

1 Minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting
held 6/18/2008 – 6/22/2008

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Minute 1 We opened the 134th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting in silent worship.

Minute 2 We welcomed Ginger and Jim Kenney from the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Florence Ntakarutimana from Burundi, and first time attenders from within Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 3 Epistles were read from the children of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

Minute 4 Pam Kuhn reported for the Handbook Committee. (See attachment.) The committee recommends placing the handbook on the Illinois Yearly Meeting website. It does not contain any personal names or addresses. If the Peace Tax Fund Committee or other committees request that their portions of the handbook be omitted, this may be done. Friends approve this recommendation.

The committee recommends a division of the handbook into five sections, which could be reprinted independently as necessary, so that the entire handbook would not have to be republished each year. Friends approve, and authorize the committee to restructure the handbook as needed in the future.

The committee recommends several specific revisions to the text of the handbook. Friends approve these revisions with minor wording changes; the revised text will be published in the handbook.

Minute 5 Minutes 1–4 were read and approved.

Minute 6 Dawn Amos reported for the ad hoc committee regarding the advisability of having a personnel committee. (See attachment.) The committee has gathered some information, but as not met. The committee recommends that it be continued for another year, with membership changes as needed; Friends approve.

Minute 7 The Clerk announced the members of the Clerk's Committee: Dawn Amos, Sue Davison, Janice Dominik, Nancy Duncan, Peter Lasersohn, and David Shiner.

Minute 8 David Finke and Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. Last year's minute book was a record 108 pages; Friends are reminded of the desirability of concise reports. The Illinois Yearly Meeting website has been converted to collaborative software to encourage wider participation in uploading and editing web documents. Friends express their appreciation for the quality of yearly meeting publications.

Minute 9 Friends approve the use of the acronym "ILYM" for Illinois Yearly Meeting, already in use by Friends General Conference and as part of the address of the Illinois Yearly Meeting website, while recognizing that "IYM" may also continue to be used.

Minute 10 Minutes 5–9 were read and approved.

Minute 11 The session closed in silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, June 19, 2008

Minute 12 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 13 A traveling minute from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting was read for Susan Lee Barton, representing Friends World Committee for Consultation; and one for Michael Gibson from Friends General Conference. We also welcomed Brian Young, our plenary speaker Wednesday evening.

Minute 14 An epistle was read from the Second Meeting of Unprogrammed Friends in Latin America.

Minute 15 Beth Schobernd reported on her efforts to index the minutes of Illinois Yearly Meeting. She has indexed the minutes from 2004 through 2007. Her plan is to index new minutes as they become available, and older minutes in reverse chronological order. Friends are encouraged to examine the index as it now exists and provide feedback.

Minute 16 The clerk announced the event “Heeding God’s Call: A Gathering on Peace,” organized by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and scheduled for January 13–17, 2009 in Philadelphia. The Peace Resources Committee has been asked to name a representative from Illinois Yearly Meeting to attend this event.

Minute 17 Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. (See attachment.) Pamphlets are available for nature walks on the meetinghouse grounds and the campground. An outing to the Putnam County Nature Preserve is scheduled for Saturday morning. Twenty-two new trees have been planted on the meetinghouse grounds. Workshops are scheduled on green building, and on money and Friends. The committee is undertaking a review of our cleaning supplies for earth-friendliness. Friends are encouraged to examine the committee’s display in the west room of the meetinghouse.

Minute 18 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. (See attachment.) They nominate the following Friends to the Epistle Committee: Steve Kuhn (ex officio), Monica Tetzlaff, Jeannie Marvin. To the Exercises Committee: Bob Cordova, Paul Healey, Chris Goode. A young Friend will also be contacted. Friends approve these nominations.

The committee also reports several nominations in addition to those listed in the Advance Documents: Galen McQueen to the Maintenance and Planning Committee, for a term ending 2009, and Michelle Stacey to the Religious Education Committee for a term ending 2011. Chip Rorem has agreed to continue as clerk of Site Envisioning and Development.

The committee brought the following query: How might we include other Friends in the work of our yearly meeting? We’re Christ’s representatives! If our work is the work that God

calls us to do, there will be many who answer the call. Do we want to reduce the number of committees (the scarcity model) or increase the number of volunteers?

