

REPORT TO CONTINUING COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2012 FROM MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The five new members who joined our Ministry and Advancement Committee at annual session have brought a fresh outlook and new enthusiasm to our work, and we are grateful for the contributions that each has made already. Judy Wolicki, our field secretary, has made a “jump start” into Fall activity, scheduling visits and/or presentations every weekend since September 1. We also are benefitting from the wise counsel of David Finke and of our yearly meeting clerk, who have been present at most of our committee meetings.

We are excited to welcome two new worship groups, one downstate in the Macomb area and one in Indiana. Five members of the Macomb Worship Group and an equal number of their children were present at annual session. And South Bend Meeting is fostering a group of 4-6 worshippers who meet 2-4 times a month, alternating between Elkhart and Goshen, Indiana.

Adult Young Friends, between 8 and 15 of them, are gathering monthly in the Chicago metropolitan area, where most work or study. Co-clerks Adrian Nelson and Madelyn George are setting their sights on outreach and on finding ways to connect with others aged 18-35 who are located farther south. During the summer, each of these young women was involved in the wider world of Quakers as well.

The second printing and assembly are underway for the “Book of Hope and Comfort” that Janet Means-Underhill created and which was distributed widely last year. Ministry and Advancement discerned that David Finke’s compensation for these efforts does not constitute a conflict of interest on his part. A charge of \$1.50 per booklet will cover the costs of production.

This year, for the first time, we distributed a survey to monthly meetings and worship groups to get each one’s assessment of its congregation’s strengths, needs, and interests. Eleven surveys were completed, several others are expected. Although this was not a survey of professional quality, it is giving us a starting point for communicating with those of you who are responsible locally for ministry, pastoral care, and spiritual nurture. Some of us already are considering presentations and seeking out resources on the topics you indicated as being of major interest. Outreach, mentorship, and eldering are common concerns.

Another major issue that challenges every one of our monthly meetings at some point is conflict among Friends. Last year when Fernando and Priscila Freire announced a Saturday workshop on this topic, it was over-subscribed the moment it was announced. So he has agreed this year to offer a different workshop on the same topic, open to all in the yearly meeting. We hope this can take place at the Urbana Meetinghouse, a central location that can accommodate many more participants.

Mariellen Gilpin has shared her leading to create an inspirational blog, and Fernando and Judy Wolicki are working with her to convene a clearness committee to test and refine this vision.

Members of Ministry and Advancement, as well as the clerk of ILYM, our field secretary, and four former members of M&A, each have accepted assignments to visit and maintain contact with at least one monthly meeting or worship group in ILYM aside from their own. Your representative will be delighted to hear your issues of concern and to offer resources to further your meeting’s spiritual life and growth. Please don’t hesitate to call upon him or her. In turn, we ask that you hold us in the Light, individually and collectively, as we seek to know and do God’s will.

Joan Pine, Clerk