

# Illinois Yearly Meeting

## Fall Continuing Committee

Tenth Month 22, 2016

Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse, McNabb, Illinois

hosted by Clear Creek Meeting, McComb Worship Group, and Burlington Worship Group

Attending: Dick Ashdown, Wil Brant, Kent Busse (Recording Clerk), Beth Carpenter, Janice Domanik, Kay Drake, Joy Duncan, Judy Erickson, Fernando Freiri, Priscilla Freiri, Dale Gardner, Cathy Garra (Presiding Clerk), Meredith George, Mariellen Gilpin, Chris Goode, John Hackman, Bill Howenstine, Chris Jocius, Brittany Koresh, Caryn Kuhn, Pam Kuhn, Steve Kuhn, Ted Kuhn, Peter Lasersohn, Ichiro Matsuda, Sandy Matsuda, Rachel Mershon, Gryce Mesner, Neil Mesner, Fariba Murray, Bridget Rorem, Chip Rorem, David Shiner (Assistant Clerk), Dan Stevens, Monica Tetzlaff, Sean West, Marie White, and Judy Wolicki.

### Minutes

**Minute 01** Illinois Yearly Meeting Fall Continuing Committee opened with worshipful silence.

**Minute 02** Presiding Clerk Cathy Garra welcomed those in attendance. This year we welcome the children of the yearly meeting to the children's program held concurrently with Continuing Committee. Some of the children are staying for a Middle School weekend retreat. There is a bundle of printed material for each monthly meeting; someone from each meeting should take home a bundle to reduce mailing expenses and provide the materials quickly.

**Minute 03** Monica Tetzlaff, clerk of Children's Religious Education Committee, reported for the committee. The recent work of the committee has had an intergenerational focus. One sign of progress is that there are eleven middle schoolers present at Continuing Committee. The children's program during Annual Sessions 2016 accomplished a good and valuable function. Report accepted.

**Minute 04** Judy Erickson presented the treasurer's report noting that later in Continuing Committee there will be additional discussion regarding the Children's Religious Education Coordinator position. Considering the account balances and their changes, last fiscal year showed a surplus at year-end; for the current fiscal year, the net loss in year-to-date balance is normal for this point in the year. Treasurer's report accepted.

**Minute 05** Ted Kuhn, clerk of the Finance Committee committee reported for the committee. Technical work has been done by the Treasurer on refining Quickbooks information. Additional technical work is being done on budgeting for Annual Sessions and long-term property maintenance. The committee is working on finding a replacement payroll preparer for Chuc Smith who is retiring, collaborating with 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting where he also has managed payroll. In this area, specialized professional expertise is especially needed. Report accepted.

**Minute 06** The Meeting approves finding and hiring a payroll coordinator as recommended by and to be carried out by the Finance Committee. Action approved.

**Minute 07** Cathy Garra described the function of the Review Committee in processing unexpected expenses as they arise, as described in the ILYM Handbook. Current committee membership is found in Minute 41 of 2016 Annual Sessions.

**Minute 08** David Shiner read a portion of Minute 55 from 2016 Annual Sessions which provides priorities for Continuing Committee to determine the use of a \$5,000 Personnel contingency line. Monica Tetzlaff elaborated on the document describing the duties of the proposed position of Children's Religious Education Coordinator. The Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC) anticipates that further detailing of hours and expenses will be adequately covered by the \$5,000 estimated budget. This is a trial proposal for fixed duties over a fixed amount of time. The committee is asked to consider whether this person would be directly teaching children during various functions, instead of only coordinating that task. In accord with the intent of Minute 55 of 2016 Annual Sessions, and Minute 31 of 2013 Annual Sessions, **Meeting approves** the description of the position and authorizes CREC to proceed with the recruitment and hiring process per provisions found in the personnel manual. Approved. One Friend expressed a vision of the appropriateness of our facilities as a children's summer camp.

**Minute 09** David Shiner read the Development Committee Report submitted by Frank Young, clerk of the committee. The annual letter of appeal for individual financial contributions is expected to be mailed before the end of the month. Other work on fundraising related to planned projects is ongoing. Report accepted.

**Minute 10** Chip Rorem presented the Stewards Report describing numerous maintenance projects that are being carried out at many locations on the yearly meeting campus. There were five concerns to add to the material in the submitted report: 1. Adding a hood over the new stove; 2. Possible replacement of the dishwasher; 3. Possible repair/replacement of twelve windows in the high school bunkhouse; 4. Status of improvements to the bathhouse (whether a partial project would help us move forward); 5. The status of the big blue barn in back of Clear Creek House. It was noted that all of the ILYM Stewards were present in the room. Report accepted.

**Minute 11** Meredith George, clerk of Maintenance and Planning Committee, commented on the committee report which detailed numerous successes of the fall work day. Many projects remain on the to do list. There were very dedicated volunteers at the work day; however, there was need for many more. It is questionable and untenable to expect too few aging members to do the manual work of the property. Possibilities for improvement might include making Annual Sessions free to younger work volunteers; letting young Friends organize an approach to their doing the work; having work day retreats by individual meetings or groups of meetings, and implementing other creative ideas. May 20, 2017 is already scheduled for the next work day, allowing Friends to make firm plans well ahead. Report accepted.

**Minute 12** Chris Goode read and discussed the Site Envisioning Committee report. Regarding the big blue barn, of urgency are the roof repairs needed to prevent rapid deterioration of the rest of the structure. For the campground bathhouse, current best practice seems to be doing some work starting before Annual Sessions 2017 if details are approved at Spring 2017 Continuing Committee, but not committing to the most extensive envisioned renovation at this time. Regarding the proposed caretaker position, the committee recommends creating a budget line item now, setting aside some money each year for the future, while also considering other solutions named in the report. Minute 63 from Annual

Sessions 2016 calls for an ad hoc committee to address the Caretaker needs and solutions. The Meeting noted how much all of the projects of all of the committees are interrelated. Report accepted

**Minute 13** Clerk Cathy Garra read a historical review of the Clear Creek Monthly Meeting which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary in November 2016. This led into reflection on the current progress and state of the yearly meeting campus, followed by open discussion of projects.

**Minute 14** On behalf of the Site Envisioning Committee (SEC), clerk Chris Goode suggested that a month of feedback from the yearly meeting about the bathhouse alternatives would result in more focused proposals for going ahead. The yearly meeting announcements list would be a good medium for soliciting feedback and publicizing steps of progress.

The current and past treasurers clarified the use of moneys in the ILYM budget for categories of projects. The Meeting supports conscientious efforts of the SEC in defining and selecting maintenance projects. The Maintenance and Planning Committee will be accepting and seasoning ideas about how to involve more Friends in property upkeep. The Finance Committee will be working from Minute 63 of 2016 Annual Session to promptly set up the ad hoc committee on the caretaker issue. Approved.

**Minute 15** Chris Goode, member of the Environmental Concerns Committee, read the report from the committee. A clearness committee was held with Environmental Concerns Committee, Clear Creek Friends, and the Stewards concerning the way forward on the shelter belt/windbreak. Planning is underway for future tree and shrub work on the entire ILYM campus. Report accepted.

**Minute 16** Bridget Rorem, member of the Ministry and Advancement Committee, reported for the committee. Committee members and other Friends have been visiting ILYM meetings. Efforts are ongoing to support small and struggling meetings and to season the ILYM policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment. Notably, there is a new worship group in St. Charles, Illinois. Report accepted.