Minute 19 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. (See attachment.) Their work over the past year has been focused on composing a new section on meeting organization and structure as well as revising the section on membership. The committee asks that this year the section on membership and the introduction to the book be adopted for an indefinite period as they conclude their five year trial periods. Next year the section "Friends Manner of Decision-Making" will complete its five year provisional period and the committee will be revising this section and asking that it be adopted for an indefinite period as well. Friends are reminded to please contact members of the committee throughout the year with any questions or comments about any of the sections that are being worked on.

The introduction to the Faith and Practice book was read for Friends' consideration. Friends approve this section as amended. The membership section was also read for Friends' consideration. Friends approve this section with the exception of three areas that the committee will work on and present again on a later day during this annual session.

Minute 20 Minutes 12–19 were read and approved.

Minute 21 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. (See attachment.) The Property Improvement Fund stands at just over \$26,000. The committee has held several meetings and conference calls to develop processes for fundraising. A charette was held with the Troyer Group at which concerns for accessibility, environmental impact, and the needs of Clear Creek Meeting were discussed. It was felt that the Troyer Group's plans did not adequately respond to the concerns of Clear Creek Meeting. Some alternative drawings were prepared by Chris Goode, an architect who attends Clear Creek Meeting; the Site Envisioning and Development Committee and Clear Creek Meeting have both approved these designs, and the work of the Troyer Group has been suspended.

Chris Goode then presented his designs, which include two buildings with dormitory and meeting space, and a third building with a kitchen and dining hall. The dormitory buildings contain eight sleeping rooms each, with a meeting room or living room at one end, including a small kitchen and library, as well as bathrooms, porch, and entryway. The dining hall and kitchen building would accommodate 114 seats, and includes extensive porch space. Placement of the buildings may require the purchase of additional property to the rear of the meetinghouse. The buildings are designed with accessibility and environmental concerns in mind; alternative methods of energy generation are being investigated. Chris estimates the costs at \$325,000–\$452,000 per dorm, and \$450,000–\$550,000 for kitchen and dining hall, or \$1,100,000–\$1,454,000 overall, not including items such as kitchen equipment, furniture, infrastructure, geothermal heat. Estimates from builders need to be sought.

Minute 22 The session closed in silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, June 20, 2008

Minute 23 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 24 We welcomed Brad Ogilvy from William Penn House.

Minute 25 An epistle was read from Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Minute 26 Javaughn Fernanders gave the Youth Coordinator Report. A quake was held in November at 57th Street Meeting, which included an AVP Workshop. The Quake that Rocked the Midwest was held in January with participation from IYM teens. The teen group erected a tipi during Memorial Day Work Weekend, thanks to Downers Grove Meeting. We heard of the activities of several individual Young Friends. A recycling assistance team is investigating ways to decrease the environmental impact of quakes and other activities. Fundraising efforts have begun with a T-shirt sale.

Minute 27 We welcomed Kristin Richardson Director of Friends Relations of the American Friends Service Committee.

Minute 28 Minutes 20–27 were read and approved.

Minute 29 Dawn Amos reported for the Review Committee. (See attachment.) The committee reviewed and approved three requests for unexpected expenses this year, for a scholarship, workers' compensation insurance, and maintenance. The committee is reviewing its process and hopes to make refinements in the coming year.

Minute 30 Dawn Amos presented the Treasurers' report. (See attachment.) Assets stand at \$116,283.34, an increase of over \$10,000 from last year. All loans have been paid, so we have no current liabilities. Contributions have been received from monthly meetings totaling \$72,946.50. All funds have positive balances. Our fiscal year does not end until June 30, so these figures are not final. Friends approve publication of the final figures in the annual minutebook.

Minute 31 Roger Laughlin presented the proposed budget for 2008–2009. Anticipated income and expenses both total \$84,300. Friends noted that the budget does not include a cost-of-living raise for staff salaries. Friends approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee to consider this issue and make a recommendation.

Minute 32 Several announcements were made: Rose Dennis has been appointed to the Exercises Committee. Dawn Amos has been replaced by Valerie Lester on the ad hoc Exploratory Committee regarding a Personnel Committee. Peoria-Galesburg Monthly Meeting has changed its name to Spoon River Quaker Meeting.

Minute 33 Brad Laird reported for the ad hoc Committee on the Discernment of Gifts. (See attachment.) A positive response was received to the eldering retreat held this winter. There appears to be a hunger for more retreats, and a sense that retreats should continue to offer children's programming.

