

## **2014 Fall Continuing Committee Meeting**

**10/25/2014**

### **Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, ILYM Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois**

Present: Peter Albright, Dick Ashdown, Wil Brant (recording clerk), Kent Busse, Beth Carpenter, Mike Dennis, Janice Domanik (assistant clerk), Kay Drake, David & Nancy Finke, Chris Jocius, Cathy Garra, Meredith George, Chris Goode, John Hackman, Roxy Jacobs, Judy Jager, Caryn & Steve Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Peter Lasersohn, Sandy & Ichiro Matsuda, Gracye & Neil Messner, Sarah & Noel Pavlovic, Chip & Bridget Rorem, Dawn Rubbert, Carl Sherrod, David Shiner (presiding clerk), Erin Taylor, Bobbi Trist, Sean West, David Wixom, Judy Wolicki.

Minute 1      The Fall 2014 Continuing Committee session began with opening worship.

Minute 2      Presiding Clerk David Shiner welcomed Friends to Continuing Committee and reviewed the charge of Continuing Committee.

Minute 3      Ted Kuhn reported in his capacity as Co-Treasurer. An updated form for reimbursement of travel expenses has been posted on the website. While budgeted for a deficit, the yearly meeting ended up with a small surplus for fiscal year 2014. Ted reviewed the end of the fiscal year financial statement printed in the 2014 minute book. For the current fiscal year, things are going according to the budget. Report accepted.

Minute 4      Judy Jager presented the report from the Finance Committee. A good transition has been made with the new Co-Treasurer Judy Erickson. Discussions have begun with the Site Envisioning Committee on practical steps needed to establish a yearly meeting-wide comprehensive records storage policy and system as well as supporting the hiring of a caretaker or contracted facilities manager for the McNabb property. The committee is looking into an appropriate way to keep records of pledges. Report accepted.

Minute 5      Judy Jager read the following minute presented by the Finance Committee:

We are in unity that the Development Committee should have access to information generated by its own actions and the actions of previous Development Committee efforts. And look forward to the clerk of Development Committee's continued dialog with the treasurers and the ad hoc committee regarding: anonymous donations, record keeping, access to confidential information, IRS compliance, managing appropriate and timely appreciation to donors. With Spirit as guide, we look forward to outlining a communication path for donation/pledge information exchange between the treasurer and Development Committee.

Minute approved.

Minute 6      David Finke presented the report from the Development Committee. The committee is very appreciative for the regular giving that has come through monthly meeting and worship group gifts. The goal of raising \$10,000 in "Leadership Gifts" has been exceeded. Mailing list information is

being gathered from monthly meetings for a direct-mail appeal that will go out in the late fall. Report accepted.

Minute 7 The Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant reported that in regard to responses for requests for contact information the yearly meeting previously had a mailing list of 166 households. 237 households have been added for a total of 403 households. Information has been received from eleven meetings. Information is pending from five meetings. No response has been received from six meetings.

Minute 8 Bridget Rorem presented the report from the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Committee members have visited various meetings since Annual Sessions. The committee discussed a letter received from Joy Duncan regarding the meaningful inclusion of children and their parents in the life of the yearly meeting. The letter is attached with the report. Report accepted.

Minute 9 Continuing Committee recommends that the Ministry and Advancement Committee and Religious Education Committee take up the concerns expressed in the letter brought up by the Ministry and Advancement Committee from Joy Duncan and bring concrete proposals in response to the letter to Spring Continuing Committee. 57th Street Meeting, other meetings, and individuals are also encouraged to provide input to these committees to help develop proposals. Minute approved.

Minute 10 Judy Wolicki reported in her capacity as Field Secretary. Religious education opportunities and programming for children, youth, and young adults are concerns and is related to how we are all part of one community. This a complex issue and there is a need for a broad-based approach to religious education that includes education for adults and children in a way that welcomes families, children, youth, young adults, singles, and elders—education opportunities that are welcoming to all, that recognize and develop the wisdom and skills and spiritual insights of all. Judy is open to hearing input from individuals about providing regional workshops. Report accepted.

Minute 11 Chip Rorem presented the report from the Stewards. Stewards are serving ex officio on Maintenance & Planning, Environmental Concerns, Development, Finance, and Site Envisioning. The Stewards support the work and the projects of these committees as listed in the Stewards report and the reports of these Committees. Report accepted.

Minute 12 Meredith George presented the report from the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee has scheduled a work weekend on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9, which will include work with Adult Young Friends and high school youth. Things to be done include items gathered from a “to do” list developed during Annual Sessions. The committee welcomes more suggesting. Report accepted.

Minute 13 Chris Goode presented the report from the Site Envisioning Committee. The committee plans to pull together cost estimates for work to rejuvenate the campground bathhouse in time to review them at Spring Continuing Committee. Discussions are ongoing between committees regarding a property caretaker or contracted facilities manager. The committee has also discussed the need for an internal document archive. Report accepted.

Minute 14 Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee. The committee is reconstituting itself and will be focusing on the development of a recommendation concerning a

caretaker or contracted arrangement for overseeing the care of the campus. The committee hopes to conclude its work by the 2015 Annual Sessions after this and other remaining tasks are completed. Report accepted.

Minute 15 A member of the Personnel Committee will serve on the Ad Hoc Property Use Committee in relation to developing a job description and potential oversight of a caretaker position.

Minute 16 Noel Pavlovic presented the report from the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee has inventoried the toxic chemicals and other items stored in the west barn and is exploring possibilities for their disposal. There are four outdoor electrical outlets around the northeast corner of the campground. The committee would like for these to be designated camping locations for tent campers wanting places to plug in electrical fans or CPAP machines and will be in discussions with others regarding the use of these. Report accepted.

