

Illinois Yearly Meeting

Spring Continuing Committee

Third Month 4, 2017
Downers Grove Friends Meeting, Downers Grove, Illinois

Advance Documents

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Spring Continuing Committee

March 4, 2017

Downers Grove Friends Meeting
5710 Lomond Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60516

9:30 a.m.: Fellowship with coffee and snacks will be ready.

10:00 a.m.: Settling into Worship to seek Divine Guidance for business at hand will begin at.

Lunch will be provided by our hosts, Downers Grove Friends. There will be a basket for contributions to cover the modest costs of the meal.

Conclusion: The meeting usually concludes between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Continuing Committee is open to all who have concern about the work of ILYM. Each person's presence (whether delegated or not) will enrich the meeting's deliberations.

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Illinois Yearly Meeting

5615 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637-1622

www.ilym.org

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Worship
2. Agenda work—Cathy Garra
3. Ministry and Advancement Committee—Beth Burbank
4. Field Secretary Report—Judy Wolicki
5. Nominating Committee—Caryn Kuhn
6. Naming Committee—Bridget Rorem and Judy Wolicki
7. Treasurers Report—Judy Erickson
8. Finance Committee
9. Development Committee—Frank Young; read by David Shiner
10. Stewards Report—Chip Rorem
11. Maintenance and Planning Committee—Meredith George
12. Site Envisioning Committee—Chris Goode
13. 2017 Sessions Planning Groups
 - Program “Open Hearts” and Food—Chicago North—Pam Kuhn
 - Children’s Sessions—Blue River Quarter—Barb Harroun and Erin Taylor
 - Site Preparation/Cleanup—Chicago South
14. Faith and Practice Committee—Peter Lasersohn
15. Children’s Religious Education Committee—Monica Tezlaff
16. Youth Oversight Committee—Brittany Koresch
17. Adult Young Friends—Brittany Koresch and Rose Johnson
18. Personnel Committee
19. Peace Resources Committee—Jan Mullen
20. Concern from Adrian Nelson—Cathy Garra
21. Environmental Concerns Committee
22. Publications and Distribution Committee—Sean West
23. Representatives to Quaker Organizations
 - American Friends Service Committee
 - Friends Committee on National Legislation
 - Friends General Conference
24. Additional Business—Cathy Garra
25. Closing Worship

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Treasurers Report

Illinois Yearly Meeting Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet For the period 7/1/2016-2/15/17 (prepared 2/15/17)

	To Date 2/15/2017	Opening Balance 7/1/2016
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	244,074.32	221,699.52
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
PayPal	0.00	198.45
Total Cash	<u>254,074.32</u>	<u>231,897.97</u>
Accounts Receivable	90.00	3,080.00
Undeposited funds	0.00	12,530.50
Total Assets	<u>254,164.32</u>	<u>247,508.47</u>
Liabilities		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Accounts Payable	862.26	403.59
Funds Held for 2017 Women's Weekend	100.00	100.00
Total Liabilities	<u>1,962.26</u>	<u>1,503.59</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	39,431.27	53,234.09
Unrestricted Designated	162,739.44	142,739.44
Restricted	50,031.35	50,031.35
Total Net Assets	<u>252,202.06</u>	<u>246,004.88</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>254,164.32</u>	<u>247,508.47</u>

Note: Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the McNabb site (land and buildings) is omitted from the Assets section of this report.

**Illinois Yearly Meeting – Statement of Fund Activity
For the period 7/1/2016 – 2/15/2017 (perpared 2/15/17)**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Balance 7/1/16					Balance 2/15/17
ASSESTS						
UNRESTRICTED		Income	Expenses	Budgeted Transfers	Other Transfers	
1. General Operating	53,234.09	52,974.53	(54,277.35)	(12,500.00)	0.00	39,431.27
DESIGNATED						
2. Special Gifts	42,361.24	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,861.24
3. Current Projects	9,122.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,122.17
4. Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,000.00
5. FWCC World Meetings	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
6. Maintenance Reserve	54,256.03	0.00	0.00	11,500.00	0.00	65,756.03
RESTRICTED						
7. Property Improvement	50,031.35	0.00	0.00	0.00		50,031.35
TOTAL ASSEST	246,004.88	60,474.53	(54,277.35)	0.00	0.00	252,202.06
LIABILITIES						
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00					1,000.00
Accounts Payable/Other Liabs	503.59					962.26
TOTAL CASH	247,508.47					254,164.32

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

Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting Contributions
7/1/2016 – 2/15/17 (prepared 2/15/17)

	Unrestricted	Property	World Conference	Total
Blue River Quarterly	0			0
Bloomington-Normal	720.00			720.00
Clear Creek	0			0
Columbia	1,320.00			1,320.00
Downers Grove	3,625.00			3,625.00
Duneland	1,920.00			1,920.00
Evanston	6,840.00			6,840.00
57th Street	2,400.00			2,400.00
Lake Forest	0			0
Northside	677.35			677.35
Oak Park	1,560.00			1,560.00
Oshkosh	0			0
Rock Valley	0			0
Rolla	0			0
South Bend	0			0
Southern Illinois	960.00			960.00
Spoon River	540.00			540.00
St. Louis	6,080.00			6,080.00
Upper Fox Valley	0			0
Urbana-Champaign	6,930.00			6,930.00
Total	33,572.35	0	0	33,572.35

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

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Operating Budget 7/1/2016-2/15/2017 (prepared 2/15/17)

