

Minutes

Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee
Downers Grove Meeting hosting at the new meeting house in Downers Grove, IL
Third Month 5, 2011, 10:00 am

David Finke, Presiding Clerk; Janice Domanik, Assistant Clerk;
Pam Kuhn, Recording Clerk; Monica Tetzlaff, Reading Clerk

Complete committee reports are available on the Illinois Yearly Meeting website but will not become part of the permanent record. These are filed with the Administrative Coordinator.

1. Our meeting opened with Worship. Monica Tetzlaff read an excerpt of an epistle from German Yearly Meeting.
2. David Finke gave opening remarks and reviewed the agenda which we accepted.

Co-Treasurer's Report

3. Dawn Amos gave the Co-Treasurer's report. There are no surprises in the operating budget thus far in the fiscal year. Dawn introduced a new format for reporting called Statement of Fund Activity.

4. The current balances of our cash assets are as follows: General Operating: \$22,596.57; Designated Funds: Special Gifts: \$27,488.54; Payroll Reserves: \$36,000.00; FWCC World Meetings: \$5,900.00; Deferred Maintenance: \$35,247.96; Restricted Funds: Property Improvement Fund: \$23,258.90. Additionally we have a \$1,000 loan from individuals. Total cash assets are \$150,491.97.

5. Dawn gave details on our income and expenses from our operating budget. She encourages committees to check the report when planning budgets for next year.

Finance Committee Report

6. Cathy Garra reported for the Finance Committee (FC). Because the Development Committee is still in formation, FC asked Janice Domanik and Chip Rorem to write thank you notes to those who contribute to the Property Improvement Fund.

7. FC encourages the yearly meeting to hold a party during annual sessions to celebrate the Clear Creek House. Cathy Garra, Sue Tursman, Janice Domanik, and Beth Schobernd will plan this.

8. Concerning the purchase of the triangle of land behind (south of) the meetinghouse, FC is expecting that further discussions will take place between the owner of the land and the Stewards.

9. FC has identified funds in Special Gifts that could be used to purchase furniture for Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting. FC is looking forward to reviewing proposals from the M&P Committee when they are ready. FC encourages the yearly

meeting to consider a longer term resolution as to which committee is responsible for furnishings for the entire campus.

10. FC thanks Friends who helped our co-treasurers by having an informal audit of our books. Their findings are reflected in our reports.

11. FC will have a certificate of deposit come due in about six months. FC is interested in suggestions about investing these funds in the future. Contact Dawn Amos or Judy Jager.

12. FC is planning to offer a workshop at annual sessions on record keeping for monthly meetings and welcomes suggestions in advance of topics to cover. Contact Cathy Garra.

Review Committee

13. Sandy Huntley gave the report for the Review Committee which is a subcommittee of the Finance Committee (FC). All ILYM travel expenses for all committees are reported on a single line item in our financial reports and there is no single committee or person to co-ordinate and track expenses other than FC. FC reminds the clerks of all committees that pre-approval of travel expenses for committee work is required. Friends needing assistance for travel for committee work need to contact the Review Committee to request discernment around available funds. A copy of the Travel Policy is in the Handbook and Minute Book. The amount budgeted for committee travel for this year has been mostly spent.

Stewards' Report

14. Our reading clerk read the Stewards' report. Tim Narkiewicz has resigned as Steward, effective as soon as a new Steward can be found. We appreciate all of Tim's work as Steward and, earlier, clerk of the Maintenance and Planning Committee-especially the development of the ILYM Capital Asset Management Plan.

Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property

15. Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property. The committee has drafted guidelines for the use of the Clear Creek House by ILYM Friends. A copy is on the ILYM website. Please review these and give suggestions to Beth by April 1. This is a living document that will be revised as needed. It will be for use until the end of the 2011 annual sessions.

Maintenance and Planning Committee and its Ad Hoc Furnishing Committee

16. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P). There have been improvements to the kitchen in Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting with purchases of new appliances made with cooperation of Illinois Yearly Meeting and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Clear Creek Meeting also plans to buy tables for the library and the First Day School room and chairs for the dining room.

17. M&P has installed a new sump pump and made other improvements to deal with water seeping into the basement of Clear Creek House.

18. Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Furnishing Committee. The committee is a subcommittee of M&P. The committee developed guidelines for furnishing Clear Creek House. The committee also recommended that the yearly meeting develop working groups to recommend the purchase of the furniture. These were presented to Continuing Committee in October 2010.

19. Continuing Committee discerned that there has not been a clear charge about who is to do research and who is to make decisions when it comes to purchasing furniture, nor has funding been clearly established. We are reminded that the fabric of our community is more important than the fabric of our chairs.

20. Continuing Committee recognizes that there are two parts to furnishing the Clear Creek House.

The first concern is getting the second floor ready for use as bedrooms during 2011 annual sessions. This could include the temporary use of some furnishings. Continuing Committee asks M&P in consultation with the Finance Committee to move forward on this. Health and safety issues are to be taken into consideration in keeping with M&P's ongoing charge. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property along with the Administrative Coordinator will decide criteria for who will sleep in the Clear Creek House in 2011.

The second concern is for an overall plan for more permanent furnishing for the Clear Creek House.

a) Continuing Committee asks M&P to review the guidelines of the Ad Hoc Furnishing Committee (Minute 38 from the October Continuing Committee). Add to these guidelines the recognition that Friends have different physical needs and may need different types of furniture.

b) Continuing Committee recommends that M&P consider creating working groups as described by the Ad Hoc Furnishing Committee which would report to M&P. The description of the working groups is referred to in Fall Continuing Committee, Minute 42 but M&P should check the complete Furnishing Committee report which is available on the website under advance documents for the Fall Continuing Committee. Alternatively M&P may wish to develop another process which also incorporates input from outside of M&P (including Clear Creek Meeting Friends). Continuing Committee expects M&P to give a recommendation for furnishing the entire Clear Creek House including a budget at the annual sessions. Following sessions, M&P would then be asked to act on the approved recommendation. Continuing Committee suggests that architects within the yearly meeting could also be consulted.

Minute 38 from the October 2010 Continuing Committee. The Furnishing Committee recognized the following guidelines for the acquisition of furnishings

for the Clear Creek House. They should be simple, flexible, comfortable, in excellent condition, sturdy, preferably made of natural or recycled materials, compressible chairs—(e.g. stacking, folding, or nesting), harmonious, and consistent with house in period colors and style.

Minute 42 from the October 2010 Continuing Committee. The Furnishing Committee would like to form groups to work together on each floor. These groups should consist of Clear Creek Friends as well as Friends from throughout the yearly meeting - perhaps those already involved with the Furnishing Committee or the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property.*

**(The actual language of the committee's report was, "cohesive groups should work together--one to furnish the first floor and one for the second floor.")*

21. As we labored over the above concern we were helped by a nourishing lunch provided by Downers Grove Meeting. Our reading clerk read an excerpt from an epistle from the school-aged children of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting as we settled again in silence.

Environmental Concerns

22. Noel Pavlovic reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). ECC is currently pursuing three areas of activity: a “green” roof for the Meeting House kitchen; maintenance and vision for the spiritual and physical care of the land, plants and animals on the ILYM grounds; and memorials to Friends. ECC has guidelines for making the yearly meeting grounds supportive of wildlife. In April, ECC plans to plant some trees, shrubs and herbs on the property. The committee is continuing to write and edit short biographical statements concerning Friends associated with memorial trees. ECC has requests to plant memorial trees for Paul Schobernd, Clance Wilson, Bob Wixom, and Clinton Wixom.

Ministry and Advancement

23. Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A). M&A will be changing its structure somewhat by having co-clerks. Jeannie Marvin will concentrate on concerns related to ministry. Mariellen Gilpin will concentrate on concerns related to education and outreach. (See Nominating Report below.)

24. M&A has created a subcommittee to work on death, dying, grief and transitions. There are four initiatives underway on this subject. a) Book reviews are being assembled and will eventually be put on the ILYM website and in *Among Friends*. b) The committee is looking into the possibility of publishing a little book called, *The Book of Hope and Comfort*, by Janet Means Underhill. M&A is considering recommending having Illinois Yearly Meeting publish it. c) M&A will have different workshops during annual sessions about aging, final wishes, and grieving. d) M&A is considering a weekend workshop on the Spirituality of Aging with George Shaefer, a Friend from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

25. M&A is developing a program for Quaker education and outreach in ILYM. The committee is working on three initiatives. The committee is collecting information about what ministry is actually happening currently in fulfillment of M&A's mission. Paul Buckley is presenting "Days of Spiritual Sustenance". (See the Field Secretary's report below.) The committee is considering inviting Brent Bill to present a weekend workshop with the topic of helping our meetings to become more vital. More information about Brent Bill's work is available at hyperlink <http://www.congregationalresources.org>. The committee may invite Brent to come to an M&A meeting/retreat next Fall.