Minute 17 Erin Taylor presented the report from the Nominating Committee. Monica Tetzlaff, who will be living in Ghana for the next year, has asked to be removed from the Religious Education Committee. In addition, Steve Tamari has resigned from the Finance Committee. Discussions were held with Clear Creek Meeting members regarding Stewards. They noted that having two Stewards from Clear Creek helps not to overwork one person and expanding the total number of Stewards to up to five helps to spread the work.

The following were present for approval:

Administrative Coordinator Oversight: Pam Wolfe (2017)

Peace Resources: Carl Sherrod (2017)

Publications and Distribution: Chris Jocius (2017)

Religious Education: Dawn Amos – Clerk (2017), Barbara Harroun (2017)

Report accepted. Nominations approved.

Minute 18 Dawn Rubbert presented the report from the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee. Wil Brant has now gone through a year cycle in the position and things are going OK. Report accepted.

Minute 19 Peter Lasersohn presented the report from the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee is developing a new short subsection on Stewardship and revising existing texts now entitled *Care in Times of Crisis: Accident, Illness, Death, and Bereavement* and the sections on *Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings* and on *Monthly Meetings*. The committee is working on a section dealing with yearly meeting organization, which hopefully will be brought to the 2015 Annual Sessions for initial presentation. The committee plans to begin work this year on a section on the history of Illinois Yearly Meeting and on a glossary. It is hoped that the entire project will be complete by 2018. To reach this goal, the committee may request that texts submitted in 2016 have only a two-year provisional approval and texts submitted in 2017, a one year provisional approval. Report accepted.

Minute 20 Sean West presented the report from the Publications and Distribution Committee. Peace Resource Committee's blog has been moved to the ILYM server. The 2014 Minute Book is being distributed at this Continuing Committee meeting. *Among Friends* is being reformatted as a six-

page mailer and the committee is in the processes of defining and possibly dividing up the editor's position as it follows up on leads on people interested in serving as editor. The committee welcomes additional leads. Report accepted.

Minute 21 Chris Goode presented the report from the Youth Oversight Committee. The Quake in November 2014 is planned for McNabb, during the scheduled work weekend. Work will include improvements in the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse and other work on the campus. Work has begun on the January Quake which will be held at Evanston meetinghouse. Report accepted.

Minute 22 Kent Busse presented the report from the Peace Resources Committee. In relation to the charge given at Annual Sessions, the committee has developed an electronic forum for people to discuss concerns regarding sexual orientation. The committee also continues to bring awareness about the National Religious Coalition Against Torture to meetings. Report accepted.

Minute 23 Carl Sherrod presented a report from the Adult Young Friends. The adult young friends have created a steering committee composed of two Co-Clerks, a Communication Coordinator, an Events Coordinator, a Liaison to the High School Friends, a Treasurer, and an Outreach Coordinator. Outreach will include sharing a set of queries regarding adult young friends with monthly meetings.

Minute 24 Janice Domanik presented the submitted reports from the ILYM Representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friend General Conference (FGC), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Representative reports accepted.

Minute 25 Updates were provided on 2014 Annual Session Area Preparations.

Erin Taylor presented the report for Blue River Quarterly on Site Preparation. All coordinator positions have been filled with the addition of Grayce Messner serving as Site Prep Coordinator. Help with site prep and clean-up, as always, is needed and appreciated.

Cathy Garra presented the report for Chicago North on FUN (the Friends Under Nineteen Program). There is a need for an overall coordinator and assisting with some age groups. The next meeting will be Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. at the Evanston meetinghouse.

Caryn Kuhn presented the report for Chicago South on Program. The theme will be "From Mystic Voice to Activist Voice." The Thursday evening speaker will be Ann Riggs. The speakers on Saturday evening will be Staughton and Alice Lynd. The Plummer lecture will be given by Fernando Freire.

Area Preparation Reports accepted.

Minute 26 The Meeting offered its profound gratitude to Clear Creek Meeting for hosting today's Continuing Committee, especially for the desserts.

Minute 27 The Continuing Committee session concluded with closing worship.

David Shiner  
Presiding Clerk

Wil Brant  
Recording Clerk

## **Finance Committee Report**

Finance Committee met October 4 at Clear Creek House. We were joined by the yearly meeting's payroll service provider, Chuc Smith and also by Chris Goode from the Site Envisioning Committee. We no longer have representation from any of the southern parts of the yearly meeting and will address this with the Nominating Committee.

We appreciate the dedication of our co-treasurers. Payroll and other government requirements have been updated by Judy Erickson. Data has been provided to the Development Committee to help them follow up on pledges for individual giving. Records of past and current expenditures are being organized to create a current and accurate prediction of long-term costs of caring for the yearly meeting site. Co-Treasurer Ted Kuhn will serve this year as liaison from the committee to the monthly meetings, to write to their treasurers, to stay current as to their financial support and to keep the monthly meetings informed as to how their money is being spent.

A joint working group of Development and Finance Committees has begun the task of drafting a policy on use of contribution and donor information.

Discussions have begun with Site Envisioning Committee on 1) how the Finance Committee can support hiring of a caretaker for the McNabb property, and 2) practical steps needed to establish a yearly meeting-wide comprehensive records storage policy and system. Finance Committee and Chuc Smith will update employee and payroll records by January, 2015.

Liaisons to other committees have been appointed. We continue to urge the Property Use Committee to increase property use fees.

We remind committee clerks and representatives to larger Friends organizations to use the Travel Expense Report Form posted on the website. These should be submitted to Judy Erickson for obtaining reimbursement.

Research is underway on the requirement of the Financial Accounting Standards Board as to recording and accounting for pledged contributions. Our goal is to find and follow the simplest accounting method allowable in this regard. We will also query Friends General Conference and other yearly meetings on their practices.

