

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM)
138th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month 20-24, 2012, Clear Creek Meeting House near McNabb, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, Sixth Month 20, 2012

- Minute 1** The ILYM annual sessions opened with waiting worship.
- Minute 2** Presiding Clerk Janice Domanik welcomed everyone to the annual sessions.
- Minute 3** The Clerk recognized two visitors from outside of ILYM: Peggy Senger Parsons from Freedom Friends Church in Oregon, and Vanessa Julye who is visiting on behalf of Friends General Conference (FGC).
- Minute 4** The Presiding Clerk is assisted by a Clerk's Committee. Members of the committee who are present at these sessions are David Finke, Peter Lasersohn, Elizabeth Mertic, David Shiner, and Gwen Weaver. Concerns about issues involving clerking may be addressed to the Clerk or any member of the committee. Other members of the Clerk's Committee, including former ILYM clerks Susanna Davison and Tom Paxson, are unable to be present.
- Minute 5** Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read an excerpt of an epistle from Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica.
- Minute 6** The Epistle Committee for this year's sessions will consist of Chris Jocius, Monica Tetzlaff, and Angie Thinnies. Volunteers were solicited for the Exercises Committee.
- Minute 7** Joan Pine, Clerk of Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A), spoke on behalf of the Committee of Care. M&A members are available to be sought out if anyone has concerns for which they would like assistance. Joan announced the times of orientation sessions for newcomers, which will take place tonight and Saturday morning.
- Minute 8** The Presiding Clerk informed those present about the red notebooks that are located near the front door. Those notebooks contain minutes of the business sessions (updated daily), memorial minutes, state of society reports, and committee and representative reports that did not arrive in time to be included in the advance documents packet.
- Minute 9** David Rutschman reported for Nominating Committee, mentioning recommended nominations that were not included in the advance documents. The Nominating Committee's slate of recommendations will be updated over the next few days and presented for final consideration on Saturday.
- Minute 10** Nominating Committee requested approval for several appointments so that they may take effect immediately. For new members of Ministry and Advancement, serving until 2015: Ted Ehnle, Brad Laird, Adrian Nelson, Gwen Weaver, and Pam Wolfe. Approved. For Assistant Recording Clerk: Wil Brant. Approved.
- Minute 11** Peter Lasersohn reported for Naming Committee (himself and Kate Gunnell), which recommends the following for service on Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Mertic for a 1-year term; Margie Haworth Davis, Thomas Fairbank, and Erin Taylor for 2-year terms. Approved.
- Minute 12** Janice Domanik and Peter Lasersohn reported for Faith and Practice Committee (see p. 29).
- Minute 13** The 5-year provisional period for the section on Marriage is now expiring. Members of Faith and Practice Committee read the text of the revised section, for which they requested approval for an indefinite period. Approved. (See p. 48)
- Minute 14** Members of Faith and Practice Committee read the proposed section on Quarterly Meetings that was initially presented in draft form last year. The committee requested approval for that section and for the accompanying sample membership form for a 5-year provisional period. Approved. (See p. 60)
- Minute 15** A new section on Meeting for Worship, which was not read aloud but which was included in the advance documents, is being presented for comment this year. Faith and Practice Committee will revise it during the coming year in preparation for presentation for approval for a 5-year provisional period next year. (See p. 65)
- Minute 16** Mark Amos, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, shared one of the many meaningful spiritual moments he experienced during that gathering.
- Minute 17** Carol Bartles reported on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). AFSC has initiated a new liaison program in order to link more effectively with yearly and monthly meetings. A number of copies of a new booklet, which explains how Friends Testimonies underlie how AFSC does its work, have been brought to the annual sessions to be taken back to monthly meetings for distribution. The AFSC General Secretary, Shan Cretin, will arrive tomorrow and will be a featured speaker later this week.
- Minute 18** The first session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, Thursday, Sixth Month 21, 2012