**Minute 17** Judy Wolicki gave her report as Field Secretary. Previously, Judy had requested suggestions about service she might give to the yearly meeting and monthly meetings. The response has been a flood of opportunities that are keeping her very busy. She reported on concerns that are on the hearts of the participants: belief, race, gender equality, gifts, resolution of conflicts and reconciliation, building community, welcome and integration of all ages. Report accepted.

**Minute 18** Peter Lasersohn, clerk of Faith and Practices Committee, asked for final comments on four remaining sections of the Meeting's Faith and Practice, ideally by February, 2017. These sections are Light Within and its Religious Implications, Testimonies, Quarterly Meetings, and Sample Membership Form. The Committee has begun work on four more texts for provisional approval in 2017 or soon after. These sections are Recognizing Gifts and Leadings, Friends and the State, Pastoral Care, and Glossary. The committee hopes to begin the following sections in the very near future: Religious Education, History of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Addiction, Clearness Committees, Worship Sharing and Threshing Sessions, and Wider Quaker Organizations. After that, there will not be too many sections to go. The original goal of 2018 is not impossible. Friends are asked to let everyone know that the texts are available on the website so that people will not be taken by surprise when the full book of faith and practice is published as a single volume. Report accepted.

**Minute 19** Brittany Koresch, clerk of Youth Oversight Committee, reported for the committee on events executed and still planned. The work hours by the Youth Coordinator have considerably exceeded projected expectations. Youth Oversight Committee is requested to work with Finance Committee and Personnel Committee on a resolution of this issue. Report accepted.

**Minute 20** The Clerk is charged with selecting the Naming Committee, which is the group that submits names to consider for Nominating Committee. Cathy Garra indicated that Bridget Rorem and Judy Wolicki have agreed to serve on this year's Naming Committee. Approved

**Minute 21** Nominating Committee is working hard and even up to the start of Continuing Committee, but it does not have any new appointments to submit for approval at this time.

**Minute 22** Cathy Garra announced that the most recent edition of the ILYM Handbook (October 2015) has been uploaded to the ILYM website. This is a valuable resource, often neglected. Its use is encouraged.

**Minute 23** Sean West, clerk of Publications and Distribution Committee, reported that the committee is caught up on its publication backlog. Publications having been upload to the ILYM website and print copies are being distributed today during Continuing Committee. Sean is working hard on evaluating Drupal in relation to WordPress as a platform for the ILYM website. Report accepted.

**Minute 24** Cathy Garra thanked our Administrative Coordinator, Wil Brant, for the publication of the ILYM Directory. She noted that her personal contact information is missing in this edition. It is the same as in last year's directory. An update to the directory will come out early in 2017.

**Minute 25** Brittany Koresch, co-clerk of Adult Young Friends (AYF), reported AYF has been updating its web presence, developing material on being a co-clerk, drafting a pamphlet describing ILYM AYF, and putting to paper guidelines for hosting a potluck. An online version of the pamphlet draft is starting to receive responses. Graphics talent is invited. Report accepted.

**Minute 26** Reports from ILYM representatives to wider-Quaker organizations included the following: American Friends Service Committee is searching for a new General Secretary; Friends Committee on National Legislation will focus after the November election on prison reform; and Bruce Kanarek's (ILYM representative to Friends General Conference) description of the deep, conscientious deliberations and actions involved in carrying out effectively the spiritual mission of FCG while holding concerns over best methods and practices.

**Minute 27** Planning Group Reports for 2017 Annual Sessions:

Pam Kuhn reported for Chicago North planning groups for Program and Food (Pam Kuhn, overall coordinator for program, and Janice Domanik, overall coordinator for food). The theme will be "Open Hearts." Workshops are still under construction and will include multigenerational workshops. Blue River Quarterly planning group is working on Children's Session planning, with Barb Harroun and Erin Taylor serving as overall coordinators. Judy Wolicki read the Chicago South planning group report from Brad Laird (overall coordinator for Site). The report included names of several people who will serve in various positions. Work is progressing well for all groups. Treasurer Judy Erickson reminded Friends that purchases made for ILYM are tax exempt. She has copies of the sales tax exemption certificate letter that purchasers should use to make tax exempt purchases.

**Minute 28** Meredith George read a report from Mike Dennis, clerk of Personnel Committee, on the activities of the committee. The report dealt primarily with the new requirement of changing reporting method from fixed salary to hourly wage in order to satisfy a change in the law effective December 1, 2016. The Finance Committee will cooperate with Personnel Committee toward the goal of meeting the deadline. Report accepted

**Minute 29** There has been an approach made to scheduling Spring Continuing Committee in the Chicago area on March 4, 2017. Notice will be given when a decision is reached.

**Minute 30** The Meeting gives special thanks to Clear Creek Meeting, Macomb Worship Group, and Burlington Worship Group for the lunch service and hospitality for today's meeting.

**Minute 31** The Meeting gives special thanks for the inclusion of the new Children's Program and Middle School Retreat in the Continuing Committee schedule.

**Minute 32** The Meeting expresses its love to Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Minute 33** Meeting closed with silent worship.

Cathy Garra  
Presiding Clerk

Kent Busse  
Recording Clerk

## Treasurers Report

### Illinois Yearly Meeting Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 (as of 10/4/16)

	To Date 6/30/2016	Opening Balance 7/1/2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash		
Checking Account	221,699.52	205,513.80
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
PayPal	198.45	0.00
Total Cash	<u>231,897.97</u>	<u>215,513.80</u>
Accounts Receivable	3,080.00	0.00
Undeposited funds	12,530.50	0.00
Previous Years Adjustment*		<u>2,172.04</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>247,508.47</u></u>	<u><u>217,685.84</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	430.59	800.40
2014/15 Accounts Payable Adj*		(502.17)
Funds Held for 2017 Women's Weekend	100.00	
Total Liabilities	<u>1,503.59</u>	<u>1,298.23</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Undesignated	53,234.09	39,902.41
Previous Years General Fund Adj*		2,674.21
Unrestricted Designated	142,739.44	127,239.44
Temporarily Restricted	50,031.35	46,571.55
Total Net Assets	<u>246,004.88</u>	<u>216,387.61</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<u><u>247,508.47</u></u>	<u><u>217,685.84</u></u>

**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Statement of Fund Activity  
For the period 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016 (as of 10/4/16)**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	<b>Balance 7/1/2015</b>					<b>Balance 6/30/2016</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>						
UNRESTRICTED		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted Transfers</b>	<b>Other Transfers</b>	
1. General Operating (Adj)*	<b>42,576.62</b>	131,495.44	(103,638.17)	(13,500.00)	(3,699.80)	<b>53,234.09</b>
DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	<b>42,361.24</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>42,361.24</b>
3. Current Projects	<b>1,122.17</b>	7,470.00	0.00	0.00	530.00	<b>9,122.17</b>
4. Payroll Reserves	<b>36,000.00</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>36,000.00</b>
5. FWCC World Meetings	<b>5,000.00</b>	0.00	(6,000.00)	2,000.00	0.00	<b>1,000.00</b>
6. Maintenance Reserve	<b>42,756.03</b>	0.00	0.00	11,500.00	0.00	<b>54,256.03</b>
RESTRICTED						
7. Property Improvement	<b>46,571.55</b>	290.00	0.00	0.00	3,169.80	<b>50,031.35</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSEST</b>	<b>216,387.61</b>	139,255.44	(109,638.17)	0.00	0.00	<b>246,004.88</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Loans from Individuals	<b>1,000.00</b>					<b>1,000.00</b>
Accounts Payable/Other Liab (Adj)*	<b>298.23</b>					<b>503.59</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>217,685.84</b>					<b>247,508.47</b>

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Oversight Committee</u>
1.	<b>General Operating</b>	Finance Our general operating fund, where we organize our annual budget.
2.	<b>Special Gifts</b>	Finance A reserve fund to receive larger unrestricted contributions, used for special projects.
3.	<b>Current Projects</b>	Site Envisioning Unrestricted donations to be used for renovation projects, as approved at 2013 Annual Sessions.
4.	<b>Payroll Reserves</b>	Finance A reserve fund that would be used for payroll only during unexpected financial circumstances.
5.	<b>FWCC World Meetings</b>	Finance A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC World Gatherings.
6.	<b>Maintenance Reserve</b>	Maintenance & Planning Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance, repair & upgrade projects.
7.	<b>Property Improvement</b>	Site Envisioning Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects.

