambler's Light to Live By, as well as texts to augment Peace and Social Justice initiatives. Going forward, the library committee continues to be always interested in community suggestions.

Wider Community:

This year YSFM formed an ad hoc committee that made a firm connection with our local Beloved Community Project. We are acting in support of their initiative, which includes a Saturday lunch program and efforts to remediate food insecurity in our area.

Meeting Voices:

The vitality of the Meeting has been felt to be strong by the community as expressed in a worship-sharing session on the life of the Meeting. Some noted concerns about a sense of reduction in vocal ministry this year, even as the quality of vocal ministry was experienced as healthy. (Simultaneously it was acknowledged that silence is itself a pleasure and a sacred joy for some members.) There was a felt sense of renewed engagement and love for supporting individuals in the community who have been facing challenges this year. Friends offered thanks for the model of intergenerational engagement with Quaker youth that has been developed by the First Day school. Particular gratitude was expressed for the Friends who have sustained YSFM's commitment to music as an essential function of our Meeting, to the energetic and energized Peace and Social Justice initiatives of this year, and to the efforts of Membership and Pastoral Care to reach out to the whole community. Hospitality remains a signal strength of the Meeting, and the special sharing habits of Friends at YSFM was remarked upon with happiness. Likewise, Friends voiced satisfaction with the experience of the monthly community time manifest at our "First Wednesdays" Quaker lunch. We are continuously thankful for our relationship with the Yellow Springs Havurah, our beloved sharers in the use of Rockford Chapel as a worship space.

Summary of the State of the Meeting Reports

Our monthly meetings show a wide variety of encounters with the Spirit, of joys and sorrows, but there are also glimpses of an underlying unity of faith in the Light within all. We are all seeking ways of keeping ourselves and our meetings open to the inbreathing of the Spirit in a world that is currently divisive and unwelcoming.

The richest resource for our monthly meetings continues to be the practice of meeting for waiting worship. Meetings vary in their ratio of silence to vocal ministry, but worship is the center of the spiritual home deeply cherished by all. Several meetings point to worship as a source of spirit-led social concern and action.

Membership continues to fluctuate. We rejoice to see several meetings reporting a rise in new attenders, some of whom are seeking membership. Other meetings, especially those that are already small, struggle with attenuation from deaths and departures. Gains and losses of families with children are keenly felt. The presence of children in our meetings continues to bring light. Many meetings note active first-day school programs, and the joy of the ministry often brought by the children themselves.

We note both inreach and outreach in almost all monthly meetings. Meetings practice inreach, the nourishing and deepening of spiritual awareness within the meeting, through many activities: retreats, group reading, writing, and discussion, reflective programs like the Friends General Conference Spiritual Deepening Program, Bible study, meetings for healing, support for members with special needs, and community meals and celebrations. Intervisitation with other meetings has blossomed this year and has helped not only to knit together the community of monthly meetings, but to provide refreshment and insight within the participating meetings. Several meetings report practices that allow them to introspect on the mission and purpose of the monthly meeting and its place in the life of the civic community.

Outreach, the practices that make the meeting visible and welcoming to the community, varies greatly among our meetings. Most meetings are finding skillful ways of nourishing a public presence: individual and collective service in local, national, and global peace and justice action; direct service to their community for local hunger and racial justice; using their meetinghouse as an instrument of community action and service; witnessing for social justice in their immediate community.

Many meetings report active social and political concerns: hunger, threats to the natural environment, the plight of immigrant populations, racial injustice. The damaging effects of current political rhetoric have prompted some to seek less adversarial ways of addressing those in power, to speak to that of God in them. Active witness and intervention tends to be found in larger meetings, but some small meetings are also diligent, sometimes through coalitions with other churches and peace groups.

Our meetings continue to face a variety of challenges facing both inward and outward. The most frequent inward challenge is the matter of size. Meetings find their numbers shrinking, affecting their ability to carry out the tasks of the meeting. Meetings that seem to be most effective at facing this challenge are re-evaluating their mission, sometimes reconfiguring their roles and finding a new place in their community. Other meetings have not taken on this work as effectively and risk sliding quietly away. Several meetings are finding new ways to stay in touch with infrequent or long-lost members and attenders.

Another challenge is the perennial problem of maintaining a faithful community when the meeting experiences inappropriate behavior by one or more of its members. Because we are committed to respond the light that is within all, the dilemma is to protect the safety of our members and attenders, and still to be as inclusive as possible, even of difficult persons. Encouragingly, our monthly and yearly meetings are taking this challenge seriously and creatively as a task that transcends individuals. Encouragingly, our monthly and yearly meetings are taking this and other challenges seriously and creatively as a task that transcends individuals.

An outward challenge is how to respond to the current contentious political climate in the society at large. No community in this yearly meeting is untouched by this climate, but not all meetings have found ways to respond that are both faithful and appropriate to their size and resources.

In summary, there is a clear sense of optimism among our monthly meetings. Members and ongoing attenders generally feel at home in their meetings, supported and refreshed, and find ways to carry spiritual energy out into the wider world.