The committee will meet January 10, 2015, via teleconference.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Jager, clerk

## **Development Committee Report**

We have had relatively little activity since our Annual Sessions, and have not met in person since then. But the results of our efforts to date have continued to be gratifying.

Most of you will recall the joint presentation that Judy Jager (from Finance Committee) and I gave at Annual Sessions, in which we announced the launching of an Annual Fund. We would solicit confidential "Leadership Gifts" aiming for \$10,000 which we hoped could then be matched to meet a goal of \$20,000 for this present fiscal year, to come as unrestricted individual gifts to the Operating Budget. We were able to announce some heartening progress on that during the sessions. Building on this confidence, Finance Committee proposed and we as a Yearly Meeting accepted a new budget with no cuts!

We can now report that we happily exceeded that goal by presently having in hand pledges totaling \$11,725 just in this first round. Some of those have already been paid; the money is going to work in many programs to realize ILYM's ongoing mission.

All this is in advance of our mailing out the intended direct-mail appeal to as many names in ILYM as we can gather. Our target had been for sometime this fall, and at this point it appears it will be late fall. An explanatory and gently persuasive letter went from the presiding clerk to ask the cooperation of monthly meetings and worship groups in sharing their mailing lists (Annual Sessions 2014, Min. #36).

The results of that request (which went to membership recorders, presiding clerks, and yearly meetings representatives from each meeting) have been mixed. David and Wil can report on what the specifics are to date, but the response has been less than universally forthcoming. We may wish to have a discussion at Continuing Committee as to how we interpret to Friends the fact that any member of a monthly meeting is automatically a member of ILYM, and that we hope to be in touch with them. Our yearly meeting is not an “outside group.” Strong, protective feelings have been elicited from some quarters, but careful and loving work can overcome anxiety. This will proceed “in God’s time,” and probably cannot be hurried.

Our work continues with Finance Committee to clarify expectations as to who should have access to what donor information, in what circumstances and under what conditions—a complex task but worthy of the effort. A working group which includes the co-treasurers and several others appointed from our two committees has begun exchanging drafts of a policy statement. We are feeling encouraged, though not ready yet to bring a report to Continuing Committee. We expect that both committees will want to review it and thus have it come jointly.

We are still working (with the treasurers doing further research) to find out what pledges Friends have made in the past, to then be able to follow up on them. If any reading or hearing this have made such pledges, please remind the treasurers to help them complete the records which appear to have been kept in many different formats. Also, our fund appeal will ask further for Friends to look with faith into the future and make pledges (“intentions”) for one or more years based on their best estimate and sense of calling to undergird ILYM’s work.

We want to stress again how very appreciative we are for the regular giving that has come through monthly meeting and worship group gifts, even as these contributions have become a lesser part of our income stream. In asking individuals to add ILYM to their list of “worthy causes,” we in no way want them to reduce their commitment to a local meeting.

In meeting with Publications Committee several weeks ago, I was able to clarify with them how their schedule of mailings will coordinate with what at this point we believe will be a once-a-year direct-mail fund appeal. “Development” includes “interpretation” as well as “solicitation.” So the ongoing education about the full range and flavor of what ILYM is and does is something for which we are grateful to have help from many directions. Please think of telling the story of your ILYM work, communicating with our Administrative Coordinator and/or *Among Friends* editors.

Finally, we continue to value the opportunity to meet face-to-face with Friends to learn of their own interests, and what part of our shared work engages their enthusiasm and could lead to their making pledges, writing checks, and including us in estate planning and deferred giving. One visit earlier this year has, just in recent weeks, resulted in a substantial gift at the Leadership level. Several other personal visits are planned for the Fall. We are always interested to learn if and when you would welcome sitting down with some of us. Also, if you’re willing to be an “asker” or just accompany us on visits, we heartily encourage learning about that from you.

Sharing in the joy of building to make our visions into realities, David H. Finke, clerk

## **Ministry and Advancement Committee Report**

At its last meeting during annual session, Ministry and Advancement (M&A) was delighted to welcome Mark McGinnis, Beth Burbank, and Cathy Garra to the Committee. Members expressed enthusiasm about continuing and intensifying our ministry of visitation to our assigned meetings and worship groups -- as well as to other meetings when it's convenient. Our intention is always to listen and to strengthen our relationships among Friends.

Since the summer, committee members have visited Springfield, Northside, Clear Creek, Duneland, Oshkosh, and South Bend. On October 12, Ted Ehnle offered his chanting workshop, "Worship with Music" to Macomb Worship Group. Friends from Bloomington-Normal and Clear Creek Meetings also attended.

M&A received a letter this month from Brad Laird in Accra, Ghana. He, Monica, and Hannah are attending Hill House Friends Meeting, the only Quaker meeting of any kind in Ghana. It is very small and unprogrammed. Brad describes worship as comfortingly familiar. However, the meeting's major concern, along with advancing peace, is getting clean drinking water.

At our meeting on October 18, M&A discussed at length a letter from Joy Duncan entitled, "A Concern about the Spiritual Life and Health of Friends of ILYM," regarding more meaningful inclusion of children and their parents in the life of the yearly meeting. A copy of the letter is attached to this report. The committee considers this concern to be an important issue for the yearly meeting. M&A requests that the concern be an item for the agenda at annual sessions. The committee recommends that the entire yearly meeting have serious discussions about this concern.

Our Spring meeting is scheduled for February 20 and 21 in Lake Forest.