*Note:* Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the ILYM site (land and buildings in McNabb, IL) is omitted from the Assets section of this report. ***\*FOR THIS YEAR ONLY:*** Due to a thorough review in 9/2016 by Treas. Judy Erickson, she is incorporating adjustments to some ending balances from last fiscal year (FY) published in the 2015 Minute Book. These changes were due to additional income/expenses for the previous FY coming in after the deadline for Minute Book publication, and to correct some minor accounting inconsistencies in Quickbooks (QB). These figures align what appears in this Minute Book with actual transactions in our QB software, which has been used faithfully, continuously, and with great integrity by all ILYM Treasurers since 7/1/2006. The good news is that we have more in the General Fund than we thought we did!



**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting Contributions  
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 (as of 10/4/16)**

	Unrestricted	Property	World Conference	Total
Blue River Quarterly	0.00			0.00
Bloomington-Normal	2,549.00			2,549.00
Clear Creek	5,000.00			5,000.00
Columbia	2,640.00			2,640.00
Downers Grove	7,000.00			7,000.00
Duneland	2,160.00			2,160.00
Evanston	15,230.00			15,230.00
57th Street	2,400.00			2,400.00
Lake Forest	16,500.00			16,500.00
Northside	1,897.50			1,897.50
Oak Park	2,880.00			2,880.00
Oshkosh	30.00			30.00
Rock Valley	0.00			0.00
Rolla	0.00			0.00
South Bend	4,560.00			4,560.00
Southern Illinois	1,440.00			1,440.00
Spoon River	720.00			720.00
St. Louis	9,120.00			9,120.00
Upper Fox Valley	1,500.00			1,500.00
Urbana-Champaign	9,240.00			9,240.00
Total	84,866.50	0.00	0.00	84,866.50

**Recommended Annual  
Contribution per Adult  
Resident Member is \$240.**

**Illinois Yearly Meeting  
Operating Budget 2016-2017 (as of 10/4/16)**

<b>Income</b>	<b>16-17 Anticipated</b>	15-16 Actual	15-16 Budget
Contributions from Meetings	<b>82,000</b>	84,899	82,000
Contributions from Individuals	<b>29,000</b>	28,611	22,450
Gatherings & Retreats	<b>15,500</b>	16,701	14,000
Fundraisers & Other Income	<b>0</b>	696	0
Interest	<b>600</b>	620	600
<i>Total Income</i>	<b>127,100</b>	131,495	119,050
<b>Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office)	<b>(55,200)</b>	(49,083)	(49,750)
YM Travel Support	<b>(4,500)</b>	(1,014)	(6,500)
Gatherings & Retreats	<b>(15,000)</b>	(18,626)	(13,000)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint)	<b>(16,700)</b>	(15,937)	(16,200)
Committees	<b>(12,550)</b>	(9,428)	(12,550)
Support to Others	<b>(10,650)</b>	(9,550)	(9,550)
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<b>(114,600)</b>	(103,638)	(107,550)
Transfer to <i>Maintenance Reserve Fund</i>	<b>(11,500)</b>	(11,500)	(11,500)
Transfer to	<b>(1,000)</b>	(2,000)	(2,000)
Transfer to		(530)	
Transfer to		(169)	
Transfer to		(3,000)	
<i>Total Expenses and Transfers</i>	<b>(127,100)</b>	(120,837)	(119,050)
<b>Net General Fund Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	10,658	0
<b>Expense Line Item Details</b>			
<b>(1) Personnel</b>			
Salaries & Payroll	<b>(43,700)</b>	(43,006)	(43,250)
Staff Travel	<b>(5,500)</b>	(5,286)	(5,500)
Office	<b>(1,000)</b>	(791)	(1,000)
Contingency	<b>(5,000)</b>		
Total	<b>(55,200)</b>	(49,083)	(47,750)
<b>(2) YM Travel Support</b>			
ILYM Committee Travel	<b>(2,000)</b>	(99)	(2,000)
ILYM Reps Travel	<b>(2,500)</b>	(915)	(2,500)
Total YM Travel Expenses	<b>(4,500)</b>	(1,014)	(4,500)
Transfer to <i>FWCC World Meetings Travel</i>	<b>(1,000)</b>	(2,000)	(2,000)
Total YM Travel Support	<b>(5,500)</b>	(3,014)	(6,500)
<b>(3) Site</b>			
<b><u>Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)</u></b>			
Insurance	<b>(5,500)</b>	(5,521)	(5,500)
Repairs	<b>(1,200)</b>	(1,521)	(1,200)
Mowing & Tree Trimming	<b>(5,000)</b>	(3,940)	(5,000)
Annual services (inspections, winterizing)	<b>(1,500)</b>	(1,570)	(1,500)

Utilities	<u>(3,500)</u>	<u>(3,385)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Facilities Total	<b>(16,700)</b>	(15,937)	(16,200)
Transfer to <i>Maintenance Reserve Fund</i>	<u>(11,500)</u>	<u>(11,500)</u>	<u>(11,500)</u>
Total Site	<b>(28,200)</b>	(27,437)	(27,700)

**(4) Committees**

Ad hoc	<b>(100)</b>	0	(100)
Development	<b>(1,100)</b>	(531)	(1,100)
Environmental Concerns	<b>(200)</b>	0	(200)
Faith & Practice	<b>(150)</b>	0	(150)
Finance	<b>(450)</b>	(110)	(450)
Handbook	<b>(50)</b>	0	(50)
Maintenance & Planning	<b>(200)</b>	(165)	(200)
Ministry & Advancement	<b>(250)</b>	0	(250)
Nominating	<b>(300)</b>	(149)	(300)
Peace Resources	<b>(250)</b>	(100)	(250)
Peace Tax Fund	<b>(50)</b>	0	(50)
Personnel (may increase \$5,000 for Childrens RE Coord)	<b>(150)</b>	0	(150)
Publications	<b>(6,000)</b>	(5,248)	(6,000)
Religious Education	<b>(300)</b>	(8)	(400)
Site Envisioning	<b>(200)</b>	(15)	(200)
Adult Young Friends	<b>(300)</b>	(307)	(300)
Youth Oversight*	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(2,950)</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>
Total	<b>(12,550)</b>	(9,428)	(12,550)

**(5) Support to Others**

Quaker organizations -ILYM assigns representatives

Friends General Conference (FGC)	<b>(4,000)</b>	(4,000)	(4,000)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	<b>(3,500)</b>	(2,500)	(2,500)
American Friends Service Cmte. (AFSC)	<b>(400)</b>	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation Edu. Fund (FCNL)	<b>(400)</b>	(400)	(400)
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	<b>(300)</b>	(300)	(300)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	<b>(250)</b>	(250)	(250)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	<b>(50)</b>	(50)	(50)

Regional Quaker educational institutions

Chicago Friends School (CFS)	<b>(300)</b>	(300)	(300)
Scattergood School	<b>(200)</b>	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	<b>(200)</b>	(200)	(200)
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	<b>(100)</b>	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	<b>(100)</b>	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	<b>(300)</b>	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	<b>(200)</b>	(200)	(200)
Friends Journal	<b>(200)</b>	(200)	(200)
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)	<b>(100)</b>		
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Total	<b>(10,650)</b>	(9,550)	(9,550)

\*NOTE: Youth Oversight Income from Quake registrations and HSF fundraising totaled \$451, offsetting \$2950 expenses for net expenses of \$2499.

