

Minutes
Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee
Columbia Monthly Meeting hosting at the meetinghouse
in Columbia, Missouri
Third Month 6, 2010

David Finke, Presiding Clerk, Tom Paxson, Assistant Clerk,
Pam Kuhn, Recording Clerk

*Recording Clerk note: These minutes are not in strict chronological order,
but rather in order by subject matter.*

1. The meeting opened in worship at 10:00 am with 24 Friends in attendance (with one more coming later). David Finke, Presiding Clerk, read a quotation from George Fox as quoted in our ILYM *Faith and Practice* at the beginning of our new section on "Friends Manner of Decision-Making".
2. Friends went around the room and introduced themselves.
3. The Continuing Committee reviewed a devotional writing from Isaac Penington and accepted the tentative agenda for today.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's report. The yearly meeting currently has \$149,983.49 Net (cash) Assets. Of this, \$24,053.15 is unrestricted undesignated (operating); \$95,149.01 is unrestricted designated (special gifts, payroll reserves, FWCC World Meetings, deferred maintenance); and \$29,781.33 is restricted (property improvement). We have one loan of \$1000 from an individual.
5. Income and expenses in the operating fund are for the most part what was expected. The yearly meeting received an unrestricted donation of \$5,000 which has been added to the special gifts (an unrestricted reserve fund.) We have paid \$855 towards the Capital Assessment Management Plan from this fund.
6. The Property Improvement Fund has received donations and other income of \$42,694.98 since 2009 sessions. The meeting has spent \$42,452.27 for renovations of the Mills house and other maintenance expenses.
7. The Continuing Committee accepted the Treasurer's report.
8. **Finance Committee.** Dawn Amos additionally reported that the Finance Committee is asking committees and individuals with specific responsibilities to submit requests for their next year's budgets. There are helpful documents on the website for doing this work. Please submit the requests to Dawn Amos in April.
9. Finance Committee has gathered information on the history of costs from annual sessions. Planning groups may find this helpful for guidance. It is currently on the website and will be added to the log books.

10. **Visioning Workshop.** Maurine Pyle facilitated a visioning workshop on January 9, 2010, in Bloomington, IL. At least 46 Friends attended and wrote cards to put on the wall with ideas of a vision for the yearly meeting. These have been copied and posted as an on-line forum on our website where Friends can read and post comments on them.
11. **Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property.** Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property (ad hoc CMP). The ad hoc CMP considered the fruits of the 2010 visioning workshop as well as work done by various committees since the new property was purchased. They considered these queries: What is best for the yearly meeting spiritually? What are we led to do with this gift of property?
12. The ad hoc CMP presented the following statement: *“We asked ourselves, “What are we being led to do with the Mills Property?” We challenged one another to hear deeply the hunger, the desire, throughout the yearly meeting, expressed at the Visioning Workshop on January 9th, for programming to help us grow spiritually, and to help us grow a greater sense of ourselves as a vital spiritual community. We yearned to be spiritually nurtured ourselves, and to help nurture newcomers; we wanted to let our light shine and welcome new faces, new ideas, new energies, attracted to the Light among us. We reminded ourselves that many churches first create a need—a program—then make opportunities for giving toward construction of the buildings necessary for an already-in-place program. We support the creation of a “working group on Advancement” to plan, coordinate, promote, and carry out a year-round program of in-reach and outreach—retreats, workshops, and study groups. Creation of an Advancement working group is a near-term goal, begun now, and it could provide a framework of living and teaching Friends’ testimonies that will make full use of the ILYM campus. Creating a spiritual framework has a very low financial investment with a very high spiritual payoff over the long haul for the yearly meeting. We were reminded by one of our number that anything worth working on takes more than a lifetime; we see a program for our spiritual nourishment as something of worth to which we could devote many lifetimes. We honor the existing good works and retreats of Standing Committees, and see the role of a Working Group on Advancement as one of expanding, enhancing, and supporting the good work already being done.*
13. Continuing Committee supports the creation of a Working Group as introduced in the Minute above. Continuing Committee asks Ministry and Advancement Committee to season the idea further.
14. The standing committees represented on the ad hoc CMP are working with all deliberate speed to bring the Mills House to full function in support of the needs of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and of the desired in-reach and outreach programs. All committees and groups reported on their progress to date at the ad hoc CMP meeting.