Joan Pine, Clerk

### **A Concern about the Spiritual Life and Health of Friends of ILYM**

I believe that ILYM wants to be welcoming to children and their families. I have some concerns about this because I am not sure that as a yearly meeting we really know how to do this. It is important to realize that when welcoming children and their families, there are 3 main considerations (which is a lot!):

1. Parents as seekers
2. Children needing programming specific to their developmental needs
3. The family as a whole unit together fitting into the spiritual community (in other words, some together time and some time apart)

In this process of exploring how ILYM is family friendly, I want to encourage Friends to look at the spoken and unspoken messages that we are giving to Friends and their children. Is the message that kids aren't "real" Quakers until they are able to sit through an hour of worship, attend meetings for business and serve on committees? Or is the message that Friends recognize that children, as well as all people, have a deep spiritual connection to God? Are we sending unspoken messages that are of worth, respect, love and care?

Think about Continuing Committee and how it is held twice a year for essentially an entire Saturday with child care offered if parents inquire about it. I can only imagine my kids' reaction to driving a long way to be in child care all day! PYM (and of course I understand we are not PYM – has a children's interim meeting program that kids look forward to attending and

is organized specifically for them). As a parent, I understand that weekends are often very important family time for parents and their children.

Think about the FUN program at ILYM. Proposals for adult workshops have to be submitted and approved. It seems like it is hard to get volunteers to lead the different groups for the FUN program and there is no notion of setting up a formal format like a proposal. I have noticed that many of the volunteers are parents or care givers of the children participating.

Putting together the continuing committee structure and the FUN program, I am noticing a pattern of parents not being able to attend yearly meeting business. How can the yearly meeting best serve families if their voices are not being heard? It is always better to hear the actual voices rather than imagining what programs, etc. might serve them best, right? Additionally, we are missing out on having the valuable contributions of parents in ILYM business.

The FUN program is held in tents. The unspoken message here could be that the adults get the permanent building and that the kids get the temporary ones that sometimes get blown down in storms. What would it be like for the meeting house to be used by the kids and the adult business sessions be put in the tents instead? Imagine that.

I have sat in on some business sessions at yearly meeting. I have noticed that topics such as electricity in the cabins and wording of Faith & Practice received a lot of attention and there is barely time to hear everyone who has something to share. I have not noticed that pattern when reports that concern children are given. Yes, the ILYM RE report and similar reports are received with gratitude. Gratitude is a step in the right direction, but it is different than actual engagement.

Don't get me wrong – there are several parts of ILYM that we are doing right in terms of children and their families. Dancing on the lawn and the variety show are some great examples of this. I believe that Friends' spoken messages are pretty positive. I am encouraging us to dig deeper and to truly examine our commitment to including children and families in our yearly meeting.

I promise you that it will be a challenge. But it is a challenge that is worth it. You can think about the future of Quakerism and how children are our future. However, that is only a small part of it to me. The real reward is in the here and now. Working with children can be an extremely rich spiritual experience. Broadening our experience with the Divine through singing, fellowship, visual art making and so much more will make us a richer more vital faith community. All this work to include, nurture and welcome families and children will be an experience that will help us grow, not only in numbers, but more importantly grow and renew us spiritually.

I leave you with a quote from May 2008 Friends Journal article, Young Families and Quakerism: Will the Center Hold? By Tom Hoopes (Great article and well worth reading btw). “Young families need Quakerism, and Quakerism needs young families. So, can we talk?”

Respectfully submitted by Joy Duncan, 57th Street Meeting October 6, 2014

## **Field Secretary's Report**

Visiting and listening continue to bring me great joy!

Since annual sessions, among other topics, I have heard about religious education, community building, outreach, connections with one another, needs for better communication, and the need for help for small meetings. With some paraphrasing, here is what some Friends have been saying about their questions, concerns, and challenges around some of these issues:



## 1) Religious Education

This is a complex issue with many levels. There is a felt need for a broad-based approach to religious education that includes education for adults and children in a way that welcomes families, children, youth, young adults, singles, and elders—education opportunities that are welcoming to all, that recognize and develop the wisdom and skills and spiritual insights of all. A member who works with children reported, “The experience of working with children is an intense spiritual experience that makes you grow, that helps you grow.” This Friend suggested that we need to “consider the issue as a community” because we are “missing out when we do not have all the voices.”

There is a concern that programs for children may result in exclusion—exclusion of children and exclusion of parents and those doing the “kid’s program” from the work of the community of the whole. There is a concern that some of our structures are inconsistent with the message that we want to be welcoming, for example having programs for children in impermanent rather than permanent structures at meetings and Annual Sessions, having “baby-sitting” but no program for children at Continuing Committee. Meetings that meet in homes sometimes have no separate space for children; another monthly meeting recently lost its First Day School room. A Friend suggested that there is a need for an atmosphere of welcome that is apparent before families with children reach the door to the meeting.

Do our monthly meetings and the yearly meeting, separately and together, project a message that is truly welcoming to all members of the community? How do we make space for all? How do we invite family participation in all aspects of community life? How do we reach out? How do we create programs that are ready when children come to meeting? How do we grow? How do we engage families so they will come back week after week?

## 2) Outreach

During July, August, and September, I attended a program at Downers Grove focused on how to reach out to others to share what is found in Quaker meetings. There was discussion around the question, “What do I say when someone asks, ‘What is a Quaker?’” and the question, “Does the meeting meet my needs?” Do our meetings meet our individual needs? Our corporate needs? The needs of the local and global communities of which we are a part?

## 3) Connections with One Another

At Blue River Quarterly Meeting this fall there was a comment that there needs to be more connection between individual Friends and between monthly meetings. One way BRQ addressed this issue was that individuals and groups wrote letters to absent members and others. Another suggestion was for regional workshops to bring together individuals from monthly meetings in geographic areas. I will be working on this possibility this year.