Income	16-17 Anticipated	16-17 Actual TD	Previous YTD
Contributions from Meetings	82,000	33,572	35,225
Contributions from Individuals	29,000	18,860	24,510
Other Contributions	0	0	0
Gatherings & Retreats	15,500	55	369
Fundraisers & Other Income	0	0	0
Interest	600	507	483
<i>Total Income</i>	127,100	52,995	60,587
Expenses & Transfers			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office)	(55,200)	(31,613)	(31,692)
YM Travel Support	(5,500)	0	(3,880)
Gatherings & Retreats	(15,000)	(496)	(56)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint)	(16,700)	(7,939)	(7,601)
Committees	(12,550)	(3,580)	(5,284)
Support to Others	(10,650)	(10,650)	0
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	(115,600)	(54,277)	(48,513)
Transfer to <i>Maintenance Reserve Fund</i>	(11,500)	(11,500)	(11,500)
Transfer to <i>FWCC World Meetings Travel</i>	(1,000)	(1,000)	(2,000)
Total Expenses & Transfers	(127,100)	(66,777)	(60,013)
Net General Fund Income (Deficit)	0	(13,783)	574

Expense Line Item Details

(1) Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll	(43,700)	(29,121)	(42,400)
Staff Travel	(5,500)	(2,011)	(4,500)
Office	(1,000)	(481)	
Contingency	(5,000)		(1,000)
Total	(55,200)	(31,613)	(47,900)
(2) YM Travel Support			
ILYM Committee Travel	(2,000)	0	0
ILYM Reps Travel	(2,500)	0	(3,880)
Total	(4,500)	0	(3,880)
(3) Site			
<u>Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)</u>			
Insurance	(5,500)	0	0
Repairs	(1,200)	(995)	(940)
Mowing & Tree Trimming	(5,000)	(5,190)	(3,940)
Annual services (inspections, winterizing)	(1,500)	(1,021)	(936)
Utilities	(3,000)	(732)	(1,785)
Total	(16,700)	(7,939)	(7,601)

	16-17 Anticipated	16-17 Actual	15-16 Budget
(4) Committees			
Ad hoc	(100)	0	(100)
Development	(1,100)	(562)	(1,100)
Environmental Concerns	(200)	0	(200)
Faith & Practice	(150)	0	(150)
Finance	(450)	0	(450)
Handbook	(50)	0	(50)
Maintenance & Planning	(200)	0	(200)
Ministry & Advancement	(250)	0	(250)
Nominating	(300)	(11)	(300)
Peace Resources	(250)	0	(250)
Peace Tax Fund	(50)	0	(50)
Personnel (may increase \$5000 for Childrens RE Coord)	(150)	0	(150)
Publications	(6,000)	(2,755)	(6,000)
Children's Religious Education	(300)	(137)	(300)
Site Envisioning	(200)	0	(200)
Adult Young Friends	(300)	0	(300)
Youth Oversight*	(2,500)	(115)	(2,500)
Total	(12,550)	(3,580)	(12,550)

(5) Support to Others

Quaker organizations -ILYM assigns representatives

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

Regional Quaker educational institutions

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

*Note: Youth Oversight Income from Quake registrations and HSF fundraising are offset by YO expenses.

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Stewards Report

Three stewards, Dick, Neil and Grayce, met Sunday, 02/12/17 to review items to put into the steward's report for Continuing Committee.

The Clear Creek House furnace needed a new condensation pump. Water had been collecting on the floor for months and though Neil had rigged up a system to catch that water it needed someone to regularly empty the bucket. Dick ordered the replacement pump from Grasser's (\$75) and hired a local person (grandson of "inactive" member) to install it (\$80).

So far, we have had no expenses for snow removal this winter.

The maple tree in the Clear Creek House front yard had lost a large limb, which was mostly cut and cleared away by a local person who took the lumber for his pay. You may remember that the youth at Continuing Committee in October used the remaining logs to build a "fort". It is still there waiting to get removed.

Chris Goode, Dick Ashdown, and Chip Rorem met three contractors (sequentially) at the campground bathhouse to discuss improvements to the facility. These contractors will submit proposals to Chris for review.

Dick hired a local person (other than Grasser's) to replace the condensation pump. The goal is to start a pool of people to do certain jobs. We are adding to our list of contractors (heating/air conditioning/plumbing people, and barn experts) to assist the stewards in care for the building and grounds.

In our opinion (Dick, Neil and Grayce), we prefer that a local person or a Quaker who could move to the area, are our choices to address caretaker's duties. We would prefer not to hire some firm to take over the jobs.

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

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Field Secretary's Report

As you have will see or hear in the report of Ministry & Advancement, I continue to have great joy in serving you, Friends, and in serving the yearly meeting. After much discernment and seasoning, I have requested that my term as Field Secretary be extended; I do not feel that my work has been completed, and I hope to continue. During the time I have been Field Secretary, I have focused on connections and relationships, attempting in my small way to connect meetings to meetings and individuals to individuals. In a recent conversation with a former Field Secretary, we were reflecting upon the strength of small meetings, and a particular small meeting, recognizing that individuals in small meetings are sometimes more committed to their meetings, and, in particular, more committed to each other, than is usual in a traditional church setting. I want to continue my focus on connection and relationship, and to explore how we, as individuals, monthly meetings, and as a yearly meeting, can deepen our commitments to each other and strengthen the meetings to which we belong.