15. The ad hoc CMP developed a priority list of projects to be done as soon as possible. 1. Septic system cleanout/repairs; 2. Upstairs bath; 3. Downstairs bath; 4. Drainage around the house; 5. Patio replacement (to help keep water out of the basement). Additional items that may first be considered by the yearly meeting include 6. Kitchen update; 7. Permanent accessibility into the house; and 8. Possible Garage renovation to create accessible sleeping rooms and bathrooms. Funding for items 1-5 will come from the PIF this fiscal year if funds allow. Further unnumbered work discussed included plastering and painting the remaining upstairs rooms, new siding, replacement of fixed windows on the first floor with operating windows, and attic renovation (with second means of egress).
16. Clear Creek Monthly Meeting is looking for a new name for the Mills House. Friends gave suggestions. These ideas will be brought to the next meeting of the ad hoc CMP.
17. **Maintenance and Planning Committee.** Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P). The committee has made great progress on renovating the Mills house and cleaning out the outbuildings.
18. M&P is working on finishing the Mills House restoration and on doing something about the stumps on the grounds. M&P has some estimates for further work on the house. Continuing Committee asked that a list with all the details of the projects and payments to date be made available on the website and from the Treasurer.
19. Clear Creek Meeting would like to apply for an energy audit for the Mills house. The FGC Friends Meeting House Fund has a grant that pays up to \$500, half of the cost. The Continuing Committee approved the M&P recommendation that the yearly meeting provide a matching grant of up to \$500 to be taken from the Special Gifts fund.
20. M&P recommends that Clear Creek will have one or two rooms at the Mills House to keep their supplies during annual sessions. ILYM and Clear Creek will keep looking into how they will share the property.
21. M&P is writing a description - especially concerning safety issues - on how to use the new property to be included with the annual sessions' announcement.
22. M&P is preparing for work weekend on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 29 – Monday, May 31.
23. Tim Narkiewicz is working on the Capital Assets Management Plan for M&P. The first draft of the report is expected to be forthcoming next week.
24. **Site Envisioning and Development Committee.** Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&D). The role of the committee is currently two-fold. SE&D, taking the work from the visioning workshop along with the work of the Maintenance and Planning, Finance, and Environmental Concern Committees, will fold it all together into a site plan to be presented for discernment and approval at the 2011 annual sessions. The second role of the committee is to fill any immediate needs to

raise funds to help renovate and upgrade the Mills house to make it more fully serve ILYM.

25. SE&D recommends ILYM consider returning the joint committee to two committees: a Site Envisioning Committee and a Development Committee because of the different talents needed for these two functions. Continuing Committee supports the idea of creating two committees and asks SE&D to propose charges for these two committees to annual sessions. Continuing Committee understands that the Nominating Committee may need extra time in filling these two committees if they aren't approved until annual sessions.
26. SE&D asks Nominating Committee to help stagger terms on the committee or on the committees for the future.
27. SE&D has the following items to consider between now and the annual sessions. The committee needs to consider further its charge especially if the committee is split into two committees. The Capital Asset Management Plan needs to be reviewed when it is complete. The workload of the SE&D committee needs to be restructured and better formulated. Finally, the committee needs to affirm a clerk for next year.
28. SE&D would like the yearly meeting to be aware that there is an interest in turning the existing garage into 3 bathrooms and 2 accessible bedrooms. In addition SE&D will be working with M&P to envision accessibility issues, a new kitchen, a patio, and working with the Environmental Concerns Committee on ways to reduce the amount of mowing we are doing.
29. **Environmental Concerns Committee.** Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). At the request of the Stewards, the Environmental Concerns Committee has completed a detailed short-term guideline in the document, "Landscaping Guidelines for the Mills Property". It is on the website and available from EEC. The guideline could be used for planning by various committees. EEC hopes to have feedback from committees or individuals and will update the guideline in the future as way opens on the use of the yearly meeting.
30. The amount of mowing of the grass that is currently being done is one of the major issues the committee will be addressing. EEC is gathering other long-range ideas concerning the entire yearly meeting property.
(Recording Clerk's note: additional reports from the Environmental Concerns Committee appear elsewhere in the minutes.)
31. **Directions for the Mills Property.** The co-Treasurer, Dawn Amos, clarified the use of the three different funds associated with property maintenance and improvement as identified on the Net Assets by Fund page of the Treasurer Report. At 2009 annual sessions, the Finance Committee decided the Property Improvement Fund would be used for improvements and maintenance for the Mills property and buildings during this fiscal year. When the stabilizing work is complete, the maintenance repairs for the entire yearly meeting property will be paid from the Deferred Maintenance Fund.