I would like to encourage us to begin talking with one another, in our monthly meetings and worship groups, and in the yearly meeting about these topics and the questions that arise within us.

## Travel and Visits

Since annual sessions, I have visited, members of St. Louis, Columbia (enjoyed the hospitality of Friends in Westphalia, MO), Downers Grove, 57th Street, Oak Park, Upper Fox Valley, Rock Valley, Lake Forest, and Southern Illinois.

At the end of August, I attended the Corn Roast and had a delightful visit with the Howenstines and others from Chicago-area meetings, as well as a member of Bloomington-Normal and members of

Western Yearly Meeting and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. As darkness fell, we were treated to the calming and inspirational music of the Evangelical Friends (who now meet at Chicago Monthly Meeting meetinghouse). Approximately 125 people attended the Corn Roast, which is hosted annually by the Upper Fox Valley Friends.

In September, I had the pleasure of attending the Secretaries & Superintendents Conference in North Carolina, where I met with the executive secretaries of FCNL, FWCC, FUM, and secretaries and superintendents of Western, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Northwestern, New York, Baltimore, and other yearly meetings. During the conference we also had the opportunity to attend a class on John Woolman at Guilford College and to visit an Underground Rail Road site near the college. The Guilford College teacher's assistant was a member of Columbia Friends Meeting.

In September, I also attended Blue River Quarterly in DuBois, which once again provided lots of opportunities for meeting with and listening to members of St. Louis, Columbia, Clear Creek, Bloomington-Normal, Urbana-Champaign, Macomb, and Southern Illinois meetings. Since I still can not bi-locate, I have continued my visiting in person and by phone, email and regular mail with members and attenders of these and many other meetings. I have continued to attempt to keep up with newsletters and email messages from those meetings that have been kind enough to add me to their email lists. (Keep them coming!)

#### Future Visits

As of the date of this report (10.6.14) I have plans for visiting Upper Fox Valley, Oshkosh on 10/12 with the Clerk of Upper Fox Valley, and a Friend who has moved back to Rockford from New York.

I continue to be a joy-filled Field Secretary! Friends continue to offer me their kindness, their guidance, their eldering, their mentoring, and their wisdom. Once again, please accept my gratitude to yearly meeting members for all the ways you support, nurture and guide me in this work.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki

## Stewards Report

The Stewards are actively involved in the work of ILYM committees. Dick Ashdown is serving ex officio on Maintenance and Planning with Neil Mesner being secondary. Neil Mesner is serving ex officio on Environmental Concerns Committee with Dick Ashdown being secondary. Grayce Mesner is serving ex officio on Development Committee with Chip Rorem being secondary. Chip Rorem is serving ex officio on Finance Committee and Site Envisioning Committee. We look to adjust our service to apply our participation where it is best in service to the yearly meeting. We appreciate the increase in the number of Stewards from two to four.

Three of our four Stewards (Dick Ashdown, Grayce Mesner, and Neil Mesner) are members of Clear Creek Meeting. We trust that the site related work is in knowledgeable hands. Our fourth Steward, Chip Rorem is from 57th Street Meeting.

#### Projects

- **Completed**
  - The bathroom in the furnace room of the ILYM meetinghouse was completed in time for Beth and Duane's wedding and the annual sessions. There was condensate dripping from the tank that pooled on the floor. We asked Paul Ebener, our contractor, to purchase a liner to remedy this issue.

- **Expected Soon**
  - The ongoing aggravation with the fire alarm at Clear Creek House is being addressed. Though not resolved, the issue is improving. The alarm is not now going off in the middle of the night.
  - The north porch painting of the ILYM meetinghouse is on the schedule but not yet completed. We hope that Ebener Construction will complete the task before cold weather returns.
  - The drain in the basement kitchen of the yearly meeting meetinghouse remains a problem. Due to the small size of the drain pipe leading to the septic field, the water in the open-site drain overflows onto the kitchen floor. Ebener will try to secure the piping better, but the larger problem of the undersized drain remains.
  - We await the documentation of the recently completed termite inspection.
  - Site Envisioning is preparing scope documents for the improvements to the North Campground bathhouse. We will assist as the scope and budgets are approved.
- **Proposed when Funds are Available**
  - The accessible grade-level bedroom and bathroom remodeling of (or addition to) Clear Creek House at the present garage area awaits funding. We will assist the Development Committee as needed in the fundraising effort.
- **Future Projects**
  - Neil mentioned needing new driveway culverts at the Clear Creek House, especially the west one. That is probably a county/township expense. We will investigate.
  - Paul Ebener will to pick up bottles to test the water when he comes to work on porch. We hope these projects will be completed this Fall.
  - The moving of the propane tank at Clear Creek House has been delayed.

We support the effort of the Finance Committee to face our budget obligations. We also support their joint effort with the Development Committee to secure funds to address a sustainable way forward to care for our McNabb Campus. We are encouraged by their emerging focus on having sufficient funds secured for the upkeep of any future capital expenditures in addition to the initial cost of the project. We feel that a focus on the care of our campus will help us make responsible decisions on any expansion we entertain.

We eagerly look forward to expanding the group of Stewards to its full capacity.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Ashdown, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, and Chip Rorem

## **Maintenance and Planning Committee Report**

Our committee has had no meetings to report on since the joint meeting in the spring with the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Co-Clerk Meredith George, who delivered the report to the ILYM meeting for business with Friends and committee members suggestions, prepared a plan for the November work day below:

M & P Committee plans a work weekend on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9. (See the work plan below). We plan to work with the Adult Young Friends and the High School Youth. We do need more help, so all past or recent committee Friends are encouraged to join us. We plan to stay overnight at the Clear Creek House sharing it with others who may also be staying there that weekend.

