

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting  
133rd Annual Session  
July 25 - 29, 2007  
McNabb, Illinois

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, July 25, 2007**

**Minute 1** We opened the 133rd annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting with silent worship.

**Minute 2** We welcomed first-time attenders and Lucy Duncan traveling under the care of Friends General Conference.

**Minute 3** Sue Styer read epistles from the intergenerational Quaker Camp at Stillwater in Barnesville, Ohio, and from the FGC Gathering of Friends' Workshop on Eldering.

**Minute 4** Pam Kuhn for the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances reviewed what their charges had been during the 2006 annual session and reported on what they have accomplished (see p. 27). The committee will be providing a workshop "Reading Financial Statements" during annual sessions this year. They have assisted the Treasurers to have a new, easily understood presentation format, and have developed a budgeting manual which will be updated as needed by Finance Committee.

The committee recommends the formation of a Review Committee, under the care of the Finance Committee, that can make immediate and sound fiscal decisions between annual sessions, especially for expenditures in excess of 10% of the committee budget or \$5,000. The committee recommends that the members appointed to this committee be two who are very familiar with IYM finances (Clerk of Finance and Treasurer) and one who is very familiar with committee charges and IYM initiatives (Presiding or Assistant Clerk, or Recording Clerk). Friends approved forming this committee.

The committee also recommends that its charge to develop guidelines regarding donations to other organizations be laid down. After prayerful attention, the committee found no unity regarding these guidelines so recommends laying down the charge at this time.

The committee feels that its work is done and recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee to Study IYM Finances be laid down. Friends approved laying down this committee.

Thanks were given to members of the committee, Bruce Kanarek, Nancy Wallace and Pam Kuhn, for their hard work.

**Minute 5** Handbook Committee brought forward several recommendations for changes to the handbook. See page 43 for details of these recommendations.

Friends approved: #3, 4, and 6 - 13.

Friends approved #1 with recommended changes.

Numbers 2, and 5 will be taken back into consideration by the Handbook committee to clarify.

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, July 26, 2007**

**Minute 6** We opened the session in worship.

**Minute 7** Excerpts from epistles were read from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns and from Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 8** We welcomed newly-arrived Friends and visitors, including Jim and Ginger Kenney, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation. A letter of introduction for Lucy Duncan, representing Friends General Conference, was read.

**Minute 9** Nominating Committee gave the first reading of the nominating report. The final report will be given on Saturday. The following nominations were made for the Exercises Committee: Melissa Skinner, Casey Kashnig, Jinny Laughlin. For the Epistle Committee: Sue Styer, Ted Kuhn, Caryn Wixom, Dawn Amos.

**Minute 10** The Naming Committee report was given, proposing the following names for the Nominating Committee: 2008: Elke Narkiewicz, Ruth Raffensperger. 2009: Elizabeth Mertic (Clerk), David Wixom. 2010: Sue Styer, Judy Erickson.

**Minute 11** Tom Paxson for the Ad Hoc Transition Issues Committee brought forward several recommendations for consideration and approval. (See p. 28 for complete details.) The committee's recommendations are:

1. Revise the proposed corporate Bylaws so that Article IV #2 reads: The officers of the Illinois Yearly Meeting shall be a Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, a Treasurer, the Stewards, and such additional Clerks as the Illinois Yearly Meeting may appoint as officers. Friends approved this recommendation.
2. Stewards may be thought of as analogous in the new structure to the trustees in the earlier one. At the direction of IYM, stewards will have responsibility and authority to manage the real estate and tangible property of IYM and shall appoint and/or employ persons as required. Stewards will represent the YM in renovating the buildings and grounds, in securing insurance, and in dealing with easements or leases and other management needs as they arise. Among these may be property tax matters and planning, zoning, and building permit issues. IYM may direct others to assist the stewards in specific matters. Friends approved this recommendation.
3. There will be three stewards, at least two from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting; the three stewards will serve as corporation officers, with staggered six-year terms, renewable indefinitely in accordance with our nominating process. Friends approve.
4. The Nominating Committee will consult with Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in its process of discerning nomination of the stewards from that meeting. Friends approve.
5. Stewards consult with the relevant yearly meeting committees and the clerk of the yearly meeting prior to signing any major contracts. Care is to be taken that decisions made between annual sessions are in accord with the spirit and direction of decisions and policies approved by the yearly meeting at annual session. Friends approve.
6. Committees considering making changes to yearly meeting buildings and/or grounds are expected to consult with Clear Creek MM concerning these changes and *vice versa*. Friends approve.
7. The three stewards will be *ex-officio* members of the Maintenance & Planning committee. Friends approve.