Memorial Minutes

KEN BORDWELL

1942-2017



Kenneth Bradley Bordwell, 75, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully from a heart attack on October 30, 2017 at his home in Cincinnati. Ken was born in Dayton, Ohio on February 1, 1942 to Dr. Bradley Hobart and Katherine Lucille Bordwell.

Ken was a supporter of social and racial justice from boyhood. As a volunteer with the Peace Corps from 1966 to 1968, he worked on literacy and community development in Brazil. Ken retired in 2002 after 31 years in an effective and joyful career as a community development worker for the City of Cincinnati. He was an active member of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous for 39 years. This program taught him to live each day with gratitude and free from expectations

for the future. Ken attended New Thought Unity Center before joining the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in 2000. He was a dearly loved and active member of Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati for 17 years. He served on House and Grounds Committee, Peace and Social Concerns and on Ministry and Counsel Committee, but his favorite role was as a greeter. Friends were always warmly welcomed to meeting by Ken's cheerful smile and warm handshake on the meetinghouse porch! The day before he died, Ken shared his spiritual journey after meeting for worship. He said of his spiritual life that he didn't have visions, but he sometimes heard God speaking to him through the words of other people. He said he experienced the spirit as a river, and when he was moving with the flow of the spirit, he knew he was following God's leading.

Ken worked actively to make the world a better place through advocacy and community service. He lobbied for the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and he was active with Amnesty International, Bread for the World, and Ohioans to Stop Executions. He served on the Boards of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati and Over the Rhine Community Housing. For 20 years he participated with The American Council of the Blind of Ohio, enjoying winter sports with people with visual impairment.

Ken loved opera and was a member of the American Handel Society and Wagner Society. He took up hiking 40 years ago, and on August 24, 2012 at 70 years of age he completed his goal of hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. Ken said he experienced God in nature, especially during these hikes. He also enjoyed bicycling and had a number of remarkable rides in the United States and Ireland.

Ken is survived by his wife Mary Anne Curtiss; three daughters: Carolyn Rospierski of Houston TX (Charlie), Katherine Flenniken of Portland, OR (Greg) and Victoria Bordwell of Cincinnati (fiance James Coleman). He is also survived by his four grandchildren: Madeline, Daniel, Liam and Nora, and his sister Sue Ellen Bordwell of Yarmouth, Maine (partner Bill Richards), as well as three stepsons and two former wives, with whom he maintained friendly ties.

MARSHALL GIBSON

1939-2017

Marshall Gibson was an active participant in several faith communities in Indianapolis, but considered North Meadow Circle of Friends his primary community for many years.

Marshall was born in Washington, D.C. on November 3, 1939 to Judith Margaret Gibson and Marshall D. Gibson, one of four sons and one daughter. He received a B.A. from the University of Maryland and a Masters of Ministry from Earlham School of Religion.

He had served as a Quaker pastor and was a recorded minister of Western Yearly Meeting. He was active at both Indianapolis First Friends and North Meadow, as well as at Trinity Episcopal Church. Marshall participated in OVYM Earthcare Committee. In his neighborhood, he served as president of Fountain Square Merchants Association.

Marshall enjoyed storytelling and shared this professionally at grade schools and private parties. Perhaps his crowning achievement was his career as Santa, working for Naturally Santa in malls in several states, as well as local malls in Indiana.

There were also his many hours of volunteer work: From the 1987 Pan Am Games, Methodist Hospital Hospice, retiring with “honors” at Second Helpings, to lobbying for Western Yearly Meeting at the Indiana State legislature.

Marshall died on June 10, 2017 with his wife Laura Cruise-Gibson at his side.

FRANK “BO” HUFF

1949-2018



Frank Rouse Huff, Jr., known to Friends as Bo Huff, passed away March 4, 2018, after losing his battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Frank was born on December 29, 1949, in Orangeburg, South Carolina. His parents, now deceased, were Margaret Joan Farris Huff and Dr. Frank Rouse Huff, Sr. Bo grew up in St. Matthews, SC, the eldest of three children. He was predeceased by his brother Thomas Farris Huff and survived by his sister, Mary Anne Huff Weathers. Bo was a devoted husband, married to Beth G. Stafford for 38 years. They adopted three children: Samantha E. Lightfoot, Breanna M. Huff, and Shawn A. Huff. Bo and Beth have 5 grandchildren.

Bo was introduced to Friends Meeting by a college friend and first attended in Atlanta, GA. During the Vietnam War he was involved in antiwar activities with Friends. He became a

nonviolence trainer, preparing people for antiwar protests and marches. Bo was an avid reader and became proficient in Quaker history. Through SAYMA he got to know Quaker historian, Larry Ingle. Bo and Beth attended meetings in Columbia, SC, and Nashville, TN.

Bo and Beth moved to Kentucky in 1986 when Bo took a job at the University of Kentucky. They became active members of Lexington Friends Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Lexington Friends remember Bo with affection, gratitude, and respect as a mediator of conflicts within the meeting and for his knowledge of Quaker history.

Bo went on to work for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Finally, he worked at the Ombudsman's office of the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) from which he retired.