26. M&A is experimenting with the concept of offering clearness committees for Friends that may be away from their home Monthly Meetings (as often happens with adult young Friends).

27. Mariellen Gilpin added a personal report about Helene Pollock who has a leading to serve ILYM. She has been working with Mariellen in various activities including traveling with her as a praying elder.

Field Secretary

28. Our reading clerk read the report from Paul Buckley, Field Secretary. Paul has been concentrating on two needs of our yearly meeting. The first is awareness of problems facing our smaller meetings. They often feel isolated, alone, and barely holding on. When spiritual opportunities are offered, they come at a distance and at a cost in time and money that frequently seems excessive. Secondly, our meetings need to nurture our spiritual nurturers. We often do not recognize the costs they bear on behalf of our meetings until they become overwhelming.

29. Paul has facilitated two "Days of Spiritual Sustenance" workshops for nurturing the nurturers and intends to do two more in March. These were held in different regional locations, with particular attention being paid to make them convenient for smaller meetings to attend. Costs were taken from the M&A budget. Each meeting was asked to name only two or three people to attend. The participants have felt energized and have made new connections with their peers in other meetings. Other unintended benefits have also been felt especially in looking at the older roles of minister, elder and what used to be called overseer. Paul intends to do work more on this topic.

Faith and Practice

30. Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee (F&P). F&P has been working on two sections. The section on worship groups and preparative meetings has been modified and is on the website. They request your comments now. F&P expects to bring this to annual sessions in 2011 for approval for use for a 5-year provisional period. The committee has begun work on the section on meeting for worship, funerals, memorial meetings, death, and bereavement. The committee also requests that Friends continue to give comments as they use the sections that are under five year approval (marriage and monthly meetings.)

Site Envisioning

31. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning Committee.

SE's focus this period was to issue queries on the future of the ILYM site to pertinent committees and all of our monthly meetings. Responses came quickly from several committees. A few monthly meetings followed shortly thereafter. The committee is awaiting input from quite a few others.

Nominating Committee

32. Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. Resignations: The committee asks you to accept the resignations of the following Friend with gratitude for the service he has given the yearly meeting, Tim Narkiewicz from the position as Steward, effective when a replacement is identified. Accepted.

33. Assistant Recording Clerk / Recording Clerk: Mira Tanna will not be able to fulfill the term of assistant recording clerk / recording clerk through 2014, as reported to Fall 2010 Continuing Committee. The committee is currently seeking someone to take up that work as soon as possible and are grateful that Mira will continue to serve until someone is identified.

34. Nominees to ILYM Committees are as follows:

David Moorman and Bridget Rorem to Ministry and Advancement Committee. These two Friends will begin immediately participating in the work of Ministry and Advancement and then to serve three full year terms from June 2011 to June 2014. Approved.

Elizabeth Mertic to Handbook Committee effective upon approval for a term ending 2013 and Sue Styer to Handbook Committee effective upon approval for a term ending 2012. Approved.

Sean West to Publications Committee effective June 2011 for a term ending 2014. This will be brought to annual sessions.

Mariellen Gilpin (2011) and Jeannie Marvin (2013) to serve as co-clerks of Ministry and Advancement starting immediately. Both of these Friends are currently serving on that committee. Approved.

35. Terms for members of Site Envisioning Committee: The terms of service for members currently on the Site Envisioning Committee were not specified at Annual Sessions 2010. The following terms are designed to be staggered and renewable: Bill Howenstine and Janet Means Underhill 2012; Chip Rorem and Maurine Pyle 2013; Richard Ashdown and Chris Goode 2014. Approved.

36. Nominating Committee continues to seek individuals with gifts to share with the yearly meeting community. Of particular concern at present are a steward, a recording clerk, and members for Development, Ministry and Advancement, and Site Envisioning committees. If you know of a Friend who has such gifts, please pass on that information to a member of Nominating Committee. They are working to maintain a pool of names of those who have gifts to share, even if those Friends are not able to do so at present.

