

Ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property
February 20, 2010

The ad hoc Committee on the Mills Property met 2-20-2010 in the Mills house on the Illinois Yearly Meeting campus. We spent the morning in worship sharing, considering the fruits of the January 9 visioning event and the work accomplished since the new property was purchased last summer. Friends shared around the queries: What is best for the yearly meeting spiritually? What are we led to do with this gift of property? From that worship rose 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 the Working Group on Advancement as one of expanding, enhancing, and supporting the good work already being done.

The Standing Committees represented on this *ad hoc* Committee on the Mills Property 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. In the afternoon, all committees and groups reported on their progress to date.

An order of remaining work on the house was established:

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).
6. Kitchen update.

7. Permanent accessibility into the house.
8. Possible Garage renovation to create accessible sleeping rooms and bathrooms.

Items 1-5 will come from the PIF this fiscal year if funds allow. Estimates are being gathered. The Yearly Meeting may be asked to consider the last three items. 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).

All committees will have met again by May, at which point the ad hoc committee will meet via conference call to determine our report to the annual sessions and whether we feel our group should be laid down or continue for another year.

We ask that Continuing Committee consider the following minute:

We support for the concept of a Working Group on Advancement and suggest that Continuing Committee recommend that Ministry and Advancement Committee season the idea further before annual session.