- Minute 19** The second session opened with waiting worship.
- Minute 20** Monica Tetzlaff read an excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya. She also read an excerpt from the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, which was approved at the World Conference.
- Minute 21** The Clerk welcomed the following members and attenders of ILYM meetings who are attending annual sessions for the first time: Debra Allwardt, Barbara Harroun, and Rebekah Buchanan from Macomb Worship Group, and Derek Ashdown from Clear Creek.
- Minute 22** The Clerk again asked for volunteers for the Exercises Committee.
- Minute 23** Chip Rorem reported for Site Envisioning Committee (see p. 41).
- Minute 24** Diane Dennis reported for Maintenance and Planning Committee (see p. 32).
- Minute 25** Chris Goode explained in detail the accessibility proposal recommended by Maintenance and Planning Committee in its report.
- Minute 26** Roy Treadway reported on behalf of the Stewards (see p. 42). The Stewards endorse the proposals presented by Site Envisioning Committee.
- Minute 27** The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal that the following actions be undertaken and completed during the coming year: (1) deconstruction of the long shed and recycling/reuse of the materials; (2) removal of the brush pile from the south side of the west property; and (3) removal of the deteriorating shed attachment to the Dairy Barn. Approved.
- Minute 28** The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal to construct an accessible entry onto the west side of Clear Creek House. Approved.
- Minute 29** The Meeting expressed its deep gratitude to Clear Creek Meeting for renovating the kitchen in Clear Creek House. Approved.
- Minute 30** The Clerk asked for consideration of the request for staining the cabins, as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report. Approved.
- Minute 31** The Clerk asked for consideration of the request to install handrails in cabins, as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report. Approved.
- Minute 32** The Clerk recommended that we ask appropriate committees to determine the functionality of the handrails currently in the cabins prior to deciding on plans for future installation. Approved.
- Minute 33** The Clerk asked for consideration of the recommendation that a number of projects, as presented in the Site Envisioning report, be seasoned in a collaborative effort of the Site Envisioning, Maintenance & Planning, and Environmental Concerns committees and the Stewards during the coming year and brought for action at the 2013 annual sessions. The Clerk will convene the first meeting of this group. Approved.
- Minute 34** The Clerk asked those present to consider the formation of a working group to develop oversight processes for the use of the site for programs, retreats, and other activities. This group will consist of representatives from the Stewards, from Site Envisioning, Maintenance and Planning, Finance, Ministry and Advancement, Peace Resources, and Environmental Concerns committees, and from Adult Young Friends, High School Friends, and Clear Creek Meeting. Approved.
- Minute 35** Noel Pavlovic reported for Environmental Concerns Committee (see p. 28). Report accepted.
- Minute 36** Roy Treadway reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness (see p. 46). This fall's QEW Annual Gathering will be on the subject "Biodiversity and Food: The Challenge to the Planet." Report accepted.
- Minute 37** Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report (see p. 21). Report accepted.
- Minute 38** Adrian Nelson, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, reflected on her experiences at the Conference.
- Minute 39** The second session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, Sixth Month 22, 2012