Items added to the "To Do" list for M&P that was posted on bulletin board at Annual Sessions:

Meetinghouse:

- 1) At least 1 bench in main room needs middle-leg repair. (Leg is split.)
- 2) Can windows be opened at the top as well as the bottom when it is really hot to allow hot air to escape?

Clear Creek House:

- 1) Main door (nearest driveway) is sticking. Can't be closed.

Fox Hole:

- 1) Repair door hinge on east wall of Fox Hole.
- 2) Replace door knob to Fox Hole (or bring extra screw to fit the spindle).

Cabins:

- 1) Put bed boards on all the bunk beds.
- 2) Resecure trim on some of cabin screen doors.

Shower House:

- 1) Put hooks to hang towels and clothes.
- 2) Hot water dripping in womens left shower stall (needs new washer or shower head).
- 3) Left shower head in men's bathroom.
- 4) Right sink drain in men's bathroom has a slow leak.

Chicken House:

- 1) Clear out junk
- 2) Organize/inventory supplies we want to keep (in plastic containers)

Junior Building

- 1) Finish the wood work

Meredith George and John Hackman, co-clerks

## **Site Envisioning Committee Report**

The Committee met during Annual Sessions in June but not since. We are saddened by the death of one of our committee members, Janet Means Underhill, and are glad that she could be with us in June.

The committee plans to pull together cost estimates for work to rejuvenate the campground bath house in time to review them at Spring Continuing Committee. Members of the committee met with Paul Ebener during annual sessions to discuss the bath house renovations and other issues. We would like to have these estimates ready should sufficient funding be found to execute the work in the near future.

The committee brought the concern that ILYM should prepare to have a property caretaker in the near future to Annual Sessions in June. Chris Goode and Chip Rorem have attended parts of two Finance Committee Meetings in June and September to discuss this idea and how to move this forward. The discussions led to the decision that the first step should be to develop a detailed job description, which would then give us some notion of how that work might be reimbursed in a fair way. This position would not be full-time, at least at first, and membership in ILYM is not a requirement. In fact, it might not be an individual at all, but perhaps an agency that does property or facility management. Paul Ebener might be interested in working with us in this way using his employees and/or subcontractors. We would like to ask the ILYM Clerk how we should proceed and if this should be done by our committee or another committee such as the Stewards, Maintenance and Planning, or

Property Use Committees, or if an ad-hoc committee should be formed.

We also talked with Finance Committee about the need for some kind of document storage system for ILYM that all committees might make use of as an internal archive so that documents are not kept solely in private files and on committee clerk's computers where they may be lost or can not easily be retrieved in an emergency. Finance committee has taken the lead on this and will consult with ILYM Administrative Coordinator Wil Brant and ILYM Clerk David Shiner about how to move this forward.

Respectfully Submitted by Christopher Goode, Clerk

### **Environmental Concerns Committee Report**

The ECC gathered at McNabb to eat dinner at Morenos on Friday, October 4. We shared the Clear Creek House with members of Finance Committee. On Saturday, we inventoried the toxic chemicals and other items stored in the west barn. In attendance were John Hackman, Bill Howenstine, Sarah Pavlovic, Noel Pavlovic, Chris Goode, and Laure Goode. Dick Ashdown joined us in the middle of the afternoon.

We think that perhaps the best way to dispose of the waste is to find a toxic waste hauler to remove the material. The Putnam County website has no information concerning disposal of toxic waste. We will continue to investigate the possibilities.

The short inventory includes:

- 15 tires
- 75-80 empty plastic five gallon buckets
- Some construction waste – broken glass, window frames, door, and wood
- 5 propane tanks and 2 small tanks
- 50-60 aerosol canisters with some contents and 12 empty
- 80 containers of transmission/hydraulic liquid of various capacities
- 18 gallons containers of thinner, +- capacity
- 40 gallons paint etc. not latex, +- capacity
- 10 lb bag of 5% diazinone insect killer
- Various tubes of caulk
- 3 containers of urethane hardener or catalyst

We sorted other materials into categories of trash, recyclable metals, and compostable waste. We also traversed the property looking for issues to be addressed at the November work weekend. We located four electrical outlets around the northeast corner of the campground. We are favorable that these be designated camping locations for tent campers wanting places to plug in electrical fans or CPAP machines. We will make a recommendation at Continuing Committee about the electrical camping locations. Friends departed around 4:00 p.m.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Nominations presented for approval:

Administrative Coordinator Oversight: Pam Wolfe (2017)

Peace Resources: Carl Sherrod (2017)

Publications and Distribution: Chris Jocius (2017)

Religious Education: Dawn Amos – Clerk (2017), Barbara Harroun (2017)

Other business:

Because she will be living in Ghana for the next year, Monica Tetzlaff has asked to be removed from the Religious Education Committee. In addition, Steve Tamari has resigned from the Finance Committee.

At Annual Sessions, Nominating Committee was asked to speak directly with Clear Creek members to discuss their wishes in regards to the existing requirement that two yearly meeting stewards come from Clear Creek. Out of this meeting came a resounding desire for the continuation of this requirement. Clear Creek Meeting feels that having only one local steward would place too much weight on that one individual. They also feel that having up to five stewards is also very beneficial as it makes lighter work for each steward. It was also noted that if there were a property manager or caretaker the wishes of Clear Creek members might change, as this could take some of the work off them.

### **Administrator Coordinator Oversight Committee Report**

Wil Brant began his work as Administrative Coordinator at the rise of Fall Continuing Committee one year ago. He has now experienced one full year in the position and has weathered the busy cycle of our summer sessions.

The transition continues to seem blessed and successful. Hopefully Friends have expressed support and pleasure for the changes he has made in our electronic communications.