Budgeting for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance (listed as “Facilities”) will change now that we have a bigger campus.

32. Continuing Committee reviewed those projects which are still needed to stabilize the Mills building. It is planned that these be completed by the annual sessions: Septic system cleanout/repairs; Upstairs bath; Downstairs bath; Drainage around the house; Finish plastering, painting, and floor refinishing in the remaining upstairs rooms.
33. Continuing Committee asks the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property to bring to the yearly meeting recommendations for a policy for the use of the Mills house by yearly meeting committees and groups during the year from the 2010 annual sessions to the 2011 annual sessions.
34. Continuing Committee understands that the Site Envisioning Committee, starting after annual sessions at 2010, will spend a planning year studying additional projects for the entire yearly meeting property.
35. **Ministry and Advancement.** Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A). M&A has its Spring Retreat March 26-27. At that time, they will discern together what response we might make to the many calls for a year-round program of retreats and workshops, which we heard at the Visioning Workshop on January 9. In the meantime, much prayerful consideration is going into this appeal from Friends for more education and outreach. Some committee members are visiting meetings and trying to keep a finger on the spiritual pulse of the meetings they visit.
36. A working group under the care of M&A is seasoning issues on life, death, grieving and transition. The group consists of some members of M&A and other Friends. They hope to have a document ready for the M&A retreat in March. M&A is collecting stories about being present at the death of a loved one to put on the website. (Please send these to Mariellen.) Mariellen has copies of a set of booklets on death and dying available for sale to monthly meetings or individuals.
37. In late October, M&A had a workshop to help Friends learn about the formation of webpages. Rick Robey and Sean West have volunteered to lead a second Web Workshop on April 17 in Normal, IL, with lots of personal assistance so as to help non-techie Friends from meetings get websites up and running. M&A hopes to support all meetings enabling them have a web presence by the time of annual sessions.
38. **Faith and Practice Committee.** Peter Lasersohn reported for the *Faith and Practice* Committee (F&P). F&P is working on the section concerning monthly meeting structure and has a new version on the website or from F&P members. F&P is willing to hold workshops to discuss this section at any monthly meetings or worship groups; please contact a member of the committee to set this up. F&P hopes to bring this section to annual sessions for a five-year provisional period.

39. F&P has a first draft of a section on worship groups, recognized meetings and preparative meetings that has been put on the website. The plan is to bring this to annual sessions in 2011.
40. F&P is open to any feedback and advice on other sections to include. They are also collecting queries.
41. **Environmental Concerns Committee Additional Reporting.** EEC is planning to do a burn of the prairie in March. Friends are welcome to join in.
42. EEC is planning a spring retreat-workday on Friday and Saturday, April 16 – 17 with the main focus of working on the grounds of the Mills property addition. EEC welcomes suggestions for projects.
43. Other EEC projects include construction of a vegetative growth roof over the kitchen; mapping trees on the campground and memorial trees; outlining the responsibilities of the Recycling Coordinator at ILYM.
44. **Peace Resources Committee.** Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC). PRC brings to the attention of the Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, Peace and Social Concerns Committees, and individuals the study of the information available about torture, promoting understanding that helps to remove the causes of torture, participating in efforts to aid victims of torture and, if you haven't already, considering writing a minute of endorsement of the Call for a Commission of Inquiry. PRC recommends that monthly meetings study the Call for a Commission of Inquiry in preparation for possible action by the yearly meeting at annual sessions. PRC will send information to the monthly meetings. PRC also will distribute information about other organizations working to end torture including Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT).
45. **Field Secretary.** Paul Buckley gave a report as Field Secretary outlining his visits to monthly meetings and presentations he has made. Paul also gave a silent retreat for yearly meeting Friends. Paul travels with a bookstore with books on a variety of Quaker topics and finds that many meetings are taking advantage of perusing and purchasing.
46. **Annual Session Planning Committees.** Chicago South reports they have no teachers signed up for morning children's program during the annual session. They ask the ILYM representatives, especially from Chicago South meetings, to ask within your meetings to see if there are volunteers for these important jobs. The activities don't need to be elaborate. Having the children together to interact with each others and with caring adults is most important. If any Friends have any questions about teaching or how Friends can help, please contact Sue Styer [sstyer@imsa.edu](mailto:sstyler@imsa.edu)). Other areas of FUN have been covered.
47. Chicago North reports that Sophie de la Mar and Brayton Gray will be the overall coordinators for Site Prep.
48. Blue River Quarterly is looking for coordinators for dinner, evening snacks, and final clean up of the kitchen. The program committee is looking for Friends in ILYM to speak briefly about their spiritual journeys on Wednesday nights (see Maurine Pyle or Peter Lasersohn).