- Minute 40** The third session opened with waiting worship.
- Minute 41** Monica Tetzlaff read another excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya.
- Minute 42** The Clerk welcomed Breeze Richardson and Deb Smith, who are attending annual sessions for the first time. She also welcomed two visitors from outside of ILYM, Patricia Morrison from Intermountain Yearly Meeting and Jim Cason from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).
- Minute 43** The Clerk announced that Mark Amos, Steve Tamari, and Caryn Wixom have agreed to serve as the Exercises Committee.
- Minute 44** David Wixom gave the report from Youth Oversight Committee (see p. 43). He recounted highlights from the past year and offered a preview of events for the coming year. Report accepted.
- Minute 45** Due to the resignation of Javaughn Fernanders as Youth Coordinator effective at the end of these annual sessions, Youth Oversight requested permission to recruit and hire a Youth Coordinator to start on July 1, 2012 or as soon thereafter as feasible. Approved.
- Minute 46** The meeting expressed its appreciation to High School Friends for their service during and after dinner on Thursday night. They undertook their chores willingly and, despite extremely difficult conditions, they did so with grace, humor, and joy.
- Minute 47** Dawn Rubbert gave the report from the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee (ACOC) (See p. 28). The Committee noted that we currently have no process for seeking and hiring replacements for any hired ILYM staffers between annual sessions. They proposed that their committee, in consultation with the ILYM Clerks, be charged with bringing recommendations on this matter to Fall Continuing Committee, which would be empowered to act on recommendations. The Clerk recommended augmenting ACOC with representatives from the Ministry and Advancement and Youth Oversight committees for the purpose of bringing recommendations to Fall Continuing Committee, which will then be empowered to act on them. She further recommended that the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting be charged with ensuring that Personnel Committee get on with its charge to create consistent and legal policies for our paid staff. Both of the Clerk's recommendations were approved.
- Minute 48** Joan Pine reported for Ministry and Advancement Committee (see p. 34). Report accepted.
- Minute 49** Judy Wolicki reported in her capacity as Field Secretary (see p. 36). She expressed her joy in carrying out this ministry and her hope that she can assist us in becoming more fully connected to each other and in tapping into each others' strengths.
- Minute 50** Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos introduced the proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year (see p. 24). Income for the current (2012) fiscal year is anticipated to be about \$3000 less than projected last year, principally due to a decrease in monthly meeting support. This decrease is likely to become greater for the coming year. On the other side of the ledger, the operating needs of ILYM have increased significantly since the purchase of additional property in 2009. The effect of these combined factors is that it is necessary to make cuts in expenses, which Finance Committee is recommending take place through decreases in support to others. Those decreases are recommended for donations to all organizations except for those of which ILYM is a member, namely Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), and two other organizations to which ILYM currently donates only a small sum. Finance Committee recommends leaving most other basic expenses in the operating fund at about the same level as this year, except that an addition of approximately \$1500 is proposed for the purpose of giving cost-of-living increases to ILYM staffers. Dawn then explained anticipated releases during fiscal 2013 from funds other than the operating fund, those being the special gifts, deferred maintenance, and property improvement funds. The proposed budget will be considered for approval at tomorrow's session.
- Minute 51** Judy Jager, Clerk of the Finance Committee, spoke on behalf of the committee on a number of matters (see p. 29). Development work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting is becoming increasingly urgent. Dawn Amos will be stepping down as Co-Treasurer at the end of the coming year. The committee thanks Clear Creek Monthly Meeting for the renovation of the kitchen in Clear Creek House and the Stewards for their service during the past year. Finally, the committee is proposing a conflict of interest policy, which will be considered at tomorrow's session.
- Minute 52** Breeze Richardson reported for Peace Resources Committee (see p. 39). Report accepted.
- Minute 53** Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Handbook Committee. The committee is proposing a number of changes to the Handbook which will be considered for approval at tomorrow's session.

Minute 54 Breeze Richardson spoke on behalf of the representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), who proposed that the following statement be approved and that the Clerk be charged with sending it to Illinois senators and representatives:

We believe in peaceful solutions to problems. It has been shown that resources addressed to peaceful prevention of conflict, and rapid peaceful response to emerging conflicts is far more cost effective than military expenditure. Research based on the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict has suggested that it is 60 times more cost effective. We urge you to use all the resources available to you to preserve the military spending reduction which is now scheduled to take effect January 1.

Meeting approved, with the caveat that the Clerk also send the statement to senators and representatives from Indiana, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Minute 55 Rose Dennis, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, spoke about how her experiences at the Conference changed her life. She also asked that Friends consider giving donations to the causes on behalf of Kenyans that she has taken on as the result of her experiences.

Minute 56 The third session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, Sixth Month 23, 2012

Minute 57 The fourth session opened with waiting worship.

Minute 58 Monica Tetzlaff read another excerpt of the epistle from the Sixth (2012) World Conference of Friends in Kenya.

Minute 59 The Clerk welcomed Justin Leverett from Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting, who is attending annual sessions for the first time and will soon be serving in Atlanta with Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS).