As you know, 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. The most recent topic(s) that individuals and meetings are working on reflect our strong desire to respond to social justice issues and peace activism. Meetings are experiencing an influx of many individuals who are looking for ways to take action in these areas. I include here the new with some of the previous topics that still come up in conversation:

- 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? How can we dismantle the expectation of White Privilege (within ourselves as well as outside)?
- Support for and solidarity with immigrants and refugees
- Support for and solidarity with our community neighbors who are followers of Islam
- Support for a system of health care that includes benefits for all
- Finding ways to connect with other Quaker parents to explore raising children with Quaker principles and testimonies
- In this time of political uncertainty, how are we called to be “peacemakers”? What actions can we take at this time to find peace within and to foster peace?
- Outreach: How do we reach out to “Quakers who don’t know they are Quakers”?
- Meetings are exploring how to educate new attenders in the ways of Quakers for worship, business, action, etc.
- An exploration of truth: What is truth? What does it mean for each and all of us?
- Fostering better communication, resolution of conflicts, and reconciliation: Listening
- Help and encouragement for small meetings and a recognition of the deep spirit and commitment that can be found in them
- 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
- Continuing to take action to welcome and integrate children, youth, and young adults into the full life of their Monthly Meetings and our Yearly Meeting

Travel and Visits

From September 2016 through February 2017, I have visited Friends’ meetings in Bloomington-Normal, Clear Creek, Downers Grove, Elkhart, Evanston, Lake Forest, Oak Park, Duneland (Valparaiso), Rockford, South Bend, Urbana-Champaign, Hyde Park, and Northside. I have been in contact by phone, email, and letters with Friends from Oshkosh, Duneland, Rock Valley, Lake Forest, Oak Park, Southern Illinois, South Bend, Elkhart, Evanston, Upper Fox Valley and all the meetings in Missouri. I attended the Snow Quake, and had the opportunity to spend time there with Friends from 57th Street, Evanston, Oak Park, and Lake Forest, as well as Friends who live in Oak Park and are starting a meetup group for Quaker parents and others who are interested in raising their children with Quaker principles. I attended the Women’s March with many Friends from Downers Grove. Quakers in the crowd wore banners made by an Evanston Friend, and many were stopped with a request to take pictures of them and their banners. (I have been carrying some of the banners to show them and offer them to meetings. Thank you, Margaret!)

I continue to offer programs, facilitate discussions and worship sharing, and to offer care, encouragement and resources in person and by phone to individuals and meetings. Some programs I have offered during this time have been on Spiritual Deepening, Gifts, Trouble and Spirit, and Wonder. I continue to facilitate the Downers Grove 4th First Day discussion group. I helped facilitate Duneland’s retreat, and Oak Park’s “Direction of the Meeting” meeting. I continue to develop new programs, and look forward to hearing your suggestions.

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) continues to be an activity I hope to increase and an opportunity I encourage others to consider. We are strengthened by our contacts and commitments to one another, across meetings and within meetings.

What I see, hear, and read of Friends activities inspires me to report as I visit.

Future Visits and Programs

As I write this report, my next visits will be to South Bend, Elkhart and Downers Grove. In the coming months I hope to visit Macomb, Burlington, St. Louis, Rolla and Columbia.

Serving the yearly meeting is a privilege and a joy, my Friends. Once again I thank you for your support, nurture, guidance and trust.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Wolicki, Field Secretary

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Children's Religious Education Committee Report

The Children's Religious Education Committee's job description for a Children's Religious Education Coordinator was approved at Continuing Committee in October 2016. The CRE Committee clerk posted a job advertisement on the ILYM announcements list and the Quaker Religious Education Facebook Page. The clerk accepted applications and sent them to CRE Committee members to consider. The CRE Committee met via conference call on 12/10/16, discussed the next steps in the screening process, and came up with questions for references. CRE Committee members conducted interviews with the references that each of the candidates had given. The CRE Committee met via conference call on 1/13/17 and discussed the applications along with the reports of the interviews with references. After consulting with the Personnel Committee, the Committee made an offer to Joy Duncan, which she accepted. The CRE Committee is very grateful that Joy will now be joining the committee in planning multigenerational worship and children's religious education opportunities for ILYM for Blue River Quarterly and Annual Sessions in June 2017.

Committee members: Dale Gardner, Barbara Harroun, Michael Pine, Bobbi Trist, Joy Duncan (ex officio), ILYM Children's Religious Education Coordinator

Submitted by Monica Tetzlaff, Clerk

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Development Committee Report

1. **Individual contributions** for the current fiscal year as of February:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Raised so far</u>	<u>Budget Goal</u>	<u>Needed</u>
General Fund	\$18,869.93	\$29,000	about \$10,000
Special Gifts	\$7,500.00	-	-
Total	\$26,369.93		

2. **Individual contributions** last year – Feb. through June.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Raised from individuals</u>
General Fund	\$4,116.36

Prop. Improv.	\$290.00
Bathhouse	\$7,470.00
Total	\$11,876.36

3. Some observations:

We can raise money from individuals. We are successfully raising funds for restricted purposes.

Income for the General Fund is lower this year. If General Fund contributions for the rest of the year are the same as last year then there will be a shortfall of about \$6,000 for this fiscal year. This may be partially offset by under spending in certain budget lines.

The committees in charge of special projects need to provide plans and schedules so that serious fund raising for these projects can be initiated.

When fund raising for the Clear Creek House addition is undertaken the Development Committee will need appropriate information regarding candidates for substantial contributions. This information has proved difficult to obtain in the past.

The Development Committee will need additional membership if there is a special campaign next year. It will also probably need a new clerk.

Frank Young, Clerk

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Handbook Committee Report

No Report

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Maintenance and Planning Committee Report

M&P has not met since Fall, 2016's workday. As mentioned in the Fall 2016 Continuing Committee, much of the work list was left undone because it was physically too hard or the necessary tools, equipment, materials, skills, and person power were not available.

