

*Ministry and Advancement Committee Report
to Continuing Committee
November 5, 2011*

Appointment of New Field Secretary.

There's some good news and some bad news about hiring our new Field Secretary. First the good news: we are very pleased that Judy Wolicki has accepted Ministry and Advancement Committee's offer that she should become our new Field Secretary. Joan Pine's introduction to Judy and her gifts is contained in a handout for Friends to take home with them. We are very pleased about her gifts in pastoral care and conflict resolution.

The bad news is that we were not familiar enough with the hiring process that we thought ahead to ask at annual sessions for Friends to approve our hiring a new Field Secretary as soon as the search process was complete.

Thus, today Ministry and Advancement Committee recommends, the appointment of Judy Wolicki as our ILYM Field Secretary November 5, 2011 through annual sessions of 2014.

Judy has been more than a good sport about this slip betwixt cup and lip on our part; she's attended the Corn Roast, the M&A meeting at Beth Burbank's house September 30-October 2, and she's attended the M&A retreat at Clear Creek House October 14-16—all before she's even on the ILYM payroll. Thank you, Judy, for your commitment to the work of this committee.

Minute of Appreciation for Paul Buckley

We recommend the following minute of appreciation for Paul Buckley's service as our Field Secretary, for Continuing Committee to unite with and approve:

Illinois Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Advancement Committee recommends we minute our deep appreciation for Paul Buckley's service as our Field Secretary, 2008-2011. Quakerism in ILYM has gained immensely from his passion—and his vision—for educating about Quakerism and nurturing our spiritual nurturers. His innovations in the way we serve our meetings (particularly through the regional Days of Spiritual Sustenance), and his gifts for coordination and eldership have helped to light our way, both as a Committee for Ministry and Advancement, and as a group of ILYM Friends seeking to grow Quakerism in our region. He has blessed us with his service, and we in our turn bless whatever it is Spirit leads him to do next.

Transition Between Field Secretaries.

Paul Buckley has met with incoming and former Field Secretaries: Judy Wolicki, Roxy Jacobs, Maurine Pyle, in order to convey our former Field Secretaries' sense of the scope of the work for the entire yearly meeting and offer their help to Judy. He, too, was a wonderful sport about not being free of his duties as soon as he had hoped to be, so that the Yearly Meeting has been consistently served during this hiatus.

Honorarium for Judy Wolicki

Ministry and Advancement committee has approved using the funds set aside for Field Secretary recruitment as an honorarium for Judy's service between annual session and November 5, 2011. It's only a token payment for her services among us already—a small payment but with a large sense of gratitude.

A Request from Adult Young Friends.

M&A has responded to a request from Adult Young Friends that we recommend someone to lead a workshop; they wish help to come to a sense of their leadings with regard to lifework, and help to hold one another true to their leadings. Judy Wolicki as point person, with the help of Breeze Richardson and Wil Brant, will work with the Adult Young Friends. Adult Young Friends' next Tsunami is January 8 at Evanston.

Signs of Growth and Change in the Yearly Meeting.

A new worship group in Macomb. Ministry and Advancement committee has received a request for ILYM support for a worship group in Macomb.

M&A recommends that we appoint a committee-at-large, made up of Ministry and Advancement committee members Beth Schobernd and Mariellen Gilpin, with Steve Tamari and Christina Schulz chosen by Macomb Friends, in order that Ministry and Advancement Committee might nurture and support this new worship group as it follows the process in ILYM's Faith and Practice.

Mariellen and Beth are offering an Inquirers Weekend to the Macomb worship group, to help new Friends learn how to be Quakers. Carol and Andrew Bartles are also supporting this new worship group. M&A would like to encourage Continuing Committee members and other Friends to visit the Macomb worship group, in order not only to provide some cross-fertilization to this isolated little community, but also to model how Quaker worship happens. Macomb worship group is currently meeting on Sunday evenings. Friends can find the directions to the Unitarian church where they meet at their website: www.macombquakers.org.

Other signs of change in the yearly meeting.

Fernando Freire and Paul Buckley have been reaching out to *Blue Island Evangelical Friends*, a Hispanic church in the Chicago area. Blue Island Friends attended the Corn Roast for the first time this fall—attended in force—and are interested in reaching out to ILYM. MCGM is also interested in reaching out to Blue Island.

A former Urbana meeting member moved to *Maryville, Missouri*, and has a leading to start a worship group there. Carol Bartles has some ties to Maryville, where she and Bob went to school, and will visit the worship group regularly. David Finke has gotten them in touch with the LaPlata group, and Iowa Conservative Friends.

M&A Efforts to Strengthen Our Meetings.

Approval of appointing adjunct committee members. Currently M&A has eight members, and there are 20 meetings in ILYM. Since each M&A member is also heavily responsible for the life of their own meeting, it simply is not reasonable for us to serve more than two other meetings. For a number of years this situation has persisted. We have considered this longstanding problem and decided to accept with gratitude the offers

of ILYM elders Janice Domanik, Maurine Pyle, David Finke, and Janet Means to assist us in our work of visiting meetings. M&A looks forward to receiving written reports of their visits and will provide travel reimbursement for those needing it.