Minute 60 Judy Erickson reported for the Publications and Distribution Committee (see p. 40). The 2011 Minute Book and the past year's issues of *Among Friends* have been completed both online and on paper. The publication of Plummer Lectures has continued during the year. The committee asks that all ILYM committees add the following three elements to anything they publish: author and committee name, date of publication (month/year), and "Illinois Yearly Meeting." Wil Brant has discerned that he can no longer continue to act as both editor of *Among Friends* and website coordinator. Marcia Nelson will serve as editor of *Among Friends* for the coming year.

Minute 61 The Clerk asked for consideration of the following minute regarding installation of electrical outlets in the cabins as proposed in the Maintenance and Planning report:

ILYM Friends regard the question of installation of electrical outlets in the cabins as a complex issue. We recognize the vital importance of supporting and ministering to Friends with medical needs. We also affirm the spiritual significance of our interaction with the natural environment embodied by our grounds, an interaction which can be compromised by the introduction of additional technology. Therefore, Friends approve the installation of electrical outlets in the cabins with the understanding that they will be used exclusively on an as-needed basis.

As approval was not forthcoming, this matter will be laid over until next year.

Minute 62 The Clerk asked for consideration of the overall vision for the site as presented by Site Envisioning committee. Approved.

Minute 63 The Clerk asked for consideration of the proposal to charge Site Envisioning Committee with adding investigation of bathhouse renovation to its other duties over the course of the coming year. Approved.

Minute 64 David Rutschman presented the Nominating Committee report for the second time, with several additional names brought forward. Approved. (See p. 116)

Minute 65 Dawn Amos presented the budget for the second time. The Finance Committee recommends one change to the previous proposal: that the \$1000 proposed for Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS) in Atlanta be split between QVS Atlanta and QVS Chicago. Approved.

Minute 66 Judy Jager presented the conflict of interest policy that has been proposed by Finance Committee (see p. 31). The policy is intended to protect the interests of ILYM when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a participating member of the Yearly Meeting or result in a possible excess benefit transaction. Approved.

Minute 67 Charley Earp, ILYM representative to the Central Committee of Friends General Conference, described a number of recent FGC programs and initiatives (see report, p. 45).

Minute 68 Elizabeth Mertic reported for Handbook Committee, which proposed the following changes to the handbook (additions in *italics*):

a) Section One, number 4, Minute Book: “is published annually and includes the minutes of the Annual Sessions, *committee reports*, and related documents, all of the Monthly Meetings' States of Society Reports, the report of membership tabulation, a list of Illinois Yearly Meeting *Monthly Meetings*, and the appointments to Illinois Yearly Meeting committees.”

b) Section One, number 5, “*Among Friends*”: “the editor is chosen by the Publications Committee”, “other features include a Clerk's column, letters to the Editor, and poetry and graphic art *as well as short, reflective articles, at the editor's discretion.*”

c) Section Two, number 6, Officers: omit second sentence in first paragraph.

Clerks:

Presiding Clerk: “Presiding Clerk prepares the agenda for the Annual Sessions and the meetings of Continuing Committee, with the help of the Clerk's Committee, *in order that the body may be informed well in advance.*”

Recording Clerk: add *Receives documents in advance of the sessions as preparation for recording the minutes.*

Reading Clerk: omit “our own epistle from the previous year”

Stewards: omit reference to Finance Committee as this has not been done to date.

Treasurer: change Co-treasurers to Treasurer. Replace “The co-treasurers divide up the duties” with *The position is currently held by two people. The division of duties is at the discretion of the Finance Committee.*

d) Section Two, number 7, Paid Staff:

Administrative Coordinator: *The Administrative Coordinator works at the direction of and with the support of the Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee.*

Youth Coordinator: Replace “Computer literate and preferably familiar. . .” with: *Has competency with email, computer social networks and web resources.*

Add: Familiar with and willing to enforce Sexual Abuse Policy

Omit: “Become familiar with Policy Manual”

e) Section Two, number 8, Individuals with Specific Responsibilities:

Clerk of an ILYM Committee: Omit “Reporting annually to the yearly meeting at annual sessions either with a short written report about activities or reporting orally if there are things that need to be brought before the body. (Though it is desirable to have the clerk make the report, another representative on the committee can make it in the clerk's absence.)” Replace with *Arranging for a report in writing to the yearly meeting at annual sessions.*

f) Section Two, number 9, Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees:

Maintenance and Planning Committee: Omit “staggered two year terms are preferred”.