While support from the ACOC has been offered none has been needed. The Coordinator reports all is well from his perspective and he is satisfied with the compensation level.

ILYM Friends need to know that the only member of the ACOC is myself as clerk. The Nominating Committee is actively seeking additional members.

Yet and still, no concerns about the communication changes or any other aspect of the AC's work have been received by this committee. We gratefully accept this as a sign that Friends are pleased with the work being done.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn L Rubbert, clerk

### **Committee on Faith and Practice Report**

The Faith and Practice Committee has met twice since last summer's Annual Sessions. Most of our attention in these meetings was devoted to developing new text on stewardship, and revising our existing texts now entitled Care in Times of Crisis: Accident, Illness, Death, and Bereavement, Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings, Communities of Friends, and The Monthly Meeting.

As instructed by the Yearly Meeting, our plan is to bring the stewardship section to the 2015 sessions, requesting approval for a two-year provisional period so that it will expire with the rest of the testimonies section, which was approved for a three-year period in 2014. Versions of Care in Times of Crisis and Recognizing Spiritual Gifts and Leadings were included in the Advance Documents of the 2014 sessions; our hope is to bring revised versions in 2015, requesting provisional approval for a three-year period. Communities of Friends and The Monthly Meeting were approved in 2010 for a five-year period; we are revising these sections in light of comments and suggestions received since then, and plan to submit new versions in 2015 with a request that they be approved for an indefinite period.

Additionally, we have begun work on a section dealing with yearly meeting organization, which we hope to bring in 2015 for initial presentation. We also plan to begin work this year on a section on the history of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and on a glossary.

Our hope is to complete the entire project by 2018. In keeping with this goal, we may request only a two-year provisional approval for texts submitted in 2016, and a one-year provisional approval for texts submitted in 2017.

The committee reminds Friends that all approved texts and circulating drafts are available on the ILYM website. The committee seeks comments both from meetings and from individual Friends on how our texts can be improved.

## **Publications and Distribution Committee Report**

1. Listserve/ILYM Announcements update:
  - a phpList has been in use since March 2014
2. Print Publications
  - a Minute Book
    - i. Design and layout are done, and if all goes well printed copies will be available for distribution at the 2014 Fall Continuing Committee Meeting.
  - b Sarah Pavlovic's Plummer Lecture
    - i. Waiting on text
  - c Judy Jager's Plummer Lecture
    - i. Text and audio versions are now available online
    - ii. Print version is close to being completed, and we are hoping to have it available for distribution at the 2014 Fall Continuing Committee Meeting.
  - d 2011 and 2012 Plummer Lectures
    - i. Text versions are available online
    - ii. Print versions need to be outsourced
  - e *Among Friends*
    - i. The publications committee met on September 27, 2014, at the Clear Creek House to work out an updated format for this publication and to define how we might break up the editor's position.
      - A. New format
        - (1) Wil created a mock up of what a six-page mailer might look like along with an outline of the number and types of articles that would fill out the mailer
          - (a) Four main article topics.
            - Yearly meeting/yearly meeting committees
            - Monthly meeting
            - Individual
            - Reflection/inspirational
        - B. We are still open to idea of having one editor but hope that by offering the option to split the position we can attract more people willing to volunteer.
        - C. Co-Editors
          - (1) Content Editor
            - (a) Solicits materials
            - (b) Curates content into a cohesive issue

- (c) Copy edits materials
- (d) Sends materials to Production Editor
- (2) Production Editor
  - (a) Designs the layout of the issue
  - (b) Oversees printing and mailing
  - (c) Uploads PDF to web
- (3) We have some leads but currently do not have an editor (or editors) for *Among Friends*
- (4) We would like to have the first issue released in Spring of 2015 but without an editor (or editors) it is difficult to say if that will be possible.
- f New Publications
  - i. We are looking into publishing a pamphlet on the Inward Light Section of ILYM's Faith and Practice.

### **Youth Oversight Committee Report**

We have had a quiet time since Annual Sessions. The committee has not met in person or by phone despite best intentions. The Quake in November 2014 is planned for McNabb, with Work Weekend occurring at the same time. Goals are to continue improvements to the Jr. Yearly Meetinghouse. No other workshop will take place at that time, due to the labor needed to complete these improvements. Teens will need to be mindful of their need for sleep as well as connecting with friends; others will be working with them and power tools may be involved so we want to be fully present and safe.

January Quake is being worked on (Evanston site pending request of same). The Memorial Day Quake will be finalized at that time.

David Wixom and David Finke have provided information about past policies regarding safety. These will be distributed to the committee soon.

Next Continuing Committee, we hope to present a more robust listing of meeting minutes, activities, and plans.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Gunnell, clerk

### **Peace Resources Committee Report**

Continuing the discussions concerning sexual orientation that was undertaken at Annual Sessions, Peace Resources Committee is working to encourage open reflection and sharing among Friends at the monthly meetings. To that end, the committee has distributed an announcement in the ILYM announcements list inviting Friends to consider the discussion begun on a "Illinois Yearly Meeting Internal Communications Forum" (<http://www.ernstraud.org/ilym>). In addition, the committee will be directly notifying clerks of monthly meetings of this electronic forum. The committee will be listening to this discussion in the hope that it will acquire a sense of Friends' responses to this complex matter. In future electronic announcements, the committee will provide resources for enlightening and guiding possible actions.

The committee is small with less than half its seats filled. With its limited resources it is moving forward on other items in its agenda. It is working to bring the National Religious Coalition



Against Torture to the attention of monthly meetings. For the past year, committee members have been visiting monthly meetings and listening to Friends so that these voices may also inform its work.