49. Dawn Amos is looking into renting a large 20' x 30' tent to be used as a dining facility and also renting tables and chairs. The cost would be about \$1000. The yearly meeting will increase the daily fee for annual sessions by two dollars to cover this.
50. **Nominating Committee.** Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee asks the help of monthly meeting representatives in identifying Friends whose gifts can serve the Yearly Meeting. Anyone can submit names and contact information to any member of Nominating Committee: Mike Dennis, Judy Erickson, Brad Ogilve, Sarah Pavlovic, Sue Styer, or Mira Tanna.
51. The committee recommends the following appointments effective immediately: Beth Schobernd, Personnel Committee; Mike Dennis, Clerk of Personnel Committee; Steve Tamari, ILYM representative to Scattergood School for a three-year term ending 2012; Debra Penna-Fredericks, ILYM representative to Friends Peace Teams Council for a three-year term ending 2012; Monica Tetzlaff, Reading Clerk for a three-year term ending 2012. Approved.
52. In order to stagger the three-year terms of the newly formed Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee recommends the following years that indicate the annual sessions for the completion of service. The committee also identifies if the member is a representative from another committee. Beth Schobernd (independent) 2011; Angie Reeks (M&A) 2011; Roxy Jacobs (independent) 2012; Roger Laughlin (Finance) 2012; Dawn Rubbert (Administrative Coordinator's Oversight Committee) 2012; Valerie Lester (independent) 2013; Mike Dennis (Youth Oversight) 2013. Approved.
53. Nominating Committee recommends that terms of service be added to Friends serving on the Administrative Coordinator's Oversight Committee. The Nominating Committee will set up these terms in consultation with the current committee members. Approved.
54. Nominating Committee has looked into the practices of Friends Association for Higher Education, and found that they do not seek representatives from yearly meetings. Continuing Committee approved that the yearly meeting will not appoint a representative.
55. **Naming Committee.** David Finke identified potential Friends for the Naming Committee. Continuing Committee approved the potential list and asked David to finalize the committee.
56. **Personnel Committee.** Dawn Rubbert reported for the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee is considering the idea of having annual performance reviews of all staff around the time of the Spring Continuing Committee. Continuing Committee supports having the Personnel Committee bring this recommendation to annual sessions.
57. Continuing Committee thanks Columbia meeting for their gracious hospitality, "souper" lunch and for opening their homes as places for us to stay. We were glad for the opportunity to have Friends from this area attend Continuing

Committee for the first time and to give those Friends who are always traveling long distances a shorter commute for once.

58. The meeting ended at 5 pm with grateful worship for a sustaining energy through all the work done as especially witnessed in our energetic presiding clerk. Many Friends felt a sense of openness to Divine guidance as we worked together strengthening our spiritual bonds in love.

Friends in attendance included: Dawn Amos, Southern Illinois; Paul Buckley, Field Secretary; Cherie Dupuis, Columbia; David Finke, Columbia; Nancy Finke, Columbia; Nan George, Columbia; Marielle Gilpin, Urbana-Champaign; Christopher Goode, Downers Grove; Sharon Haworth, Urbana-Champaign; Chris Jocius, Rolla; Margaret Katranides, St Louis; Pam Kuhn, Lake Forest; Peter Lasersohn, Urbana-Champaign; Grayce Haworth Mesner, Clear Creek; Neil Mesner, Clear Creek; Sherry Monroe, Columbia; Sarah Pavlovic, Duneland; Tom Paxson, St Louis; Maurine Pyle, Southern Illinois; Rick Robey, St. Louis; Chip Rorem, 57th Street; Dawn Rubbert, St Louis; Beth Schobernd, Clear Creek; Roy Treadway, Bloomington-Normal; and Sue Tursman, Evanston.