Delegating this physical upkeep of the property to a small and aging committee may no longer be effective, just, prudent, or kind. Property upkeep might be managed more successfully and efficiently by a paid professional.

The following ideas for M&P changes were made after Fall Continuing Committee:

- Ask meetings or 2-3 together to organize a work day for themselves at McNabb. They can recruit willing volunteers, make it a work time and retreat time. Or BRQ could plan one, Chicago North meeting another, and Chicago South meetings a third. Maybe in May, July or Aug, then Oct.
- List jobs to be done in advance. Make plans enough in advance to have tools and materials on hand. Each of 3 groups could have workday on their own or open it up to all of ILYM.
- Each group could plan its own meals, bring food in, or get someone else who would not need to do other work to do the cooking.

- Incentivize work days to get young people to attend. Let them have a credit for money off Annual Sessions for attending Site Prep and/or work days.
- Have several work days, not just two days. We need to have more things happening to learn what is needed onsite.
- Have the To Do list posted electronically on the website where people can get access to the list as well as note when they complete a task.

On a completely different note: Penn House, the little building closest to the Junior Yearly Meeting-house, has electricity and could be fixed up as a cabin for people who need electricity for their CPAP's.

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

Respectfully submitted by Meredith George

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

Meetinghouse:

- Replace rotten lowest board exterior southwest corner.

Kitchen:

- Find, buy, install range hood.
- *Would it be useful to redesign front 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 a.m. at Clear Creek House.

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Ministry and Advancement Committee Report

A significant focus for our committee at our past two meetings has been to develop community and greater connection among us. To this end Judy Wolicki led us on a morning retreat exploring our spiritual gifts at our fall meeting. We continued this process by taking time for a connecting exercise during our winter meeting. We are grateful to Judy for facilitation of these activities. It has made a significant difference in the spiritual life and connection in the committee. We are sad to lose Cherie DuPuis who needs to devote more time in caring for family needs. We continue to hope that Friends in the yearly meeting feel called to work with our committee on the spiritual life and growth of ILYM.

In addition to specific reports on our visits and connections with ILYM meetings we reflected upon trends we experience in meetings and in our national mood. Many people are looking for a safe and grounding space. Peace and Social Justice concerns are evident in the energy of many meetings. What draws people to Friends in contrast with other traditions? The fact that we are unprogrammed allows us to “improvise like jazz”; each meeting can respond to the Spirit in the ways that seem called for in this national moment building on the foundation of our faith and practice. Meetings need to season our collective responses to the mood of the country and find ways to reach out and connect with other communities for support and to show support. There is movement afoot in a number of meetings. Many Quakers participated in the Women’s March and are continuing their presence in small and larger ways.

Field Secretary

Judy gave her report of her work since our last meeting and her continued joy in the work of supporting meetings and worship groups. Her desire to serve is undiminished though she wants to make sure that she is making room for another who may be called by Spirit to offer their gifts to the role of Field Secretary. The Committee affirmed Judy’s work and are grateful for her discernment process to continue with us for the time being. Her work is not done.

We approved the following minute of evaluation to send to the personnel committee:

Judy’s work in visiting ILYM meetings continues to be the primary connective tissue for our committee and member meetings. She visits an ILYM meeting most Sundays and has become a familiar presence who is known by members and attenders. Her deep knowledge of the strengths and needs of the various meetings she attends contributes to her ability to offer program related to their need. She has met with struggling meetings, such as Rock Valley, assisting in discerning how they might stay connected formally to the yearly meeting while finding closer places of worship that fill their needs. The committee feels bonded to these meetings through her reports and offer counsel when asked. In addition, Judy led the members of M&A in a retreat this past fall in the naming of our spiritual gifts.

Judy has been Field Secretary for 5 1/2 years now and finds that her relationships with meetings and ILYM has deepened. Her familiarity with meetings and theirs with her, provides her visits with the sense of presence and opportunities that has bound Friends historically. Judy continues to find joy in her work and an undiminished desire to serve. She carefully discerned with her support committee and other Elders throughout ILYM as to whether she should continue her work with us. We respect her thoughtful personal discernment process. Judy does not feel her work is finished and we are filled with joy and gratitude for her wish to continue as Field Secretary for the time being. Most recently she is drawn to finding ways to help individuals in meetings connect and commit to one another in ways that build community; to develop deep connection and trust within meetings.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy

We discussed the updates to the policy draft we have been considering. We determined that it was too complicated to contain all our concerns around sexual abuse, harassment etc in one policy. We will present to Continuing Committee an updated draft of the policy previously presented and will begin a conversation with Youth Oversight Committee of a policy and process reflecting the needs for a safe space for our youth to feel comfortable with each other and clear ideas of whom to turn to if there are concerns. In general, we know that our youth coordinator and the Youth Oversight Committee have essentially been serving in this capacity for some time. M&A wants to work with them to develop an ILYM policy that is supportive to their particular needs and programs within the yearly meeting.

Sexuality and Faith and Practice

As we considered the Sexual Abuse and Harassment policy that will be presented at Continuing Committee, we were aware that much of the good work done previously by Roxy Jacobs and David Finke for the yearly meeting was not appropriate for this policy document. As we reflected upon this, we considered that a faith and practice for the modern day needs to include a statement on sexuality and gender and that some of the good work that Roxy and David did for the yearly meeting a few years ago could be a helpful starting point.