A Travel Policy for M&A Members. Joan Pine developed, and M&A approved, some policies for M&A members' travel. We need a clear travel policy for two somewhat different situations:

- 1) Not only M&A members, but also adjunct visitors of meetings who have been deputized by M&A.
- 2) The proposed guidelines are also suggested for the presiding clerk of ILYM. While this individual travels as ILYM clerk, we will welcome the clerk's submitting written reports regarding joys and concerns of ILYM meetings visited.

In addition to these policies, each visitor, whether an M&A member or adjunct member, needs always to let others on M&A know when we are going to visit another meeting, and also let our own meeting know, so that our visiting can have the prayer support of both M&A and our own worship community.

Mariellen Gilpin's Leading to Travel Within ILYM. Last year, I was assigned to visit two meetings. Beyond that, I visited four other meetings. I visited each meeting twice, for a total of 12 visits. Why did I do that? Because there were five meetings who had not been served by M&A for multiple years. There were two main fallouts from these journeys: 1) I gained a clear sense of the huge need for pastoral care, for a neutral third party to help with some of the dynamics in some of our meetings, and 2) I gave myself a case of the shingles. Both God and M&A were telling me, "Whoa, Mariellen!" At our fall meeting, M&A helped me discern how I should serve our monthly meetings this year, and approved this minute:

Mariellen Gilpin's prime assignment will be Carbondale (Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting); priorities for her other travel are to Bloomington-Normal and Spoon River meetings, and Macomb Worship Group. Mariellen will go with Fernando on his first visit as a representative of Ministry and Advancement Committee to Clear Creek, in order to make clear to Clear Creek Friends her continued concern for them and also hand off responsibility for visiting them to Fernando. We agree that M&A members' having an ongoing relationship with a meeting is important.

In addition, because I am unable to make these journeys without financial assistance, I wish to express my gratitude that Finance Committee is generally in support of this leading to travel.

Dividing Up the Work of Clerking M&A.

M&A discerned that clerking work was best accomplished by sharing the burden, so that I can focus more on the work of Advancement. The following Friends volunteered for various aspects of the work:

* Joan Pine will facilitate our meetings; convening us, preparing for and following up after meetings.

- * Fernando Freire will help the entire committee follow through on both individual and corporate initiatives.
- * Janice Domanik, who serves ex officio on Nominating Committee, will help recruit good committee members.
- * Beth Burbank will remind Friends who need endorsement as pastoral counselors about the ILYM endorsement policies.
- * I will act as our recording clerk.

Our Retreat with Brent Bill.

Many Friends arrived at the retreat tired, not to say burnt out. One Friend told me on Monday morning that she was not only still tired, but she was full of ideas—an odd state for her to be in! I prefer to think that tired Friends with ideas are better off than tired Friends with no ideas. Brent encouraged us to tell stories to one another about what has gone well. On Sunday morning we had such a lovely storytelling session about times we felt welcomed in a strange meeting that we decided to share our stories with you at Continuing Committee and in *Among Friends*. One of your handouts contains this report. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed sharing our stories.

Implementing the Vision.

M&A united behind the Vision Statement, and Finance Committee united with us by making the funds available. Friends' enthusiastic response at annual session was very encouraging. However, the Vision Statement assumed that Paul Buckley's gifts of workshop presentation were going to continue to be available. God thought otherwise. Furthermore, the glitch in actually getting Judy hired means we're behind our original schedule. Judy's gifts are different, and in addition she needs to focus on getting familiar with all our meetings and their needs. That is her primary role in the coming year. So, different members of M&A have volunteered to present the regional workshops this spring, and have decided on the topics:

- Janice Domanik will lead a subcommittee consisting of Joan Pine and Mariellen Gilpin in the presentation of workshops on starting and maintaining peer spiritual direction groups; Janice's suggestion for interested Friends whose meetings are very small and widely separated (as many of our meetings south of I-80 are) has been to conduct spiritual direction groups via conference calls using Skype. We look forward to finding other new ways to facilitate connecting Friends to one another.
- Fernando Freire and Judy Wolicki, with Fernando as point person, will design and carry out a regional workshop on conflict resolution. They want to include Biblical and Friends traditions on handling conflict. Others have offered to share some success stories from experiences in their meetings. We agreed we want to make it more likely that meetings in trouble will call upon elders outside the meeting.
- David Finke suggested that Columbia Friends might host a silent retreat. Columbia would provide a simple meal and invite nearby Missouri meetings to participate.

Needs Among Our Meetings.

At our October 1st meeting we summarized the needs of our meetings: aging and ill elders; new people who don't get it because Friends have difficulty communicating to them; small struggling meetings which need more spiritual messages in worship and

more spiritual seeking together; meetings in conflict; some seeds being planted for greater involvement with children; our need for patience, both with respect to the conflict and the children; our meetings' resistance to outside Quaker contact; and meetings dealing with issues of grief and loss.

We will be listening for other concerns as we visit meetings; we invite you to share your meeting needs with any member of M&A.

When shipbuilders launch a new ship, they conduct a shakedown cruise. They expect to have to learn by experience how the ship handles and what course corrections they will need to make for the ship to function at a high level. M&A, with the support and encouragement of Finance Committee and annual sessions, is undertaking a shakedown cruise this year with our Vision Statement. Lord willing, we expect to try things, observe the results, and learn from experience. Stay tuned!

Our spring Ministry and Advancement meeting will be March 30-31 at Beth Schobernd's home in Bloomington-Normal.