8. The stewards will name one of their number to be a representative to the Finance Committee as an *ex-officio* member and to serve as a contact person in the budget process. Friends approve.

The committee recommends a set of guidelines regarding the signing of major contracts for the IYM buildings and grounds. (See attached p. 33 for details of guidelines.)

Friends recommend changing #3 to read... e.g. "Maintenance and Planning."

Friends also recommend changing #3.b. to read "... have contract reviewed by attorney" instead of "have bid reviewed."

Friends approve the guidelines with the recommended changes.

The committee also presented recommendations regarding Personnel Issues, Management Issues, and Decision-Making between annual session. See page 33 for details.

The committee recommends:

1. That the yearly meeting establish an ad hoc exploratory committee to identify personnel issues and to consider the advisability of a personnel committee.

Friends approve the formation of this committee. Volunteers are asked to speak with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

2. The formation of a small committee to address the concern of records management.

Friends approve formation of this committee. Volunteers are asked to speak with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

3. That the yearly meeting consider the issues of authority and responsibility regarding decision-making between annual sessions.

No action was taken.

Thanks are given to the members of this committee for their work. Friends expressed their belief that this has been an example of our "best practices."

The committee feels that their work has been completed and Friends approve laying it down.

**Minute 12** David Shiner for Ministry and Advancement read the description of the function of M&A to assist Friends to better understand the role of this committee. This year's Committee of Care is made up wholly of members of M&A. David also reminded Friends that one role of M&A is to oversee the Field Secretary. Thanks were given to the YM for expanding the hours for her work.

Maurine Pyle, Field Secretary, was unable to be with us today, so David Shiner read her report in her absence. Her many activities over the past year were shared as well as a series of her own observations to challenge Friends to discuss the future of our monthly and yearly meetings.

Friend Bill Brown, although having planned to attend, was unable to. A poster card was created for Friends to sign to send to Bill and Sandra.

The committee was asked to describe how they will work to support the Adult Young Friends group that at the moment is fairly strong. It was reported that this strength is growing nationwide as was reflected in the Epistle read on Wednesday from the Quaker Camp at Stillwater. The committee will continue to support those Friends whenever possible through conferences, workshops and Quakes.

Friends accepted the reports of M&A and the Field Secretary.

**Minute 13** The Faith and Practice committee reported that they have met numerous times over the past year and have received feedback from individuals and monthly meetings regarding the proposed section on marriage. The committee presented the text on marriage proposing that the yearly meeting adopt the text for a five-year provisional period.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the committee was able to obtain copies of the book *Living with Oneself and Others*, by the New England Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee, for every monthly meeting and worship group in IYM.

The Faith and Practice Committee reports that it has also been working on a section on meeting organization and structure. In the coming year the committee will be working more on the general introduction and section on membership and hope to bring a new version to the 2008 annual session.

Following a reading of the section on Marriage, recommendations for revision were given by Friends. The committee will take these under advisement, meet further with Friends this week, make appropriate changes and bring back the revisions later in the week.

The concern was raised that further guidance is needed in this section if the Clearness Committee is not clear that the union should proceed.

Friends approved the first reading of this section, pending revision.

**Minute 14** Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee and referred Friends to their printed report in the Advance Documents. (See p. 35) An announcement was made to remind Friends that the canoe trip will be held tomorrow and there are 41 people signed up to go. The committee has new brochures about the nature trail for Friends to pick up and enjoy.

**Minute 15** Various Illinois Yearly Meeting representatives to Quaker organizations reported on their work: Janice Domanik for Friends General Conference, and Nora Vera-Godwin for American Friends Service Committee. Dawn Amos rose to thank the yearly meeting for sending her to the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial in Dublin in August, and to remind Friends that FWCC has an ongoing capital campaign. It is going very well and Friends are encouraged to continue to support FWCC.

#### MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, July 27, 2007

**Minute 16** We opened the session with worship.

**Minute 17** Epistles were read from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 18** Announcements were made. First-time attenders were introduced and welcomed.