Ministry and Advancement Committee: The new description for the Field Secretary was approved at the March 2012 Continuing Committee; it will replace the previous wording in the Handbook, with the following addition to paragraph one: *It is the responsibility of the Ministry and Advancement Committee to recommend a new hire for Field Secretary position to the ILYM which will then act on this recommendation.*

Publications and Distribution Committee: The Publications and Distribution Committee consists of a clerk and other members who are involved in the production of these documents and the following *ex-officio* members: the Presiding and Recording Clerks, the editor of *Among Friends*, and the Web servant. *The committee is empowered to edit for stylistic consistency.*

Replace the second paragraph with the following:

The Committee cares for and explores the use of electronic communications. ILYM owns the /ilym.org/ web address (current expiration August 2016), which as of 2012 was hosted at web services provider HostMonster.com under an account that renews automatically on Dawn Amos's credit card. This is one example of subscription services that might merit ILYM having its own credit card managed by a Treasurer.

Approved, with the understanding that the Handbook Committee will consider alternatives for the word “hire” in the sentence concerning Ministry and Advancement Committee's engagement of a new Field Secretary.

Minute 69 Debra Penna-Fredericks, ILYM representative to Friends Peace Teams, reported on behalf of FPT, which will soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary. She noted that the organization's operating budget has not been able to keep up with the scope of their work and that its deficit has continued to grow, and asked that ILYM minute its encouragement for monthly meetings to consider making donations to Friend Peace Teams if possible. Approved.

Minute 70 We crafted and considered the following minute:

Friends are encouraged to help monthly meetings become aware that a number of worthy Quaker organizations need financial support. Since the Yearly Meeting is unable to support them as fully as we would like, additional support is encouraged at both the individual and the monthly meeting levels.

Approved.

Minute 71 The Clerk proposed the following minute:

Illinois Yearly Meeting expresses its appreciation to Javaughn Fernanders for her dedicated service to our high-school age Friends over the past five years. We have observed their increased confidence and enthusiasm for their shared experiences under Javaughn's guidance, and we wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Approved.

Minute 72 Dawn Rubbert, one of ILYM's four representatives to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in April, described one of her experiences at the Conference and profusely thanked ILYM for giving her the opportunity to attend.

Minute 73 Elizabeth Mertic gave the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Volunteer Concerns. The committee has not met during the past year. Its term has now expired, and so has hers. Dawn Amos volunteered to clerk a continuation of the ad hoc committee. The Clerk asked the meeting to approve continuation of the committee, with Dawn acting as clerk and soliciting members for the committee, in addition to continuing member Bridget Rorem, and David Finke, as she sees fit. Approved.

Minute 74 The Clerk announced Continuing Committee dates and venues for the coming year: October 27, 2012, at Clear Creek; March 2, 2013, at 57th Street.

Minute 75 The fourth session closed with waiting worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, Sixth Month 24, 2012

Minute 76 The fifth session, which was graced by the presence of young Friends, began with waiting worship.

Minute 77 We heard outgoing reports and epistles from the 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, Middle School Friends, High School Friends, and Adult Young Friends. (See p. 17)

Minute 78 The Epistle Committee read the epistle to be sent from Illinois Yearly Meeting to other yearly meetings. Friends approved with gratitude. (See p. 16)

Minute 79 The Exercises Committee read the exercises, a description of the annual sessions, which will be sent to *Friends Journal*. Friends approved. (See p. 15)

Minute 80 The 138th annual sessions closed with grateful waiting worship, as we looked forward to hearing Mark Mattaini's Plummer Lecture and to gathering again in McNabb on Sixth Month 19-23, 2013.