

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

ANNUAL FOUR-DAY SESSIONS OPEN IN COMPATIBILITY, WHERE POSSIBLE,
WITH THE SCHEDULING OF WESTERN AND IOWA CONSERVATIVE YEARLY
MEETINGS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE

2009 Sessions will be held from 6/17/09 to 6/21/09
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS 2008 - 2009

Presiding Clerk:
Tom Paxson

Asst. Presiding Clerk:
David Finke

Recording Clerk:
Peter Lasersohn

Co-Treasurer:
Roger Laughlin

Co-Treasurer:
Dawn Amos

Field Secretary:
Paul Buckley

Admin. Coordinator:
Sharon Haworth

Youth Coordinator:
Javaughn Fernanders

Teen Friends Co-Clerks:

Rose Dennis
Rosalie Albright

Teen Friends Recording Clerk:

Liz Anderson

Stewards:

Richard Ashdown
Carol Bartles
Tim Narkiewicz

Meetinghouse Phone: 815-882-2214

IYM Website: www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2008

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

Blue River Quarterly		Metropolitan Chicago										WI Osh**		TOTALS				
B-N	CC	Co	St.L	SoI	SR ¹	U-C	DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NS	OaP	RV	SB	UFV	WI Osh**	TOTALS
<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>																		
Average Attendance:																		
6	13	20	49	12	6	32	30	6	70	20	35	12	19	6	22	13	6	377
2	3	3	16	5	3	5	3	1	8	1	6	4	4	0	5	1	3	73
<u>Membership Statistics</u>																		
6	28	16	65	5	5	34	49	12	70	17	69	20	17	12	34	11	5	475
2	3	0	5	6	2	9	1	4	21	3	7	3	0	0	12	2	1	81
12	38	31	57	5	0	60	51	2	30	104	67	10	0	2	9	9	0	487
0	1	0	3	0	0	11	1	0	33	11	0	4	0	0	4	3	0	71
20	70	47	130	16	7	114	102	18	154	135	143	37	17	14	59	25	6	1114
18	66	47	122	10	5	94	100	14	100	121	136	30	17	14	43	20	5	962
2	4	0	8	6	2	20	2	4	54	14	7	7	0	0	16	4	1	151
NEW MEMBERS																		
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
0	0	1	1	0	0	6	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
0	0	1	6	0	0	7	2	0	7	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	27
LOSSES																		
0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
0	1	0	6	0	1	0	3	0	2	3	4	4	1	0	0	0	1	26

¹Note: SR is Spoon River Quaker Meeting, formerly Peoria-Galesburg Meeting.

*Note: These meetings are affiliated with Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) as well as YM.

**Note: Oshkosh meeting has dual affiliation with Northern Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference).

Please note: We do not report half-membership for dually affiliated meetings. The totals represent the entire membership of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

SUMMARY

Blue River Quarterly	404
Metro Chicago	704
Wisconsin	6
TOTAL	1114

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

BY BIRTH/ADOPTION:

Catherine Bretl (Downers Grove) 2/08
Duncan Reilly (Evanston) 3/08
Gabiella Drew (Urbana-Champaign)
7/07

BY REQUEST:

Jeffrey Brittell (Columbia) 9/07
Tom Fairbank (Downers Grove) 10/07
Jeff McNear (Evanston) 9/07
Danielle Schultz (Evanston) 10/07
Charles Paul Barker (Evanston) 12/07
Phyllis Reynolds (Evanston) 4/08
Wil Brant (57th Street) 5/08
Denice Smith (St. Louis) 12/07
Brenda Koenig (Urbana-Champaign)
10/07
Corbin Phillips (Urbana-Champaign)
10/07
Sage Phillips (Urbana-Champaign) 10/07
Jonas Phillips (Urbana-Champaign) 10/07
Paul Healey (Urbana-Champaign) 10/07
Rebecca Rohloff (Urbana-Champaign)
2/08

BY TRANSFER:

To: Evanston: Katherine Biddle, from
Dover-Randolph, NJ, 1/08
To: Evanston: Clement Biddle, from
Dover-Randolph, NJ, 1/08
To: Lake Forest: Gwen Weaver, from
Northside, 5/08
To: St. Louis: Steve Tamari, from
Middletown, 9/07
To: St. Louis: Anna Sandidge, from
Sunrise Friends, 11/07
To: St. Louis: Andrew Thorpe, from
Rahway and Plainfield, 1/08
To: St. Louis: Michelle & Jason Stacy,
from Lake Forest, 2/08
To: South Bend: John & Ann Miller, from
West Richmond, IN, 7/07

LOSSES

BY DEATH:

Don Nelson (Clear Creek) 11/07
Christine Bruder (Downers Grove) 4/08
Alfred Ames (Evanston) 8/07
Alton Earnhart (Evanston) 3/08
Blanche Frey (Lake Forest) 7/07
Bernice Courteol (Lake Forest) 12/07
Marie Stoops (Oskkosh) 9/07
Eldora Spiegelberg (St. Louis) 8/07
Tedford Lewis (St. Louis) 11/07
Walter Bauer (St. Louis) 2/08
Elizabeth Henderson (Spoon River/Peoria-
Galesburg), 5/08

BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL:

Dean Chandler (57th Street) 5/08
Allen Flitcraft (57th Street) 4/08
Emily Austgen-Greely (57th Street) 4/08
Brayton Gray (Northside) 9/07
John Jenkins (Northside) 10/07
Robert Trezevant (Oak Park) 12/07

BY TRANSFER:

From Downers Grove: Ed Hale to Palo
Alto, 2/08
From Downers Grove: Janet Hale to Palo
Alto, 2/08
From Lake Forest: Jason & Michelle Stacy
to St. Louis, 2/08
From Northside: Alan Tschetter to Mt.
Toby, MA (11/07)
From Northside: Gwen Weaver to Lake
Forest, 5/08
From St. Louis: William Alsup to Mountain
View, CO, 2/08
From St. Louis: Jackson Brock Womack to
Des Moines, IA, 1/08
From St. Louis: Rebecca Acquisto to
Boulder, CO, 4/08

IYM 2008 Schedule

Theme: Our Ministry of Reconciliation

WEDNESDAY:

2:00 – 3:30 Opening Session: Worship & Business Meeting
 3:30 – 6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 5:30 – 6:00 Singing on front porch/Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
 7:30 – 9:00 Movie Night for Kids (HS Bunkhouse)
 7:30 – 8:45 Address by Brian Young – “Whose Ministry of Reconciliation?”
 9:00 New attendees Meeting (Registration table)
 9:00 – 9:45 Snacks (dining room)

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

5:45 – 8 am Saturday – Environmental Concerns Nature Walk
 6:30 – 7 am Early Meeting for Worship
 6:45 – 7:45 Breakfast
 7:15 – 8:00 Early Worship Sharing group
 7:30 New Attendees Meeting on Saturday
 8:00 – 9:00 Meeting for Worship (Memorials are read at Saturday Meeting for Worship)
 9:00 – 12:00 Meeting for Business / FUN Program for children
 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 – 3:45 Craft Tent/Recreation for children
 1:30 – 2:15 Worship Sharing groups
 2:30 – 3:45 Workshops
 3:45 – 6:00 Free time/committee meetings
 5:30 – 6:00 Singing on front porch/Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner

THURSDAY EVENING:

7:30 – 8:45 FWCC Triennial Reps report & Florence Nkarutimana on her work in Burundi
 7:30 – 9:00 Campfire/Hayrack ride
 9:00 – 9:45 Snacks (dining room)
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:
 3:45 Women’s Theology Group Meeting for worship, business & discussion. (Tent #5)
 3:45 Site Envisioning & Development Committee – Questions & Comments on the proposed design for new facilities
 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
 7:30 – 10 Dancing on front lawn
 9:00 – 9:45 Snack served outside during dancing

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

4:00 Area Planning Groups meet
 4:30 – 5:30 Variety Show
 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
 7:30 – 9:00 Young Friends Service Project
 7:30 – 8:45 Address by Ken & Katharine Jacobsen – “Living Together by Love: Choice and Practice”
 9:00 – 9:45 Snacks (dining room)

SUNDAY

6:30 – 7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast
 10:00 – 11:00 Plummer Lecture by Elizabeth Mertic
 11:30 – 12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting
134th Annual Session
June 18-22, 2008
McNabb, Illinois

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 p. 29). 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 p. 37). The committee has gathered some information, but has 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 Domanik, Nancy Duncan, Peter Lasersohn, and David Shiner.