Minute 34 Minutes 28–33 were read and approved.

Minute 35 Tim Narkiewicz reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. (See attachment.) The committee with other volunteers completed a variety of repairs and improvements to the meetinghouse and grounds during the Memorial Day Work Weekend. Suzanne Siverling has been hired to develop a facilities management schedule. The committee notes that we are spending far less on maintenance than property management industry standards; it is important to adopt proactive maintenance practices, rather than simply responding to maintenance emergencies. The committee is planning to commission a capital expense study during the coming year to gain a more precise and realistic understanding of what our maintenance expenses are likely to be.

Minute 36 Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. (See attachment.) The committee conducted a survey about religious education efforts in the various meetings in IYM. A Yahoo! group has been established to facilitate communication about religious education ideas and resources in IYM meetings. Meetings are encouraged to send representatives to the FGC Religious Educators' Institute in August.

Minute 37 Following a brief break, the clerk announced Clyde Baker, Bob Bartles, Judy Jager and Roger Laughlin as the members of the ad hoc committee to consider a cost-of-living raise to staff salaries.

Minute 38 Chuck Hutchcraft reported for the Peace Resources Committee. (See attachment.) The committee requests IYM approval for the Declaration of Life, which individuals can sign in order to make known that in the event they are murdered, they do not want the person found guilty of the crime to face the death penalty. Without endorsing this particular form of words, Friends expressed support for calling the Declaration to the attention of meetings and individuals, and recommend that it be posted to the committee's page on the IYM website and distributed in other ways as the committee finds appropriate.

The committee also recommends the formation of an ad hoc committee to consider possible programs for the proposed new retreat center on the yearly meeting grounds, and that this committee include representation from High School and Adult Young Friends. Noting that the Site Envisioning and Development Committee is already charged with considering uses for the new buildings, Friends decline to appoint a new committee, but ask that SE&D work as closely as possible with High School Friends, Adult Young Friends, Peace Resources and other committees in their planning.

Minute 39 Minutes 34–38 were read and approved.

Minute 40 Carol Bartles reported for the Stewards. The Stewards have faced a variety of tasks and challenges in the day-to-day care of our buildings and grounds.

Minute 41 Carol Bartles reported for the American Friends Service Committee. The AFSC has a \$48 million budget this year, and conducts more than 300 programs around the world. Strategic planning is underway, and plans are being developed for AFSC action after a new U.S. President is elected. It was noted that an AFSC billboard on the costs of the Iraq war was erected in Urbana with the help of Urbana-Champaign Meeting.

Minute 42 Sue Davison reported for the Naming Committee. The Naming Committee has developed a new description of its practices for the Handbook; Friends approve the text, which will be published in the Handbook.

Minute 43 Peter Lasersohn reported that the Faith and Practice Committee has revised the three passages that were held over from yesterday's business session. Friends approved two of the proposed changes. Finding no unity on the third passage, regarding IYM not being in unity regarding the membership of children, Friends did not approve adding the sentence in question.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, June 21, 2008

Minute 44 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 45 We welcomed Katherine and Ken Jacobson from Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Minute 46 Epistles were read from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Minute 47 Maurine Pyle delivered the Field Secretary's report. (See attachment.) As Maurine ended her term as Field Secretary, she reflected on what her service has meant, and made a number of observations — some perhaps difficult for Friends to hear — on the state of local meetings across IYM, and on what makes for a thriving Quaker community.

In heartfelt manner, Friends expressed their gratitude for Maurine's service. She has provided invaluable help and guidance in revitalizing local meetings and supporting individual Friends, and has exemplified for many the Spirit-led life. Maurine has served as a mentor, "Quaker fairy godmother," and beacon through the difficulties that many Friends and meetings have faced.

Minute 48 Minutes 39–47 were read and approved.

Minute 49 Roger Laughlin reported for the ad hoc committee to consider a cost-of-living adjustment to staff salaries. The committee recommends a 3% upward adjustment. This adds \$1000 to the salary budget. A 2% increase in contributions from meetings is anticipated, which should cover this amount. Friends approve the revised budget including this adjustment.

Minute 50 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Chuck Howenstine for the Maintenance and Planning Committee for a term ending 2011. Galen McQueen has withdrawn his name from consideration for this committee. Robert Godsey is nominated as representative to the AFSC Corporation for a term ending 2011 and Jeannette Baker as representative to FWCC for a term ending 2011. Friends approve these nominations, and authorize the Continuing Committee to act on further nominations.