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I performed a review of our two major financial accounting databases: financial reports in Minute Books (MBs) and our Quickbooks (QB) accounting software used for the past ten years. QB is the Treasurers' software tool for recording financial transactions and providing data for MB reports. The faithful, hard work of all our previous Treasurers was manifest in the accuracy, completeness, and versatility of the database they created and nurtured.

However, I found that some data in MBs did not always align perfectly with the QB data. Also, some of the ending balances in the General Fund did not always match the next year's beginning balances in the MBs. Two transactions not accurately recorded last year were resolved this year as transfers. Most other discrepancies seemed to be due to inconsistent use of accrual and cash methods of reporting. Such inconsistencies can result in transactions showing up on reports for the wrong fiscal year.

To resolve these discrepancies, I added adjustments to the "Opening Balance 7/1/2015" column of the **Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet**. These adjustments are included in the "Balance 7/1/2015" column for the "General Fund" and "Accounts Payable" lines on the **Statement of Fund Activity**. These data now match the data in our Quickbooks software. The net result is that the amount in the General Fund was higher on 7/1/15 than we thought it was. It was reported as \$39,902.41; it was actually \$42,576.62. There were no changes to the other Fund balances for 7/1/15.

ILYM seems to be in good financial shape at this time. Thanks to generous support from our constituent meetings and from many generous donors, our income for FY2015/16 exceeded our budget for contributions. Additional contributions totaling \$8,000 have been made toward remodeling the campground showerhouse. Also contributing to our financial health, our expenses were less than budgeted. With the surplus going into the General Fund, the total in that Fund on 7/1/16 was \$53,234. The total of all our Funds was \$246,005.

Judy Erickson

## Stewards Report

Dick Ashdown, Neil and Grayce Mesner continue to manage the brush that falls on the grounds of the campus, but there will be enough left for ILYM workday. In addition, Dick is working with a local contractor on a gradual removal of brush and above-grade concrete block that remain at the location of the former long shed.

Neil has solved the problem, for now, (temporarily) of water collecting around the Clear Creek House (CCH) basement furnace. He has the condensate water now draining into a bucket. A new pump could be purchased to draw away the furnace condensation.

CCH west door –Neil and Dick keep whittling away at it and framework, so we can close the door during the summer.

Hemlock plants east of barn went undetected, so will have new crop next year.

Ameren plans to replace our electric meters at the meetinghouse and campground. No one has to be there when the tech comes to do it.

The CCH dish washer was working during Site Prep. Then, when we had a memorial luncheon for Bud Wolf's sister on July 15, and filled it with dirty dishes, it did not work. We tried it another Sunday when we met there because of heat but again no one could get it to work. It seems that the user interface failed. It has been repaired and is now working.

Dick has been working on fixing the swing set. He plans to buy some replacement bolts. We also hope to treat the wood with a wood preservative or linseed oil to make it last longer. (We consider it Clear Creek's swing, since a local person gave it to us.)

Neil says a decision on the barn should come soon. Putting it off for another year or two, will be a negative answer, as the barn will not last that long. We may be faced with its "demolition by default". Maybe not all of it is failing, but probably both the east and west ends.

We continue to work with the Finance Committee to analyze our spending history. The goal of this effort is to establish what it takes to sustain the ILYM campus.

The Stewards met with Environmental Concerns and Site Envisioning to discuss the way forward with the windrow on the west side of the south property. Judy Wolicki led us in our discussion. It was decided that we remove three of the Osage Orange plants on the north end of the windrow to avoid any encroachment with the oak tree planted in memory of Paul Schobernd. Furthermore, the Environmental Concerns Committee will develop a plan for the future of the windrow. That plan will be circulated among all concerned parties and adjustments will be made to the plan to resolve any concerns. The Osage Orange will remain for the next few years until it is determined how and if it integrates into the mature windrow.

Dick Ashdown, Beth Carpenter, Grayce Mesner, Neil Mesner, and Chip Rorem

## **Field Secretary's Report**

In my report at 2016 Annual Sessions, I included the following:

"I aspire to do more and better work as your representative. Therefore, as always, I invite your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, Friends. I ask that you continue to let me know how I can serve you and your meetings."

I can report that you have responded with your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, and that you have invited me to serve you in a number of ways.

In the last several months, you have invited me to facilitate discussions of sensitive issues, to offer retreats, to give programs, to join you in learning about Quaker history, to visit, to listen and just to be with you and enjoy your company. Thank you! I continue to feel great joy in serving you.

For several years I have been reporting on topics that you have raised in my visits and in emails and other correspondence from meetings and individuals. There have been a few new topics recently added to the list. I include here the new with some of the previous topics that still come up in conversation, and some that individuals and meetings are still working on:

- An exploration of truth: What is truth? What does it mean for each and all of us?
- Outreach: How do we reach out to "Quakers who don't know they are Quakers"?
- In this time of political uncertainty, how are we called to be "peacemakers"?

- Issues of race and (especially) white privilege and how to address them in ourselves and our communities, and issues of gender identity and acceptance: Do we truly “live” our testimony of Equality?
- Meeting spaces: renewal, renovation, finding new space, intentionally using questions around space to strengthen community and commitment: How do we decide what the Meeting needs?
- Fostering better communication, resolution of conflicts, and reconciliation: Listening
- Help and encouragement for small meetings and a recognition of the deep spirit that can be found in them
- The use and efficacy of prayer
- Individuals’ Gifts and the use of one’s gifts in service of meeting(s) and one another
- Satisfying our desire for joyfully deep and spiritual lives in spite of (or in celebration of) individual differences

And especially:

- Welcome and integration of children, youth, and young adults into the full life of their monthly meetings and our yearly meeting

What a change one person’s (Joy Duncan’s) willingness to express a concern (and willingness to work really hard to effect change) has had! We have experienced the gift children and young people bring to our gathering (*a la* Annual Sessions) and will experience it during these Continuing Committee sessions. The history of our monthly meetings reflects that strong programs for children that integrated them into the life of the meeting attracted more children and adults to those meetings. Work with and for children is vital to our own spiritual lives as well as theirs, and to the health of the yearly meeting body.

### **Travel and Visits**

From July through October 2016, I will have visited Friends’ meetings in Carbondale, Clear Creek, Downers Grove, Lake Forest, Oak Park, Duneland (Valparaiso), Oshkosh, Urbana-Champaign, and Upper Fox Valley. I have been in contact by phone, email, and letters, with Friends from Rolla and St Louis. I attended the Upper Fox Valley Corn Roast, and had the opportunity to spend time with Friends from 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Evanston, and Lake Forest, as well as Friends from Western Yearly Meeting, from Chicago Monthly Meeting and the Chicago Evangelical Friends who meet at Chicago Monthly’s meetinghouse. I attended Blue River Quarterly Fall meeting in DuBois, where I was able to visit with Macomb, St Louis, and Bloomington Normal Friends. I attended a workshop on Elias Hicks at Urbana Champaign, given by Paul Buckley, my predecessor as Field Secretary.

I have continued to offer programs, facilitate discussions and worship sharing, and to offer care, encouragement and resources in person and by phone to individuals and meetings.