**Minute 19** The report naming the Exercises and Epistles committees first read yesterday was approved.

**Minute 20** Peter Lasersohn for Faith and Practice Committee presented their revisions to the section on Marriage and asked that the section be approved for a five-year provisional period. Friends discussed the wording of “intention” vs. “promise” in the vows to be loving and faithful for as long as both shall live. Friends feel that individuals

entering into a union should do so as a promise with Divine assistance. Friends approved the recommended changes and approved the section. (See p. 63)

**Minute 21** Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Discernment of Gifts. This group made up of Mariellen Gilpin, Martha Turner, Janice Domanik, Marti Mathews and Margie Haworth met under the care of Ministry and Advancement. A statement was presented regarding the purpose of the committee. The committee conceives its mission as:

1. To help monthly meetings and IYM experience discernment, and the nurturing of gifts for the meeting, as these grow out of the history of the Religious Society of Friends.
2. To provide meetings with the resources to use worship-sharing, clearness committees, and the seasoning that results, to be open to how the Spirit moves among us.
3. To assist nominating committees with their work and to help monthly meetings to listen to and nurture individual leadings.

The committee requests that more members be appointed including one to be the M&A liaison. This request was referred to M&A.

Friends approved the report.

**Minute 22** Mariellen Gilpin made an impassioned plea to Friends to make IYM more accessible to those with disabilities. She requests that steps be taken immediately, not just to wait for the new building to be built.

Friends echoed her plea and shared their appreciation for bringing forward the concerns. Friends would like a committee to be asked to study the issue of accessibility. Bobbi Trist and Robin Johnson offered to have Friends approach them with ideas or concerns to be addressed.

**Minute 23** Maintenance and Planning reported on their full year of activities. Looking to the coming year the committee identified two emerging concerns: One was the need to place more emphasis on long-range stewardship of existing facilities as opposed to “putting out fires.” The other was to better honor Quaker testimonies in their work. A draft mission statement was created to guide the committee’s work (See page 47).

Friends approved the report.

**Minute 24** Cathy Garra reported for the Site Envisioning and Building and the Development Committees highlighting the projects they have accomplished over the past year as well as plans for the coming year. It was reported that funds are still needed for the Property Improvement Fund. Their report proposes combining these two committees to become a standing IYM committee called the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Friends approve the formation of this committee and approved the report.

Cathy Garra and Bill Howenstine presented a fun announcement on the special events that will be happening today to inform Friends of all of the work that has been accomplished over the past year.

**Minute 25** Roger Laughlin presented the first reading of the budget. The budget is a bit higher this year due to increased travel of staff and IYM representatives.

Dawn Amos presented the Treasurer's report including the Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet, first instructing Friends on how to understand the new format. (See pp. 19 - 24 )

**Minute 26** Fall Continuing Committee will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. Location will be determined later.

The dates for the Winter Retreat will not yet be set but Friends hope that it may occur again in February. A suggestion was made for the theme of the retreat to be on Eldering.

Discussion was again opened regarding changing the dates of annual session. Friends raised the concerns of school dates, year-end financial statements, and Memorial Day work weekend. The issue of dates will also be forwarded to the new committee addressing the issues of accessibility.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, July 28, 2007

**Minute 27** We opened the session with silence.

**Minute 28** Epistles were read from Ireland Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 29** Members of the Finance Committee proposed various minutes for approval. (See p. 37)

A Proposed Trust Property Transfer Minute.

B Proposed Affidavit of Continuity Minute.

C Proposed Corporation and Property Minute.

D Proposed Minute to Register the Yearly Meeting as an Illinois Charitable Organization.

E Proposed Minute to Designate Officers Authorized to Sign Contracts.

Friends approved minutes A-E.

F Financial Distribution.

Friends approved this minute with changes in wording.

The committee also suggested changes to the proposed bylaws brought forward in July 2006. (See p. 41) Friends approve the bylaws as presented with the suggested changes. An ad hoc committee will be formed under the care of the clerks to write a Conflict of Interest Policy.

Friends approve the Finance Committee report and thank the committee for all of their work and effort on this project.

A minute of appreciation was read thanking all past and current trustees for their years of dedicated service.

**Minute 30** Introductions were made of visitors and first-time attenders including Paul Lacey of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. He is Professor Emeritus of English at Earlham College, clerk of the American Friends Service Committee Board, and our Saturday evening speaker.

**Minute 31** The budget was again addressed for questions or comments. Friends approved the budget as presented. (See pp. 25 - 26) Thanks were given to the Finance Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Finances and the Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Issues of Transition for all of their work on the transition to the new financial system.

**Minute 32** Bobbi Trist, Ruth Milledge, and Robin Johnson will make up a “working party” to study accessibility issues under the care of the Maintenance and Planning Committee. Friends approve the formation of this group.

**Minute 33** Discussion resumed regarding changing the dates of the next annual session. Unity was not reached at this point. We will re-visit this issue later.