Such as section in Faith and Practice could include such areas as

- awareness of the changing attitudes toward gender and people's use of pronouns to describe themselves
- Friends respect for persons around affection, body awareness and sensitivity to touch or concern for personal space
- the "dignity of all Children of God must be protected and Friends desire to provide a safe and loving space for all--a spiritual mandate not legal one"
- How concerns around these areas might be addressed by local meetings
- Queries that address sexual concerns: Some that were proposed in the earlier document were: "Is my sexual behavior consistent with the testimonies of Friends on honesty and integrity? Does it promote a trusted, safe sense of a Beloved Community? What may it say to the larger world about Friends? Is all my behavior such that both I and those around me are led to greater growth in God's Spirit"

Ministry and Advancement is aware that we have been laboring with an Illinois Faith & Practice document for some time. We are also aware that we are nearing a downhill path on this document and if there are important sections that we believe need to be included this is the time to say so prior to preparing for publication. So we sent a note to the committee about these concerns.

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Nominating Committee Report

Nominating committee has one nomination we would like to bring forward for approval:

- Rebekah Buchanan for Peace Resources committee. This will be a 3+ year appointment with her term ending in 2020.

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Peace Resources Committee Report

Committee members: Rebekah Buchanan, Kent Busse, Mark McGinnis, Jan Mullen (clerk), Dave Moorman, and Dan Stevens. We miss Naoki Nakamura, who brought so much inspiration to us, and who has moved to Wisconsin, and Contessa Miller who brought so much energy to the committee regarding efforts to work with the Chicago Police.

New Members: We are pleased to welcome Rebekah Buchanan, who is a member of Macomb Worship Group.

The PRC has held one meeting via ZOOM video conference on January 28, 2017.

Concern for Police Brutality and Racial Profiling: Kent Busse has been active in a program called First Defense Legal Aid (<https://www.first-defense.org>) in which volunteer attorneys respond to calls for assistance from a person who has been detained by the Chicago Police, to meet them at the police station. This program could be a resource for monthly meetings in other areas.

ACTION FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS: PRC invites monthly meetings to write a minute regarding issues of Racial Profiling and/or Police Brutality and send it to PRC for publication on the ILYM website. Meetings are also encouraged to become informed on this issue and how it impacts local communities as well as other areas in the country. PRC can suggest speakers who would come to monthly meetings.

Communications: PRC is working on updating and improving the Peace Resources page on the ILYM website. Dan Stevens has compiled a current listing of Quaker organizations which can be a resource both for information on current issues as well as action steps that can be taken.

Monthly Meeting Peace Committees:

- PRC has created a listing of contact persons from each monthly meeting or worship group which has a peace committee.
- PRC would like to hold one or more events similar to the gathering last May where representatives from monthly meeting peace committees gather to meet one another and share what they are doing. People attending that group found it helpful and energizing.
- PRC has created a Yahoo group and webpage called ILYM Peace and Social Concerns group to serve all peace and social concerns committees in monthly meetings. This can serve as a means for people across the ILYM to share events, resources, concerns and mutual support. There are places to upload files, such as information from FCNL or AFSC, post events and initiate polls. Invitations have been sent to 31 people who are contact persons for peace concerns for their monthly meeting or worship group. So far, 9 people have joined the group.

REQUEST to monthly meetings and worship groups: Please keep us updated on who is the current contact person for peace in each monthly meeting and worship group. Please ask your peace contact to respond to the invitation to join the Yahoo group by joining the group, or finding someone else to join who can participate in reading occasional emails from people in the group.

Eliminating Torture: With the new president saying he believes in the efficacy of torture, this topic becomes high profile. PRC has materials from past years that can be used to present to monthly meetings who invite PRC members to visit and present a program. Much of our material comes from the John Calvi website <http://www.quit-torture-now.org/quit/john-calvi/> and the NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) website: <http://nrcat.org/> which is updated to reflect the current political climate. PRC is working on a minute to present to the Yearly Meeting with regard to torture, including solitary confinement, for approval this June, and encourages monthly meetings to develop similar queries and submit them to PRC, so they can be put on the ILYM website.

Conscientious Objection: Mark has stated that he is actively working on counseling youth regarding conscientious objection and invited us to let him know of youth who are interested.

Review of PRC Objectives: Peace Resources Committee, wishing to be relevant to monthly meetings concerns about issues of peace, is inviting feedback about the objectives and methods of PRC. We are also looking at how yearly meeting peace committees in other states are working.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Mullen

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Publications and Distribution Committee Report

Print

1. Plummer Lectures
 - (a) Everything is up to date, no new publications
2. Among Friends
 - (a) Winter 2017 is pending

Web

1. ILYM.org
 - (a) Hosting services with HostMonster have been renewed for another 3 years
 - (b) Sean has tried multiple ways to update Drupel but each option has failed because we are multiple version behind and a lot of the Modules we use are no longer maintained or have been incorporated into Drupel Core
 - i. This creates a number of database issues
 - (c) The best option now is to create a new installation of Drupal or WordPress and then migrate the content into that new installation
 - i. Sean is leaning towards WordPress just because many of the other websites on the ILYM server use WordPress
 - (d) Sean just finished doing the same thing to the BRQ website which is now in review and will be the main website very soon

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Site Envisioning Committee Report

The committee met by phone on February 13. Present were Chip Rorem, Sandy Bales, Dick Ashdown, Mark Robinson and Chris Goode. We discussed three major topics as follows:

Campground Bath House Renovation: Chris contacted three local contractors and Chip, Chris and Dick met them and walked them through the bath house on Friday, February 3. They are preparing pricing for the work based on the documents we prepared a few years ago. We have asked to receive their pricing by Monday, February 27 so that we can review and perhaps discuss it prior to the date of Spring Continuing Committee on March 4. The contractors are Dean Tieman of Tieman Builders from LaSalle, Matt Cetwinski of Cetwinski Construction Company from Utica, and Bob Smith of Smith Construction from Henry. Ted Kuhn, Clerk of Finance Committee stated that there was about \$85,000 currently available for property improvement work in one form or another for future projects. I think the committee would like to get some meaningful work accomplished at the bath house while spending less than that amount and leaving some money toward other projects. We reviewed the menu of items and

prioritized the list. First is reworking of the sink area and adding a charging station at each side. Second is new epoxy floor and brighter washable wall finishes, new weather resistant partitions with doors, and new toilet and shower fixtures and piping. Third is replacing the plywood shutters with awning windows to let in more natural light and new fluorescent or LED lighting. Of much lesser importance, or perhaps done later or eliminated are the skylights, the outdoor showers and siding on the exterior (though painting the exterior might be a workday project). We would like to do the Bath House Renovation sometime after annual sessions this year. They may be a filler project for the contractor selected (done during a down time in his schedule) in order to get the best price.

The Wood Barn: What we call the barn has several parts to it, some with more importance to us than others. The tallest portion is likely the first and original barn structure and has a heavy timber frame. This is the part that we most want to take care of. The lean-to on the east side and the concrete block dairy structure on the west side are of less importance. A portion of the dairy structure has lost its roof and can be removed in the near future if this can be done inexpensively. The tall structure has the newest roof but a portion of it at the northwest corner has torn off in the wind and needs to be replaced. We are investigating to see how this can be fixed as soon as possible. The siding also has gaps between boards and we may also need to reinforce the base of the heavy timber elements as the timber close to the ground is growing soft. We intend to have a meeting with the bath house contractor during Annual Sessions in June to tour our buildings and discuss construction and maintenance issues.

Caretaker: Site Envisioning does not have anything to add to this concern at this moment. We look forward to the formation of the Ad-Hoc Caretaker Committee under the oversight of the Finance Committee to help find some creative solutions toward this issue in the near future.

Property Purchase: Dick Ashdown will approach the owner of the adjacent property again about trying to purchase the three-quarter acre strip of property south of the meeting house. We look forward to hearing what he is able to find out.

Clear Creek House Addition: The addition as currently sketched out assumes that the existing garage is able to be repurposed for this addition and that this might be more economical. That may not be the case and another configuration with south facing roof might prove more workable for solar panels and other reasons. We will investigate alternate configurations and in our June contractor campus walk-thru will discuss these options and ask for updated pricing for this project.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Goode, clerk.

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Youth Oversight Committee Report

Events:

Quake That Rocked the Midwest, Jan 13 to 16: The Quake in January was canceled due to having three teens sign up. Rose posted on the ILYM and HSF Facebook pages and emailed the group of teens with reminders about signing up. Brittany also asked Wil to add a reminder to the ILYM newsletter, which he did. Rose did not contact teens individually as she typically did to make sure she stayed under her hours. The Quake being canceled is a result of the youth coordinator trying to stay under hours.

Blue River Quarterly, April 7-9: The graduating middle schoolers will join HSF during BRQ. Braid Laird has stepped forward to lead the clearness committee workshop for the HSF and middle schoolers. This workshop will take place during the free time.

Role of Youth Coordinator: Youth Oversight is currently reviewing and creating opportunities for committee members to assist the Youth Coordinator. The Coordinator will work with the committee to help delegate tasks.

Brittany Koresch, Rose Johnson, Kate Gunnell, Andrea Kintree,
Diane Clark-Dennis, Mason George, Fariba Murray, Warwick Daw

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Adult Young Friends

Adult Young Friends (AYF) has finished their info pamphlet and is now working on printing and distribution. Several copies are available for people to take back to their monthly meetings.

In December, Rose hosted a potluck and ornament decorating night. Four (plus Baby Poppy) attended.

AYF has been planning a potluck to take place following this Continuing Committee tonight. It is a game night and potluck. We also have invited the young adult Unitarians based in Naperville. We are looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends.

AYF is also planning on attending Blue River Quarterly in April. During BRQ, we will start to assemble our nominating slate for the clerk position that will be open at the close of Annual Sessions.

We will also advertise site prep before Annual Sessions and plan on using the AYF tent and tent area.

Brittany Koresch and Rose Johnson, co-clerks

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Annual Session Planning Groups

Food (Chicago North)

Preparations for Food at the annual sessions is going well. Zach and Kelly Schobernd will again be our cooks and most of the positions to coordinate activities have been covered.

Janice Domanik

Program (Chicago North)

The theme of the 2017 Yearly Meeting will be “Open Hearts.” Completing our report at the October Continuing Committee, the Chicago North Program Committee announces that Zack Moon, a Chicago Quaker military chaplain working with veterans will be our Wednesday night speaker. The other evening programs will be Thursday, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting; Friday, the FUN Committee’s dancing on the lawn; and on Saturday, Jay Marshall, Dean of Earlham School of Religion. On Sunday, we are all looking forward to hearing from Alice Howenstine doing the Plummer Lecture.

We hope that worship-sharing and workshops will help Friends consider different meanings of Open Hearts.

Pam Kuhn

Children's Sessions

As reported this past fall, 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 and Diane Clark 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 continue to be sought for the 3-5 and 6-8 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 are asked to consider contacting Nancy or Sean if they feel led to work with any of these groups.

There are two main planning challenges currently being faced for Children's Sessions. First, 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 continuing to work on updating 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.

Second, the hiring of Joy Duncan as ILYM's new Children's Religious Education Coordinator means that the planning group is navigating new terrain; Barb and Erin will be working closely with Joy to establish which Children's Sessions responsibilities remain with the planning group and which will be taken on by the Children's Religious Education Coordinator.