Quaker Volunteer Service

37. Elizabeth Mertic reported for the ad hoc committee appointed to study Quaker volunteer service. The committee sent queries to ILYM Friends. The responses from four monthly meetings thus far convey a strong commitment to Quaker service. After more responses are received, the committee will study the responses. The committee hopes to have a report at annual sessions.

Publications Committee

38. Judy Erickson reported for the Publications Committee. The 2010 Minute Books and Winter *Among Friends* have been published online and on paper, and the paper copies have been distributed to ILYM Meetings. There are 800 copies of the Minute Books and 600 copies of *Among Friends*.

39. Thanks to the efforts of Wil Brant, the online version of *Among Friends* resides on a prototype for a new ILYM website. This new website is meant to be easy to navigate and visually appealing. The committee intends to transfer all the materials currently on our current Tikiwiki website to the new website. There may be links from the new site to archival materials on the old site until the transfer is complete. The committee hopes to make the new website the default website before our June 2011 sessions. The new site will have the ability to set up password-protected restricted areas. It can also have links to separate web presences.

40. The 2009 Plummer Lecture by Janice Domanik, which has been available on the web, is now available in a hard copy.

Peace Resources Committee

41. Our reading clerk read the report for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC). PRC will be offering a simplified version of the Peace Testimony workshop to monthly meetings. Members of the committee hope to travel to monthly meetings and worship groups to engage them in exploring their relationship to the Peace Testimony through the meeting-for-shared-concerns format that does not involve advanced preparation. This interaction could also include a mindfulness-through-movement exercise that has been developed by Madelyn George.

42. PRC is also working on collecting stories of Quaker service from yearly meeting Friends. These are on their blog that can be accessed through the ILYM website and Friends are encouraged to look at them.

Annual Sessions Planning

43. Chicago South: Chicago South has announced eight great reasons to come to Site Prep this year. They have also identified leaders for all jobs including Sue Styer as the overall coordinator and Judy Erickson is the coordinator for Site Prep.

Chicago North: Ted Ehnle is coordinating workshops and reminds Friends to contact him soon with workshop ideas so that they may be listed in the invitation.

Blue River Quarterly: No report was given but some Friends have been identified to work with our children at annual sessions.

Other

44. Announcements

We have ordered a slightly larger tent for dining outside for the sessions.

We would like to raise Friends awareness that there are Amtrak stations not too far from McNabb. Friends who would like to take the train or might be willing to meet the trains should contact Sharon Haworth.

Zoe Rei has started a publication called *The Quake: A Magazine for Young Adult Friends* (Hyperlink <http://thequakemagazine.com/>) which publishes writings from adult young Friends, ages 16 -35.

Women's Weekend is a different weekend this year, starting April 29. All women are welcome.

47. Continuing Committee thanks Downers Grove Meeting for their hospitality in their new meeting house, with especially hearty thanks for a hearty lunch and opening homes to overnight guests.

48. We closed with worship.

Friends who were present at Continuing Committee (there may be some others who missed signing the list): Dawn Amos, Southern Illinois; Wil Brant, 57th St.; Janice Domanik, Lake Forest; Ted Ehnle, Northside; Judy Erickson, Oak Park; David Finke, Columbia; Nancy Finke, Columbia; Cathy Garra, Lake Forest; Mariellen Gilpin, Urbana-Champaign; Chris Goode, Downers Grove/Clear Creek; Sharon Haworth, Urbana-Champaign; Pam Kuhn, Lake Forest; Ted Kuhn, Lake Forest; Brad Laird, South Bend; Roger Laughlin, Evanston; Virginia Laughlin, Evanston; Janet Means Underhill, Lake Forest; Elizabeth Mertic, Lake Forest/Evanston; Grayce Mesner, Clear Creek; Neil Mesner, Clear Creek; Noel Pavlovic, Duneland; Sarah Pavlovic, Duneland; Chip Rorem, 57th St.; Beth Schobernd, Clear Creek; David Shiner, Lake Forest; Mira Tanna, St. Louis; Monica Tetzlaff, South Bend; Bobbi Trist, Urbana-Champaign; Sue Tursman, Evanston; David Wixom, St. Louis; Karl Zerfoss, Downers Grove; and Carol Zimmerman, Downers Grove.

3/24/11