Correspondence by notes, email and phone calls with those I am unable to visit in person (especially those who are unable to come to meeting for worship) is an activity I hope to increase and an opportunity I encourage others to consider. I believe we are strengthened by our contacts and commitments to one another, especially across meetings.

I continue to be inspired by what I read of Friends activities. So, I report on what I have seen and heard as I visit.

### **Future Visits and Programs**

As I write this report, my October-November travels include Oak Park (to facilitate their “Direction of the Meeting” meeting), Clear Creek (to offer an overnight retreat entitled “An Exploration

of Gifts: Conflict Resolution and Enacting Truth”), Downers Grove (to facilitate their 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday discussion), Valparaiso (for a retreat with Duneland Friends), McNabb (for the M&A committee meeting and to offer a retreat on “Gifts”). In December, I have been invited to Evanston for a program on “Spiritual Deepening”.

Friends’ suggestions of places that you think might want a visit or a program are appreciated. And I am always delighted to have the chance to develop new programs as requested.

It is a privilege to serve the yearly meeting, and I remain joyful in service to you, my Friends. Once again I thank you for your support, nurture, guidance and trust.

Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

## **Children’s Religious Education Committee Report**

Committee members: Joy Duncan, Dale Gardner, Barb Harroun, Monica Tetzlaff (clerk), Bobbi Trist.

Our Focus since Annual Sessions in June 2016 has been:

- 1) Providing more intergenerational worship, play and education opportunities at ILYM Annual Sessions and other ILYM gatherings and supporting the Children’s Sessions program so that parents would be less burdened.
- 2) Discerning the job description for the part-time \$5,000 paid position for a Children Religious Education Coordinator for Annual Sessions and one other opportunity approved at 2016 Annual Sessions.

The Committee was grateful that the funds had been found to carry forward the part-time Children’s Education Coordinator on a one-time basis. We met via Conference Call on Oct. 8 and discussed various aspects of the job description and especially what the one program outside of Annual Sessions would be. We determined that the middle school group is the top priority for Children’s Religious Education, outside of Annual Sessions. Blue River Quarterly’s spring session 2017 would be the best opportunity for a program, so we agreed write that into the Coordinator description.

Committee Members are working on updating the ILYM Planning group logs for Children’s Session programs, procedures and positions at Annual Sessions.

Committee members agreed to continue work on the job description so that it will be ready for consideration at Continuing Committee Oct. 22, 2016.

Submitted by Monica Tetzlaff

## **ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING POSITION DESCRIPTION Children’s Religious Education Coordinator**

Purpose: To prepare and coordinate Quaker religious educational programs and activities for children younger than High School Friends from Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) for spring and summer 2017.

Responsibilities:

- Assist the ILYM Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC) and the Regional Planning Group assigned to Children's Sessions in preparing and coordinating the Children's Sessions at the ILYM Annual Gathering at McNabb, IL in June 21-25, 2017
- Conduct a workshop at the ILYM Annual Gathering for Friends who teach children's religious education in their Monthly Meetings
- Plan, publicize and lead a program for Middle School Friends at Blue River Quarterly Meeting April 7-9, 2017. Essential to this work is coordinating with the Blue River Quarterly Meeting planners and recruiting volunteers to assist with the MS program.
- This gathering will be for Young Friends grades 5th-7th, as the 8th graders join the High School program and the 5th graders are being welcomed into the Middle School program.
- Serve as an ex officio member of ILYM's CREC
- Connect with the wider world of Friends through the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC). Use online resources for children's programming
- Demonstrate familiarity with ILYM's Policy Manual
- Track and report hours worked and expenses incurred
- Submit activity reports to ILYM's CREC, as requested

Qualifications:

- Called to children's ministry and attuned to the concerns of today's children
- Active in the Society of Friends (ILYM or affiliated meetings preferred, but not required), knowledgeable about the Bible and Friends testimonies, business procedures and writings, and attuned to Friends' social values
- Proven ability to interact effectively with children and to share Friends' religious faith, convictions, and spiritual journeys
- Ability to manage program planning details and to operate within a fixed budget
- College degree or equivalent (specific training or experience in children's development and education preferred)
- Computer literacy and familiarity with e-mail, social networking (e.g., Facebook), and webgroups (e.g., yahoo or google)
- Must pass a background check prior to employment

Oversight and Evaluation: Reports to and is evaluated by the Clerk of the CREC in consultation with CREC. It also is recommended that a clearness committee at a Monthly Meeting provide additional support for the coordinator in meeting the requirements of this position.

## **Development Committee Report**

**Present activities:**

Edit appeal letter and prepare annual appeal for individual contributions. Appeal is expected to be mailed before the end of the month.

**Planned activities:**

Determine total amount of funds available for use on present projects.



Identify individuals who might be interested in making significant contributions to the Bathhouse and Clear Creek House projects.

Identify volunteers who are willing to call on potential donors to discuss the present projects and the need for contributions.

Frank Young, Clerk

## **Environmental Concerns Committee Report**

Several members of the Environmental Concerns Committee participated in a clearness committee meeting with Clear Creek Friends, the Stewards that was facilitated by July Wolicki on August 21. The following were agreed to at the meeting:

1. The tree planted in memory of Paul Schobernd will NOT be moved;
2. The Osage orange plants near that tree will be removed;
3. Dick Ashdown is asked to talk to local people (possibly inviting them to a meeting at Clear Creek) to discuss plantings on the ILYM Property and to strengthen the connection with the local community;
4. The Osage orange already planted will be allowed to grow for up to two years and will be reevaluated to assess its use;
5. The percent of Osage orange to be used in the shelterbelt/windbreak\* will be evaluated, reassessed, and reduced as appropriate and as needed to address concerns about its use;
6. ECC will develop and refine the plan for the shelterbelt/windbreak\* in collaboration and consultation with the Stewards, Clear Creek Friends, Maintenance & Planning, Site Envisioning, and the mower to determine the plants and materials to be included. Before going forward with planting, the plan will be shared and refined by ECC based upon input received by ECC.

\*Note: The term “hedgerow” was revised to “shelterbelt” or “windbreak,” two terms said to be more descriptive of the expected use.

Noel has been preparing a native plant list for trees and shrubs of Putnam County. He and Adrian Fisher has yet to meet work on the windbreak plan. We plan to present a draft at the Spring 2017 Continuing Committee.

At the Maintenance and Planning work day, October 8, the four north most Osage orange trees were removed. There are 28 trees that are still alive along the windbreak. Digging up of the saplings revealed the convoluted and twisted nature of their tree roots (see photograph below). This may be why Osage orange is difficult to remove, once they get large.

Sarah Pavlovic, Nancy Halliday, and Noel Pavlovic piled woody debris from the campground, cut off the mulberries growing in the Peters memorial blue spruces, and grubbed out most of the trees growing around the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse.

We identified several tasks that ECC can accomplish in the spring:

- Herbicide the mulberry stumps under the blue spruces.
- Discuss whether something needs to be done about the south sycamore in the campground that is being overgrown by the larger hackberries to the south.
- Clean up the fallen woodpecker tree if necessary.

- Decide on the fate of the small mulberry between cabins E and R.
- Prune basswood that is to the west of the campfire pit.
- Determine whether the two leaning catalpa trees need to be trimmed or removed.
- Discuss with Grace Haworth the selection of a tree or shrub to replace the dead memorial ash tree west of the meetinghouse drive. This tree was killed by the non-native emerald ash borer.

Noel Pavlovic, clerk of ECC

Twisty root of Osage orange



## Finance Committee Report

Finance committee met October 1 in Clear Creek house. We had productive discernment on several items of interest.