**Minute 34** David Shiner reported for M&A. They request that the annual session officially recognize the laying down of DeKalb Monthly Meeting. This was done. The Presiding Clerk wrote to their clerk that Friends present at spring Continuing Committee, where their letter was read, were touched by their faithfulness in sustaining DeKalb Monthly Meeting over the years. She expressed Illinois Yearly Meeting’s pleasure that memberships from DeKalb Monthly Meeting had been transferred to another meeting

M&A was charged with appointing Friends to the ad hoc committee regarding Discernment of Gifts. Mariellen Gilpin, Janice Domanik and Margie Haworth have agreed to continue. Brad Laird and Monica Tetzlaff have also agreed to serve on this committee. Friends approve these names and the continuation of the ad hoc committee for another year under the care of M&A.

**Minute 35** Elizabeth Evans reported that Milwaukee Monthly Meeting will officially lay down their IYM membership on August 31, 2007, in order to belong to only Northern Yearly Meeting. Friends unite that we release Milwaukee Monthly Meeting with love and support. We welcome those Friends who wish to continue to worship with us and accept these Friends as Participating Members in our business sessions.

**Minute 36** It was noted that two representatives of IYM, Carol Zimmerman and Susanna Davison, attended Northern Yearly Meeting’s annual session over this past Memorial Day weekend. They commended Milwaukee Monthly Meeting to NYM’s care. A past IYM clerk recalled with pleasure his attendance at NYM in the 1970s.

**Minute 37** The Nominating Committee gave a second reading of its report. Friends approve the nominations listed and appoint the Friends nominated to terms beginning at the conclusion of the 2007 annual sessions.

**Minute 38** Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (See p. 53). They will work with our architects to address concerns regarding sustainability and accessibility issues connected with new and existing buildings, and request permission to do so even if this requires spending money beyond what has been reserved for development costs in the Property Improvement Fund. The committee proposes to develop this idea in further detail and to report at Continuing Committee. The committee will also offer a workshop on the issues of sustainability and accessibility, details of date and location to be determined later.

**Minute 39** Marti Matthews reported for the Quaker Volunteer Service, Training and Witness Committee. (See p. 52) It is felt that much has changed since the committee started over ten years ago. Opportunities for service are found much more broadly now. The committee will be developing a new statement of its mission, and scaling back the set of tasks it undertakes. The committee poses several queries to the Yearly Meeting, including whether it wishes to have an organized presence in the field of Quaker Volunteer Service, and, if so, how the Yearly Meeting can add to the experience of

Friends pursuing volunteer service. The committee requests the naming of a new clerk and additional members, and discernment of a name for the committee which reflects its revised purpose. Friends approved the report.

**Minute 40** After free and full discussion, it was decided to schedule our 2008 sessions for the third Wednesday of June through the following Sunday.

**Minute 41** Friends expressed their gratitude for Sue Davison's service as clerk for the last two years.

**Minute 42** Mike Dennis reported on the many activities of the Youth Oversight Committee (See p. 56). The tentatively proposed events during the coming year are:

- \* On 11/ 9-12/07 (Veterans Day weekend) at 57<sup>th</sup> Street meeting house to do an Alternatives to Violence Project workshop
- \* On 1/18-21/08 (MLK Day weekend) at Evanston meeting house
- \* On 5/23-26/08 (Memorial Day weekend) at Clear Creek meeting house for a work camp
- \* On 6/18-22/08 (Illinois Yearly Meeting) at Clear Creek / Junior Yearly Meeting house

A Youth Coordinator has been hired: Javaughn Fernanders of South Bend Meeting. She was introduced and warmly welcomed to this new position. Friends thank Mike and the rest of the committee for their work.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, July 29, 2007

**Minute 43** We opened the session in silence.

**Minute 44** We heard Epistles from the 3–5 year olds, the 7–11 year olds, the Jr. High Friends, the High School Friends, and the Adult Young Friends. Ted Kuhn read the outgoing Epistle and Jinny Laughlin read the Exercises. (See pp.14-18)

**Minute 45** Friends were thanked for their service throughout the year on yearly meeting committees.

**Minute 46** We recognized Friends in attendance from monthly meetings in IYM.

**Minute 47** The 2008 Nominating Committee brought forward two names to serve as Stewards: Carol Bartles - 2013, Dick Ashdown - 2011. They further ask to bring forward a third Steward at the fall Continuing Committee. Friends approved this report and the names of these stewards.

**Minute 48** Annual session closed with silent worship.