Finally, one of the well-received changes made in 2016 involved visits from ILYM committees (Environmental Concerns and Peace Resources) to young Friends' "classes" during the mornings of annual sessions. Maureen Pyle has volunteered to bring her "Anonymous Was a Woman" program about early ILYM Clerk Caroline Lukens to the children in 2017, but we need more help! 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. Friends should contact Children's Sessions Co-Coordinator Barbara Harroun or Erin Taylor if their committees would like to participate.

Barbara Harroun and Erin Taylor

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AFSC Representatives Report

New General Secretary for AFSC: Joyce Ajlouny has been selected to serve as the next General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) beginning September 1, 2017. Joyce brings a wealth of experience to the role, including being a school director of Ramallah Friends School for more than 12 years, serving as a country director for Palestinian Territories and Israel for Oxfam-Great Britain, and work as a program officer and project manager in United Nations offices. In addition, she has earned a masters in organization management and development from the Fielding Graduate University in California. In the next year, she will be traveling to visit programs and meet Friends around the US in her new role.

100 years of AFSC: April 20-23, 2017, AFSC is hosting a 100th anniversary celebration with a summit articulating a vision forward for peace and justice by joining movements that are reaching out to make the connection between militarism, racism, and materialism. Keynote speaker will be Oscar Arias, two-time President of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Laureate. The ILYM Representatives to AFSC, will report about this event at ILYM Annual Session.

ILYM members taking leadership roles in AFSC at the regional level: Starting in April Nora Vera-Godwin will become the Co-Clerk of the Midwest Regional Executive Committee and serve on the AFSC Board of Directors in this role. Nora, member of Clear Creek Meeting, has served with the region and volunteered with AFSC translating brochures to Spanish in her early years of AFSC support. Nancy Jordan, formerly of St. Louis Meeting, is joining the AFSC Midwest Regional Executive Committee (REC) in April 2017. Both Nora and Nancy will volunteer on the Midwest REC in a governance capacity. Working with staff, the Midwest REC selects and monitors program choice, evaluation and financial accountability.

AFSC Programs in ILYM area - details can be found at Midwest Digest on the website www.afsc.org/chicago: *Journalist from Gaza completes tour* in December 2016... Mohammed Omer recently completed a US speaking tour, accompanied by AFSC's Jennifer Bing, with stops in Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis; *Anti-harassment materials*... What would you do if you saw an act of bias against a person based on their religion, race or gender identity? Check out bystander tips developed by AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project, headed by Mary Zerkel, and this story on the work of the Center for New Community. To view - go to the Dec. 31, 2016 Midwest Digest on-line; *Hoosiers gather to promote hospitality*... "The United States of America was established as a beacon of light for those escaping persecution in their own homes, and we will not stand for intolerance in our country," said Rima Shahid, Executive Director of the Muslim Alliance of Indiana at a recent gathering in Indy, also co-sponsored by Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and AFSC. Elle Roberts of AFSC shares this story. AFSC is also pleased to welcome Umaymah Mohammad as the new Jane Brown McLeod Intern. A junior at IUPUI, she is working on the No Way to Treat a Child campaign and AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project; *St. Louis students call for humane treatment*... Joshua Saleem and Jelani Brown, AFSC staff in St. Louis, have been working for several years with students from Northwest Academy of Law as they strive to undo institutional racism and build a school and community that supports everyone. The students recently released this video that calls on the new mayor to end gun violence and make a difference in their lives. The students ask, "Am I valued? Am I important? Am I loved? Don't we deserve a safe neighborhood and police who treat us with kindness? Don't we deserve a childhood?"; *News article and KMOV-TV in St. Louis*... Northwest students taking action against violence by asking mayoral candidates to participate in an open forum with the students on February 27. It is not just fighting crime, it is also how you fight crime.

ILYM Representatives on the AFSC Corporation
Bridget Rorem, Contessa Miller, Carol Bartles, Phyllis Reynolds

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FCNL Representatives Report

The Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation met November 11–13, 2016, with a Lobby Day immediately preceding on the 10th. Most ILYM representatives and attendees arrived early to an organization, city and nation in shock.

Personally, I used the time for composure and healing. I found repose in worships, commiserated with fellow travelers over meals, and listened in to anguished and inspired messages and sermons. Our work would go on.

With support from FCNL staff, Illinois representatives (including ones from Northern and Western Yearly Meetings) lobbied Congress. Of course lobbying also included some activists and friends besides the reps. Though our original goal of promoting legislation to reduce prison time for non-violent offenders had been knocked off the likely agenda by the surprise election results, we forged on ahead. We visited with the staff of our Representatives and Senators, making our concerns known and giving them opportunities to share with us too. Besides sharing understandings and solace, we also had to push back with a discouraged, but ranting lame-duck Republican staffer.

After the Lobby Day, we got down to business. We heard inspired talks from the likes of Diane Randall (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/healing-the-heart-of-democracy-annual-meeting-message-446>), Amelia Kegan (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/when-the-impossible-becomes-possible-451>), Jose Woss, Jim Wallis and others. We also celebrated the life of Ed Snyder, FCNL's Executive Secretary Emeritus. We even broke ground for the Quaker Welcome Center, intended, among other things, as neutral ground for bi-partisan negotiation, made possible by FCNL's recent Capital Campaign.

We wrestled with FCNL policy for the upcoming Congress and Administration. Previous work and input from numerous monthly meetings on setting lobby priorities was left largely intact. However we did minute a special concern on institutionalized sexism. Finally we placed full, continued trust in FCNL staff to respond as needed to changing circumstances expected over the coming year.