1. Finance committee thanks Judy Erickson for working diligently to prepare the treasurer's report and cleaning up the Quickbooks data. The treasurers are continuing to look at the optimal ways of using Quickbooks and sharing data between themselves. We are planning for an external review of our books as that has not been done in several years, ideally before Annual Sessions.

2. Chuc Smith, who is currently the payroll administrator, will be retiring this winter. Finance committee is working to find a replacement solution for this work, as the administration work is beyond the expertise and/or time availability of Finance Committee. Any recommendations for qualified payroll administrators should be sent to Ted Kuhn.

**ACTION ITEM:** Finance committee recommends Continuing Committee authorize hiring a replacement for Chuc Smith.

3. We had received a question from Development Committee as to whether funds could be transferred from designated funds for the shower house renovation. Based on minute 64 from Annual Sessions, this decision would need to be made by Continuing Committee or deferred to Annual Session. Discussion is ongoing between the Treasurers, Stewards, and Finance and Development Committees.

4. We are beginning more work on budgeting for the various components of Annual Sessions, and on coordinating with various groups in preparing for the next budgeting process. Various Friends will be contacted in the winter and spring to assist us in planning. Of particular note is that Faith and Practice publication funds will be included in either the budget or a designated fund in the next year.

5. Finance committee discussed reimbursement for traveling elders of Annual Session speakers. Our current policy is to not charge registration fees and provide lodging in the cabin or campground if requested; we decided not to recommend any changes.

6. We are continuing ongoing work on long term property maintenance funding. We are continuing additional work to preserve and make accessible documents that are spiritually important to ILYM beyond the framework established by the ad hoc committee last year.

## **Maintenance and Planning Committee Report**

M&P held a fall work day on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Present were Grayce and Neil Mesner, John Hackman, Vicki Schultheis, Dick Ashdown, Noel and Sarah Pavlovic, Nancy Halliday, and Meredith George. Rebecca Morris came for supper.

Work completed included:

- Brush removal, weeding, and osage orange tending by the ECC members;
- Installation of 2 shelves in Fox Hole for computer/phone charging station;
- Replacing o-rings and chains, and water sealing swing set;
- Stabilizing Chicken House east wall so east door latches shut;
- Mowing the tall grass east of the Chicken House;
- Mounting fire extinguishers in Junior Yearly Meetinghouse.

We ate potluck lunch and dinner. The weather was perfect. Attendance was poor. We ranged in age from 59 to 87. We are clearly an aging and shrinking group.

Much of the work list was left undone because it was physically too hard or the necessary tools, equipment, and skills were not available.

I want to honor those people who drove hours to spend the day doing hard physical work on the property.

I am deeply distressed that ILYM Friends act as if it is okay to leave property upkeep to be done by someone else, someone elderly, someone who does not get paid for this work. Maybe incentivizing work days with free admission to Sessions might draw more helpers. If Friends don't want to help work on the property, and we don't want to hire and pay someone to do so, then it may be time to question whether ownership is good stewardship. On a completely different note: Penn House, the little building closest to the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse, has electricity and could be fixed up as a cabin for people who need electricity for their CPAP's.

Also many thanks to those who cleaned the kitchen and dining room after sessions. They did a great job.

Submitted by Meredith George

## **ILYM M&P To Do List (as of 10/10/16)**

### **Meetinghouse:**

Replace rotten lowest board exterior southwest corner.  
Fix wobbly benches.

### **Kitchen:**

Find, buy, install range hood.

*Would it be useful to redesign stairs to dining hall so that they are to code with a wider run?  
They might have to extend further into the dining room.*

### **Junior Yearly Meetinghouse:**

Repair or replace windows. Many broken panes are caused by the worn window frame no longer supporting the glass.

Remove the 3 A/C units from windows.

Center room smoke detector battery is beeping (again).

### **Penn House:**

Remove old carpet and put in dumpster during Sessions. Is the old carpet here for a reason?  
*Is there a better use for this building? It has electricity. Could it be fixed up as a cabin for those with cpap machines?*

### **Chicken House:**

Bolt down east wall so east door will open, shut, and latch.

### **Clear Creek Garage:**

Repair or replace electric garage door opener.

*Would it be more economical to house guests needing accessible facilities in a local hotel and pay their bill for them rather than rehabbing the garage to make two apartments?*

### **Barn:**

Clean out, remove containers, recycle plastic 5 gal buckets - far west barn by silos. Call Marshall Brennan 815.712.8847 see if he will haul for us again. This time we should pay him.

### **Outside:**

Swingset: check S hooks, chains, and everything else for safety and durability.

**Spring Workday will be Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 9:30 at Clear Creek House.**

## **Ministry and Advancement Committee Report**

Members of Ministry and Advancement Committee have visited a number of meetings within our membership since Annual Sessions. In addition, traveling ministers Maureen Pyle and Mariellen Gilpin were invited as Friendly visitors to Columbia Meeting for their retreat regarding their meetinghouse. Mariellen Gilpin also visited Springfield Worship Group under the care of Blue River Quarterly. As you will hear in her report, ILYM Field Secretary, Judy Wolicki, has been asked to facilitate a number of discussions in her visits to meetings. Member Mark McGuinnis, clerk of Upper Fox Valley Meeting, reported that the St. Charles Worship Group is now under the care of the Upper Fox Valley Meeting.

Ministry and Advancement Committee will be meeting for our fall retreat on November 4-5 at Clear Creek House. On our agenda will be follow-up on our discussion during Annual Sessions of supporting small or struggling meetings. We will also continue to season the ILYM policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment. The committee received a good deal of feedback which the committee will ponder.

A significant portion of our time together will be focusing upon the spiritual gifts of committee members as we explore the ways that we can support ILYM meetings. Judy Wolicki, our Field Secretary will facilitate our exploration of spiritual gifts.

## **Personnel Committee Report**

In reference to the 2016 Annual Sessions report, Personnel Committee:

1. Concurs and supports with recommendations of the Religious Education Committee to add a Religious Education Coordinator and the Maintenance and Planning Committee to add a Caretaker position or subcontract. It has given feedback to both groups on their proposed job description to make them consistent with the personnel handbook.
2. Concurs and support Michael Pine's recommendation to use a rate of \$20/hr for the Religious Education Coordinator and to increase the other staff from \$17.08 to \$20/hr as well.
3. Has worked with the Field Secretary to document her status as a contractor (vs. part time employee).

In the past two weeks we have been made aware of a new issue that will need to be addressed next month. On 12/1/16 the Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) regulations have changed the minimum amount to claim our staff are exempt (aka "salaried) from \$23,660/year to \$47,476/year, or from \$11.38/hr to \$22.83/hr for part-time staff. Failure to have adequate documentation and/or to pay based on it can result in substantial penalties. This is not something either the employer or employees can waive. Moreover it is my understanding that the state of Illinois is even more conservative on exemptions and plans to enforce this. There are several states and employers seeking a court injunction to delay implementation for 6 to 12 months. But as of right now, we need to address the expected implementation of the new rule on 12/1/16.

Practically speaking this means that starting in December, we believe 1) it will no longer be possible claim ILYM staff are exempt and pay them a fixed salary based on a fixed number of hours, 2) we need to have them complete time sheets and attest that these are all their hours, 3) their actual workload has to match the hours paid per month, 4) supervisors will have to manage staff workload to control costs. I (Mike) am NOT an expert on this issue and primarily relying what I have learned through my own employer's HR department. My thought was simply to adapt their time sheet/guidance. But if there are others more qualified in the mater I would welcome their input or even defer.

Do you want personnel, finance, the treasure or some combination to develop a time sheet and provide supervisors with guidance on getting them into payroll?