Once a clerk of the Education Committee has been named, Peace Resources hopes to begin work with that committee.

## **FCNL Representatives Report**

We are now blessed with six Friends Committee on National Legislation Continuing Committee members from ILYM. At least three of them and two others will be attending the Annual Meeting in Washington in November. Visits with Illinois senators and representatives are being scheduled. It is not too late for any member or friend of ILYM to register for this meeting which will be held Thursday, November 20 until Sunday, November 23. If interested go to [www.FCNL.org](http://www.FCNL.org) to gain further info and to register.

We have been attempting to establish an **active** contact person in each meeting and worship group. That person receives regular updates from the FCNL national office and assists in developing messages to legislative representatives on relevant urgent ethical and moral issues.

## **FGC Representatives Report**

The 2014 sessions of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference were held October 16-19, 2014 at Pearlstone Conference Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. Reports were presented by committees. The significant things that ILYM members will want to know are:

1. The Quakerbooks website has been redone and is up and running making it easier to order books and pamphlets.
2. A new book on Bayard Rustin will be available from QuakerPress in early November. It is written for middle school individuals.
3. A Spiritual Deepening program is being developed as a result of the consultation which Judy Wolicki and Katherine Young participated in last December.
4. There are preparation for a feasibility study for a possible campaign.
5. Tom Paxson and Ann Riggs went to Korea for the World Council of Churches gathering.
6. The White Privilege Conference will be in Louisville, Kentucky March 11-14, 2015. Registration will open January 15, 2015. The 2016 conference will be in Philadelphia and FGC is part of the host team.
7. The gathering this summer will be at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina, July 5-11, 2015. The theme this year is Seeking Wholeness. This campus is flat and has great facilities.

## **FWCC Representatives Report**

ILYM is a member of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), the organization which brings together Quakers from all over the world, regardless of which branch of Friends the respective yearly meetings belong to. FWCC is divided into four sections, each one comprising a different part of the world. The Section of the Americas (SOA) represents the western hemisphere.

In March 2015, the FWCC Section of the Americas (FWCC SOA) will be holding its biannual meeting in Mexico City. Since it is so difficult for South and Central Americans to procure visas to enter the USA, FWCC tries to hold meetings south of the US border whenever possible. FWCC SOA has recently increased the number of younger Friends, Hispanics, evangelicals, and Friends of color in its governance structure. However, the financial inequities within our Section are crippling to the work of FWCC. The immediate need is to raise \$15,000 to cover the costs for Latin American Friends' travel and accommodations at the Section Meeting in March. Anyone who has not donated to the Section in the last five years will have their gift doubled through a Mustard Seed matching campaign.

Speaking for the ILYM FWCC reps, I would like to invite individuals within ILYM to donate to this worthy cause. Donations may be mailed to: FWCC, Friends Center, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19102. Or sent through their website at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/donate/index.shtml>

Nancy Wallace, ILYM Representative

## **Area Planning Committees Reports**

### **Blue River Quarterly**

The responsibilities associated with Site have been assigned as follows:

Overall Coordinators: Beth Carpenter and Erin Taylor

Site Prep Coordinator:

Site Prep Food Service: Heather Evert

Purchasing Coordinator: Sharon Haworth

Housekeeping Coordinator: Steve Tamari

Clean-up Coordinator: Christina Schulz

We are still awaiting an answer from a potential volunteer for Site Prep Coordinator. Should she decide not to serve, we will be in need of someone to fill this role. As always, we will also need lots of help with all aspects of our site responsibilities, particularly preparation and clean-up. We will joyfully accept offers to volunteer; please contact any of the coordinators if you would like to sign up to help.

### **Chicago North**

Chicago North has met and is making good progress on FUN activities for children and recreation. We are in need of an overall coordinator. Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. at the Evanston meetinghouse. Volunteer opportunities remain, especially for working with others on morning programs for children in the 3-5, 6-8, and 9-11 age groups.

Cathy Garra

### **Chicago South (Program)**

The program planning group consists of the following volunteers:

Overall Coordinator: Caryn Kuhn

Speakers/Evening Program: Bridget Rorem & Sarah Pavlovic

Workshops: Angie Thinnes & Wil Brant

Worship Sharing: Pam Timme & Marti Matthews

Before-dinner singing: Joy Duncan with Riona, Tiegan and Niall

The theme for the 2015 annual sessions will be “From Mystic Voice to Activist Voice.” The Rorems and Pavlovics are meeting Tuesday 10/7/14. Additional information about speakers will be distributed upon confirmation.

### **Report from Adult Young Friends**

The Adult Young Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting have grown closer through the recent creation of a Steering Committee. This Steering Committee includes our two co-clerks, a Communication Coordinator, an Events Coordinator, a Liaison to the High School Friends, a Treasurer, and an Outreach Coordinator. Since Annual Sessions, we have spent time defining the role of our Outreach Coordinator, in part, with the use of an AYF business meeting this past August. The Outreach Coordinator nurtures the Young Adults within our meeting communities, builds bridges between young adults of other faiths, and listens to each monthly meetings concerns regarding young adults. The start of this outreach was the creation of queries that we intend to bring to meetings in order to help us understand where meetings are at regarding their young adults. These queries will be given to the ILYM community through both a letter for your meeting to discuss and a visitation from our Outreach Coordinator.

Additionally, the AYF Steering Committee has had several potlucks in Chicago during these past few months as a way to nurture the AYF community in this region of ILYM. Beyond this, our committee is exploring the possibility of having several AYF potlucks outside of Chicago in the near future. Furthermore, the AYF Steering Committee has planned several AYF events to occur during ILYM Work Weekend this November, in the hope of using this weekend to serve both the AYF community and ILYM.

The Steering Committee of the Adult Young Friends