As I departed on Sunday, I felt heartened and energized, knowing that we could still persevere.

For more information on FCNL and their many issues and advocacy, please find their webpages at fcnl.org.

Dale Gardner

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FGC Representatives Report

At the Central Committee sessions of Friends General Conference (FGC) in October it was agreed that the organization will do an institutional assessment. This assessment will look at how the cultural challenges which result in structural oppression have influenced the Religious Society of Friends and in particular FGC. Structural oppression creates barriers that make it difficult to have full participation in the Religious Society of Friends. Through engaging in the institutional assessment, it is believe that we can: Recognize structural racism within FGC; Name barriers to full participation in FGC at all levels; Develop a vision for inclusion and articulate goals to hold ourselves accountable; Provide clear next steps to achieve these goals; Share our experience with yearly and monthly meetings; Transform FGC to be more meaningful and inviting for People of Color.

At the Executive Committee meeting of FGC on February 3-5 the co-clerks for the Institutional Assessment working group were approved. They are Sharon Lane-Getaz of Minneapolis Friends

Meeting and Justin Connor of Friends Meeting of Washington. They will have several additional friends who will work with them and staff support from Vanessa Julye and Barry Crossno. They will be trained in how to carry out this work by an outside consultant but the assessment will be done by the working group.

Other work being done by FGC includes: Continuing development of modules for Spiritual Deepening Program; Strengthening the collaborative approach of the yearly meeting visitors program; Providing clerks training for high school and adult young Friends' clerks; Holding Pre-Gathering retreats for People of Color; Providing reduced registration rates for attending the White Privilege Conference; Holding the annual Gathering (This year at Niagara University 7/2-8, 2017)

Quakerbooks – this month featuring Children's books on the African American experience

Finally, there is a job opportunity for someone interested in becoming a Conference and Events Associate at FGC.

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NRCAT Representatives Report

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) provides many ways in which monthly meetings, peace committees and individuals can support the elimination of torture:

June is Torture Awareness Month: Every June, human rights and faith organizations join together to mark Torture Awareness Month because on June 26, 1987, nations of the world took a major step against the immoral and abhorrent practice of torture. On that day, the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT for short) entered into force and the United Nations later declared June 26 the "International Day in Support of Victims of Torture." NRCAT has on its website many creative ideas on how meetings can create more awareness of torture, solitary confinement, and the relationship to anti-Muslim sentiment to torture.

Membership: ILYM has joined NRCAT as a participating member. This level of participation includes naming a representative and making a modest financial contribution. Meetings that are not ready for that level of participation can join as endorsing members who endorse the Statement of Conscience and agree to consider using their programs. Monthly meetings are encouraged to become members of NRCAT at either level, to create a minute in opposition of torture, and submit that minute to the Peace Resources Committee which will publish it on the ILYM website and also send it to the John Calvi website www.quit.com.

"Torture is a Moral Issue" Statement of Conscience: Individuals can sign this statement which is on the NRCAT website. The statement is "Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved—policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable. Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now—without exceptions."

Petition to the president: NRCAT has on its website a petition to the president which individuals can sign: "Dear Mr. President: Torture is Always Wrong" Petition. By signing this, individuals can do some basic awareness raising with this new petition.

Anti-Muslim sentiment, a coalition called Shoulder-to-Shoulder: NRCAT joined other national denominational and faith groups to form a new campaign to combat anti-Muslim bigotry. "Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values," is a coalition of 28 religious

organizations. Additionally, regional and local religious organizations are invited to join Shoulder-to-Shoulder. The view of Muslims as “other” was one critical factor that led to the U.S. government’s use of torture in the last decade, and the majority of the U.S. government’s post-September 11th detainees have been Muslim. By reducing anti-Muslim sentiment, NRCAT hopes to ensure that the dignity of each person is upheld and that torture is prohibited without exception.

Jan Mullen

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Adrian Nelson's Concern

Minute from Western Young Friends New Years Gathering (from Adrian Nelson)

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning” - Luke 12:35 (NIV)

Enduring the past year’s national rhetoric, and watching the spread of violence and hateful speech, we see that we are in times that demand more from the Religious Society for any hope of love and justice and peace. As the Western Young Friends’ New Year’s Gathering, we call on meetings of every size and kind to consider: How can we prepare for the times ahead? How can we join hands with other communities of faith, honor our tradition and history of action, and find courage in the face of fear?

For five days at the closing of each year, this Gathering draws young Friends from along the West Coast and beyond to bring a small Quaker community into being. We create the community in which we wish to live, filled with peace and vitality. This takes loving labor, but we know, experimentally, that it is possible to live with intention while responding quickly to challenges. **Living in this possibility, we call on our elders, national Quaker organizations, and meetings at all levels to help us prepare ourselves to be the right tool in the hand of the Spirit for our times.**

Because of these Gathered experiences, we understand that the process and strength that comes from unity can take time. This creates in us a sense of urgency to begin the work now. We offer our energy, ideas, and commitment to change; we ask that the broader Quaker community, including all branches, offer its wisdom and resources.

We see faithful individuals and small groups acting on Quaker testimonies, with support from their respective meetings. But we of this Gathering hunger for action that we have not seen taken recently by *bodies* of Friends, actions equal or greater to anything we have done before. We ask that meetings heed this call to communal action, and discern their right collective contribution towards national and worldwide work.

Although recent history shows the long arc bending toward justice, there is no guarantee that such a path is inevitable. It requires the work of many hands. George Fox asked: “What canst thou say?” We ask: “What can *we do*?”

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