To the best of my knowledge all but one staff member is on average working within the expected number of hours. While the costs will fluctuate by month (being higher in months with Annual Session and Continuing Committee), they should average out over the year for most staff. The one exception is the Youth Coordinator, where she has documented working substantially more hours than we are paying her for. Based on above, ILYM will need to a) pay her for the additional hours, b) cut back her work load, or c) some combination both so that pay matches workload.

Before going on I need to disclose my potential conflict of interest here since the youth coordinator (Rose) is also my daughter. Taking that as you will, let me make the following points:

1. As one of the people who work over several years to get the youth coordinator position funded in the first place, I sincerely believe that this (and the proposed religious education coordinator) are critical human investment in the future of our community. If we do not currently have the funds to expand the YO hours and add the RE position, I have faith that given the need and opportunity we could raise the additional funds.
2. While there may be some kind of exemption for religious organizations, non-profits, or based on the number of our employees that I am unaware of—as a matter of fairness, I think that we “should” ensure that what we pay matches the workload we impose.

Thus I would recommend increasing her hours.

## **Publications and Distribution Committee Report**

### **Print**

1. Plummer Lectures
  - (a) 2012 - Mark Mattaini
    - i. Printed and available for distribution
  - (b) 2016 - Nancy Duncan
    - i. Printed and available for distribution
2. 2016 ILYM Annual Session Minute Book
  - (a) Printed and available for distribution
3. Among Friends
  - (a) Summer 2016 has been printed and shipped

### **Web**

1. ILYM.org
  - (a) The current website and extensions have all been brought up to date
  - (b) Sean West and Erin Taylor have donated a WordPress Theme to Blue River Quarterly and Sean is migrating that website now
  - (c) Sean is evaluating the possibility of moving the ILYM website to WordPress using that same WordPress Theme

## **Site Envisioning Committee Report**

The committee met by phone on 3 October. Present were Chip Rorem, Bill Howenstine, Dick Ashdown, Mark Robinson and Chris Goode. We discussed three major topics as follows:

**The Wood Barn:** The Barn has no current use, nor was one proposed in the campus plan approved in 2012. There is a desire to keep it for some possible future use. Friends have noticed that it is slowly deteriorating over time. The siding is old weathered boards with gaps and porous enough to let in rain with wind. The roof is in fairly good shape but needs some repairs in a few spots to protect the structure underneath. In a workshop at Annual Sessions a few years ago Tim Narkiewicz, who worked with old barns, thought that the portions of the heavy timber framing closest to the ground have some rot

and would eventually need to be cut off and re-supported with new footing/foundation work. He also thought it might be possible to take apart and relocate the heavy timber frame and re-erect it at another location. The siding likely could not be reused as it is, but could possibly be milled for some other use, or sold. Renovated at its present location it might be reused as a recreation/education structure or gathering place for groups. If relocated it might become an indoor/outdoor dining pavilion. The committee feels that we should continue to maintain the roof to the best of our abilities to slow the deterioration and keep it for future use.

**Campground Bath House Renovation:** We received pricing from Joe Bell of Key Builders. Paul Ebener's original pricing for all of the work came in at about \$70,500 and Key Builders is even higher at \$82,000. As we were hoping to do the renovation for much less, perhaps somewhere between \$40,000 and \$50,000, we will need to explore other contractors and reduce the extent of the renovation. Dick mentioned that he knew a few people who might be interested in doing the work but is not sure that they have the right experience for it, having mostly done farm buildings. We will continue to work to find additional contractors. As the building is about 45 years old we think spending to do some renovation to make the bath house function better and more pleasant is justified, but we also feel that we need to make greater use of the site to continue to justify it. The committee discussed how to get some work done as soon as possible, and at the same time, to incentivize further donations to continue the work. We discussed beginning by improving the sink area, with new counter and fixtures, better lighting and mirrors, power and phone charging stations as well as improving the floor and wall finishes throughout. We want to move on some work this year. Annual Sessions 2015 Meeting Minute 64 allows Continuing Committee to authorize spending for this work and we hope to have a formal and solid proposal to present by Spring Continuing Committee.

**Caretaker:** We have no plans to use any funds this year for caretaker expenses as outlined in Annual Sessions 2016 Minute 55. We look forward to being part of the Ad Hoc Committee to refine the Caretaker responsibilities and research creative ways to accomplish those duties as outlined in Annual Sessions 2016 Minute 63. In discussions with Finance Committee at Annual Sessions to fund two new part-time positions (Children's Religious Education Coordinator and Caretaker) it became apparent that it will be extremely difficult to fund these in a conventional fee-for service way as the budget is stretched with revenue from personal donations as well as monthly meeting contributions making up the income side, with few possibilities to increase it. Looking for a creative solution we discussed Quaker Voluntary Service, the possibility of an adult young friend in residence, and the possibility of trading use of some of our land in return for mowing and other caretaking duties from someone who shares our values. We will continue to explore and develop these ideas further, but we also feel that we should create a budget line item and set aside some money each year for the future as we continue to look for solutions.

Christopher Goode, clerk.

## **Youth Oversight Committee Report**

First off, may we take a moment to bask in Rose and Peyton's joy for their new baby, Poppy. Yay!

**Recent Activities:** High school friends attended one event since Annual Sessions. Three HSF attended Blue River Quarterly in September. Brittany Koresch was a Friendly Adult. The teens held a meeting with attention to business and began to plan their Quake that Rocked the Midwest. They

discussed outings to museums in the Evanston-area as well as a desire to do a service project in conjunction with a workshop. One HSF, Amal Tamari, delivered a presentation about her recent trip to Palestine.

**Proposal:** Rose has attached her hours that she puts in as Youth Coordinator. She and I propose, that based on these hours, that she move to half time instead of quarter time. As coordinator, she is required to ensure the safety of the teens. We know that teens are safer when they have planned and supervised activities, which takes a great deal of time to organize. (Table attached at end of Advance Documents)

**Concerns:** None at this time.

**Joys:** We are happy that Amal had a safe trip while making new connections and learning a great deal about Palestine. We would like to encourage other teens to go outside of their comfort zones to learn about others. We see this in the teens desires to have a service project during the next Quake.

Brittany Koresch, clerk of Youth Oversight  
Rose Johnson, Youth Coordinator

Fariba Ghahramani Murray, Mason George, Kate Gunnell, Warwick Edward Daw, Diane Clark-Dennis  
members of the Youth Oversight Committee

## Adult Young Friends

ILYM AYF community has been busy on-line since Annual Sessions. The co-clerks have put together and formalized what we thought everyone knew but turns out they do not.

We have

- uploaded past epistles from 2016 to 2007 on the AYF page on the ILYM site
- put together a description of what it means to be a co-clerk
- completed a first draft of a pamphlet describing ILYM AYF community with the intention of distributing it ILYM meetings
- put to paper guidelines for hosting a potluck

Speaking of potluck. This was an AYF staple that has now lost steam. We attempted to host one over Labor Day weekend in the Chicagoland area only to find that few responded to the poll and were not available anyways. We will make a big push to hold one (or several) over winter break when folks are more around.

We did have three AYFs at this fall's Blue River Quarterly. They enjoyed catching up and re-connecting.

It is a continual job to keep AYFs informed of the goings on and have had moderate success on Facebook and e-mail. We have reached out to the larger AYF community through Twitter several times in regards to our pamphlet with positive results! We hope this pamphlet will help guide fellow AYFs that may not regularly attend meeting due to issues around transportation, work, feeling underrepresented at the meeting, etc. During Annual Sessions, we received very positive feedback regarding the AYF tent and tent area. We hope to increase this feeling in events in the future and feel that those who do not regularly attend meeting might attend the events.