Minute 51 Sue Davison reported for the Naming Committee. They propose that Scott Searles be appointed for one year on the Nominating Committee, completing David Wixom's

term, and that Sarah Pavlovic and Brad Ogilvy be appointed for full three-year terms. Elizabeth Mertic has agreed to continue to convene. Friends approve these appointments.

Minute 52 Friends approved scheduling next year's sessions for the third Wednesday in June through the following Sunday (17–21 June, 2009). Next year we plan to consider adopting a June date on an ongoing basis.

Minute 53 Minutes 48–52 were read and approved.

Minute 54 Chip Rorem reported again for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, and Chris Goode presented again his designs for the proposed new buildings. The committee proposes a target goal of beginning excavation by spring of 2009. This would first require further development of the designs, investigation of zoning and utility issues, fundraising, refinement of the business plan, determining the availability of land, and revised cost estimates. The committee would present the results of these processes to the fall session of the Continuing Committee. If the Continuing Committee approves, the next step would be the development of construction documents, additional fundraising, and solicitation of bids. These would be presented to the spring session of the Continuing Committee, which would be empowered to authorize the start of construction.

A concern was raised that Site Envisioning and Building's business plan and Maintenance and Planning's capital expense study be developed in tandem and using consistent methodology; the two committees are asked to work together to ensure compatibility of planning, and have a report ready by fall Continuing Committee.

Ensuing discussion was extensive and touched on various issues, including the marketability of the new facility to outside groups, the availability of funds for the planning process, the feasibility of adequate fundraising, tax ramifications, and the need for broader participation from across the yearly meeting. It was announced that Clear Creek Meeting had approved a contribution of \$50,000 to construction costs, with an additional pledge of up to \$20,000 matching individual contributions up to \$1000 each.

Friends approve the general planning trajectory and decision process proposed by the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. The committee is authorized to spend available funds, not to exceed \$50,000, in the planning phase up to the fall session of Continuing Committee. This amount includes up to \$10,000 for the purchase of land. The yearly meeting recognizes the importance of obtaining the widest and earliest possible participation in the development of a business plan for the projected buildings. The responsibility falls on us all.

Minute 55 Minutes 53–54 were read and approved.

Minute 56 A business session was scheduled for 8:45 Sunday morning.

Minute 57 Beth Burbank reported on her pastoral counseling and education work. (See attachment.) She summarized how this work has evolved and developed over the years; her current ministry is with chaplains and Clinical Pastoral Education students who work with hospice patients.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, June 22, 2008

Minute 58 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 59 The clerk reported that Sophie de la Mar has been nominated to the Religious Education Committee. Friends approved this, as well as the nominations earlier reported by the Nominating Committee.

Minute 60 We heard outgoing epistles from the various Young Friends and Adult Young Friends groups.

Minute 61 It was announced that the fall session of the Continuing Committee will be held at Clear Creek, October 18, 2008.

Minute 62 We heard and approved the adults' outgoing epistle.

Minute 63 We heard and approved the exercises.

Minute 64 Carolyn Treadway reported on her work as a pastoral counselor. Carolyn was one of the earliest Quaker pastoral counselors, and has exercised significant leadership in the Association for Pastoral Counseling and in the development of counseling services in her community. Much of her recent work has involved environmental education.

Minute 65 David Shiner reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. (See attachment.) The committee proposes that the ad hoc Committee on the Discernment of Gifts be continued for one more year with the following charges: 1. To complete its Winter Retreat procedures manual for retreats at MennoHaven; 2. To create and promulgate a survey to assess felt needs of nominating committees for training and discerning and nurturing Friends' gifts; 3. To envision a structure for phase-out of the ad hoc committee in its current form, with consideration of how M&A or some other committee can nurture Friends in IYM, including those who nurture others. Three of the five members of the committee are laying down their service on this committee. Sophie de la Mar has agreed to serve if the committee is continued; Ministry and Advancement will continue to search for two more members. Friends approve continuing the committee for one year.

Ministry and Advancement also reports that they have received and screened applications for the position of field secretary, and recommend Paul Buckley for this position for a three year term. Friends approve.

Minute 66 Minutes 55–65 were read and approved.

Minute 67 We closed our 2008 sessions in silent worship.