Brittany Koresch and Rose Johnson, Co-clerks



## **Annual Session Planning Groups**

### **Program and Food (Chicago North Planning Group)**

The Planning Group has come up with the theme of Open Hearts for the 2017 Annual Sessions. We discussed the importance of the rural location of our meetinghouse and ways in which we may feel more in touch with our neighbors there. In particular we talked some about making connections and ways to expand our circle.

#### Speakers:

Wednesday: TBD

Thursday: TBD

Friday: (Children's Sessions is in charge of dancing.)

Saturday: Jay Marshall, Dean of Earlham School of Religion

Plummer Lecture: Alice Howenstine

Zach has agreed to be our chef once again. We will be contacting people about filling the remaining positions in the coming months.

Janice Domanik, Food  
Pam Kuhn, Program

### **Children's Sessions Planing Group (Blue River Quarterly)**

Planning for Children's Sessions is well underway, with a robust group of volunteers filling all necessary slots:

Co-Coordinator: Barbara Harroun and Erin Taylor

Wee Friends/Babysitting: Carol Bartles

Teachers

3-5: Nancy Duncan

6-8: Steve Tamari, Christina Schulz

9-11: Sean West

Middle School/12-14: Mike Dennis

Afternoon Programs/Recreation: Dale Gardner

Evening Programs: Sharon Haworth and Peter Lasersohn

Craft Tent: David Wixom

Snacks: Tadd Adcox

First Day School: Barbara Harroun and Erin Taylor

Second teachers are being sought for the 3-5, 6-8, and Middle School/12-14 age groups. The current volunteer teachers in these age group slots have each indicated that they will do the work of seeking their teaching partners; Friends who feel led to work with any of these groups are asked to consider contacting Nancy, Sean, or Mike.

The main planning challenge currently being faced for Children's Sessions is that the ILYM job logs have not been updated to reflect the many changes made in the transition from the "F.U.N. Program" to "Children's Sessions." The Religious Education Committee is working to update the logs so that Children's Session's volunteers will know what is expected of them in accordance with the new

format. All agree that it is important to make the positive changes in our ILYM children's program sustainable, and these revised logs will be an important part of that effort.

Finally, one of the well-received changes made in 2016 was visits from ILYM committees (Environmental Concerns and Peace Resources) to young Friends' "classes" during the mornings of Annual Sessions. We would like to encourage committees to consider whether they might be led to develop a 20-30 minute activity to share with each age group. Such visits not only give the teachers a much-needed breathing break, but also help to integrate our young Friends more meaningfully into the life of the yearly meeting as a whole (and maybe prime them for future committee service!). Friends should contact Children's Sessions Co-Coordinator Barbara Harroun or Erin Taylor if their committees would like to participate.

## **AFSC Representatives Report**

American Friends Service Committee has extended its search to identify its next General Secretary. Application due date has been extended to November 7. Position details can be found at [www.afsc.org/getinvolved](http://www.afsc.org/getinvolved) (current job openings link).

## **FCNL Representatives Report**

The FCNL gathering is in November, the week after the elections! Several general committee members from ILYM plan to attend. The focus of this year's FCNL lobbying will be prison reform.

## **FGC Representatives Report**

FGC Mission: FGC, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.

FGC is grappling with change—comprehensive tough change—while honoring its mission.

The pendulum has swung. From a relatively recent period of growth (of programs, services, staff) to a period of doing less with less, separating the need-to-have from the nice-to-have. Mostly, due to increasingly scarce fiscal resources.

To ensure both current and planned offerings meet Friends' needs, FGC staff and committee members have been listening deeply—seeking direction, seeking focus—holding concerns on how to best deploy staff and how to best obtain fiscal resources, along with how to best provide oversight. They live Quaker process. They test leadings.

FGC governing bodies have tenderly made and implemented very critical decisions this past year:

- They approved revamping the beloved QuakerBooks delivery system, its location and staffing in order to better manage efficiencies and costs.
- They laid down the ministry of the Stewardship Services Program and reduced development

staff, while maintaining a commitment to re-establish the ministry when way opens in order to fund other key programs and services.

- They reviewed and reduced travel budgets, while acknowledging across-the-board reductions are not useful and travel funds should be distributed mindfully, and are seeking to make some services available through the internet rather than in person in order to cut expenses.
- They hired new staff, while agreeing it is better to reduce staff than reduce salaries and benefits across the board in order to better manage new ways of managing operations.
- They have reconfigured the space they occupy in order to lower expenses (an unexpected benefit: staff has more opportunity to engage with one another).
- They have moved to include Friends of Color in planning The Gathering in order to ensure successful site selection, ensure diversity and embody the testimony of equality.
- The Committee for Nurturing Ministries continues work with its subcommittees to ensure those who receive value from its offerings can continue doing so in spite of reduced resources.

Lots more happened, some painful, some joyful.

FGC is just people. I am in awe of how deeply these people self-reflect, impressed at how proactively these people approach concerns and conflicts, touched at how quickly these people re-orient when Spirit calls for Silence because a leading has become obvious. On May 6th during Executive Committee meeting Barry Crosno stressed: it was important to act with love and compassion for each other and for FGC's staff, and that sometimes we are called to faithfulness in spite of circumstances we did not imagine, to follow new paths we did not choose.

What a blessing - to be evermore involved in FGC, on behalf of my beloved ILYM community!

Bruce Kanarek, ILYM Representative to FGC

### **Minute 41 ILYM 2016 Annual Session**

Minute 41 The Review Committee, which is for requests for additional expenditures, will be Cathy Garra, Ted Kuhn, and Ashley Miller-Berry. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ted Kuhn and Frank Young distributed and explained information about budget impacts of proposed position and wage changes. Friends who would like to give input into this process are invited to attend the Finance Committee meeting at 4:00 pm today (Friday).

### **Minute 55 ILYM 2016 Annual Session**

Minute 55 Ted Kuhn made the second presentation from the Finance Committee, assisted by other members of that committee. Others who are not on the committee were asked to supplement that report. Monica Tetzlaff reported that Children's Religious Education Committee has modified its request for a Children's Religious Education Coordinator to make it a one-time test period, February-June 2017, at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Chip Rorem updated the discussion of the caretaker position by identifying the job more specifically and directing attention to the search for the person or entity best suited to the assignment. There is still a need for balancing between the extent of the assignment and the funds available. Frank Young reported the emergence of excellent suggestions and movement in the

right direction involving creative alternatives for addressing program aspirations and their funding.

Following discussion of these matters, the Presiding Clerk proposed the following minute:

Yearly Meeting approves the amended version of the 2016-17 budget that has been brought forward by the Finance Committee. The use of the \$5,000 in the Personnel Contingency line item will be decided at Continuing Committee in October. If it is determined that a temporary Children's Religious Education Coordinator can be engaged for any portion of the 2016-17 year for \$5,000 or less, that will be approved. If not, or if not all of the \$5,000 in this line item needs to be budgeted for the Children's Religious Education Coordinator, the next priority will be whatever monetary needs concerning the Caretaker position and function for 2016-17 are proposed by the Stewards and the Site Envisioning Committee at that time. Any remaining funds will be used to provide pay increases to all ILYM employees for the balance of the 2016-17 year (November 1, 2016 until June 30, 2017). We give Continuing Committee authority to authorize use of funds from the Maintenance Reserve Fund for handling Caretaker-related expenses for 2016-17 if any available funds from the Personnel Contingency line item are insufficient. The Review Committee, under the care of Finance Committee, may be asked to consider proposed additions to the Personnel Contingency line item.

The minute was approved.