Minute 8 David Finke and Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee (see p. 38). Last year’s minutebook 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 (see p. 55). 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 p. 26). 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 p. 87). 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: Gaelen 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 p. 27). 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 p. 41). 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 Ogilve from William Penn House.

Minute 25 An epistle was read from Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Minute 26 Javaghn 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 p. 40). 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 p. 20). 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 p. 33). 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 p. 30) 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 p. 38). 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 p. 36). 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 (see p. 42). 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 (see p. 44). 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. (See p. 49 for final approved version.)

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

Minute 44 The session opened in silent worship.

Minute 45 We welcomed Katharine and Ken Jacobsen 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 p. 34). 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 (see p. 24).

Minute 50 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Chuck Howenstine for the Maintenance and Planning Committee for a term ending 2011. Gaelen 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 Ogilve 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. 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 p. 31). 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 Menno Haven; 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.

TRAVEL POLICY

Friends are not to be hindered from traveling on IYM business as official representatives or committee members due to lack of funds. However, in view of the limited amount of funds available in the budget for this purpose, the Travel Fund should be used according to the following guidelines:

1. Requests for travel funds should be made well in advance to the Treasurer.
2. The amount to be advanced or reimbursed is based on the current IRS business rate per automobile mile (50.5 cents per mile in 2008) or reasonable commercial fares. Friends are encouraged to be prudent.
3. Conference registration fees may be reimbursed.
4. Any ordinary expenses for food or lodging may be reimbursed.
5. Questions of travel reimbursement for committee business should be cleared through that committee in advance of the travel and reported to the Treasurer.
6. Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial travel will be handled from its own fund.

RATES FOR USE OF IYM FACILITIES

Facilities are available April 15—October 15

Site fee for IYM groups:	\$ 25
Site fee for non-IYM groups:	\$ 50
Fee per person, per night:	\$ 5
Maximum fee per IYM group:	\$500
Gas and electric startup fee, and dumpster fee (at cost, according to size) if necessary.	

EXERCISES

We met in June (18th to 22nd) for the first time instead of the traditional meeting dates at the end of July and were blessed with wonderful cool and mostly dry weather. There were about 190 in attendance. Other meteorological and astrological events included an orange rising full moon, a bright Jupiter and the summer solstice, the longest daylight of the year marking the change of seasons. The corn was not high but you could almost see it grow. All in all the Spirit was very much with us throughout including morning meeting for worship.

Highlights of the work of meeting for business included the plan for new buildings at our yearly meeting site that is sometimes called the Peace House on the Prairie. We said goodbye to our outgoing Field Secretary Maurine Pyle and heard from our pastoral counselors.

There were many children present of all ages making their presence known with volume and energy. Many spontaneous athletic games were played on the front lawn and the need to stay quiet during meetings and programs along with discussions about the planning of the new facilities generated a high school friends request that a volleyball/badminton court be provided on the site away from the Meetinghouse. We all enjoyed hayrides, a campfire, singing on the porch, dancing and watermelon eating on the lawn. The children spent time in Friends Under Nineteen (FUN) program in the mornings and did projects and played in the afternoons and evenings. Swimming at the Henry pool was a fun excursion. The variety show was thoroughly entertaining and featured a new MC.

The Environmental Concerns Committee had set up nature walks on both north and south sides of the IYM grounds with posters at each of the stops and a take-along brochure. They also organized an early morning nature walk at the Putnam County Conservation District where we looked at plants and listened to birds and chipmunks.

We were inspired by speakers on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights and their presentations on Our Ministry of Reconciliation.

- Respectfully Submitted by Bob Cordova, Chris Goode, Rose Dennis

EPISTLES

2008 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

All this is from the divine Reality that reconciled us to itself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Corinthians 5:18

To Friends Everywhere,

We send our greetings of joy and love from the 134th annual session of Illinois Yearly meeting near McNabb, Illinois. The theme, *Our Ministry of Reconciliation*, led us to reflect on the need and the means for reconciliation in our own communities and around the world.

In Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the youth were called to participate even more and the Adult Young Friends were given a more prominent voice. The Adult Young Friends have blended into the batter of Illinois Yearly Meeting as we create a comfortable working and worshipping community. Friends, young and old, in the Children's Program, High School Program, worship sharing and workshops, experienced the practice of reconciliation through working through conflict and reached a place of understanding about their feelings, and their power to make choices.

Friends learned from speaker Brian Young that reconciliation can mean reconciling finances as well as relationships between people and between God and us. Friends dealt with all these meanings in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business as we learned about designs for new buildings and sought to reconcile the needs of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Clear Creek Meeting, and the wider world. Friends found unity and moved forward, also seeking to reconcile with the earth and to live lightly through sustainable buildings which strive to reflect the Quaker testimonies, especially environmental stewardship.

Speaker Florence Ntakarutimana gave us hope through her message about the Hutus and Tutsis in Burundi finding reconciliation through the Friends' African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) called Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC). Through three day workshops in rural communities, she and others teach victims and perpetrators to name and understand the effects of trauma they are suffering as a result of the killings in their country. They then learn the skills of compassionate listening to those who have anger and pain. Finally, Hutus and Tutsis participate in trust-building exercises with each other. Many people have been transformed and have found peace through this ministry of reconciliation.

Our message to you is that speaking truth in love is something we must do over and over in different words and through different deeds of reconciliation, again and again, renewed and refreshed by the Spirit and each other in the ministry of reconciliation. This work of reconciliation is difficult because we have to go through anger and feelings of hurt and fear. But through truth, compassionate listening, forgiveness, and the inner work of the Spirit, people, families, and communities can find reconciliation and peace. In this world torn by war, our ministry of reconciliation is needed more than ever. We commend you all to the healing work of Love.

Yours in the Light,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Adult Young Friends Epistle 2008: The Mystery of the Short Corn

Welcome all to the reading of the ILYM AYF Epistle of 2008. Yearly Meeting started on 18th day of 6th month in this here year 2008 and ended on 22nd day. Many of us trickled in throughout the long weekend from various cities and towns in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The AYF community was relieved to notice we had narrowly missed the full moon (that way we did not have to chase away the werewolves this year!). We are also excited that the greater yearly meeting has changed our title from “IYM” to “ILYM”¹ so that we can distinguish ourselves from the other IYMs such as Indiana Yearly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting, Idaho Yearly Meeting, and the lesser known Indonesia Yearly Meeting. However, there have been concerns about a conflict that may arise with Ilbaska Yearly Meeting, which is situated deep in the heart of the Chilean jungle. Even though we recognize the tensions caused by having the same acronym, we hope to avoid starting the dreaded War of Passive Aggression.

During our time together, we wrestled over topics such as A) How can we integrate AYFers that are not a part of our already established crew and B) Do Blondes really have more fun? (We came to consensus that at least we are not bald). During our Meeting for Business², we met with a member of the ILYM Site Envisioning & Development Committee to discuss ideas for a future set of buildings that may be in the plans for the yearly meeting grounds. Ideas that we thought would put a future retreat center to good use are 1) a family weekend retreat in the fall and spring for ILYM families to bring their children to foster relationships among the youth, 2) a retreat for the multiple Chicago³ Monthly Meetings to get together as a whole unit, and 3) a retreat for Quakers to get together with other spiritual groups to learn from each other.

After discussing what we would hope to use the new facilities for, we talked with the SE&D rep about what the new facility could look like. Ideas for the new dorm room included higher ceilings so that bunk beds could be utilized to maximize the space. In addition, we offered our artistic talents to spruce up the various rooms; AYFers could spray paint in the style of graffiti art on the walls of rooms the lyrics to traditional Quaker hymns such as the Lucretia Mott Song, and in one of the rooms we could paint a mural of famous Quakers like George Fox⁴ and Margaret Fell⁵ (We could call it the Honeymoon Suite!). We understand there may be a disagreement about what should come first, the plans for the buildings or how the buildings would be used. AYFers look at these two items as the crust and the filling to a pie; without both there is not a yummy dessert.

Our second major topic for Meeting for Business was past and future, the Tsunami Retreat. ILYM AYFers were very pleased by the retreat last January⁶, and we heard a strong call to continue this tradition in 2009. We hope that Kristen Richardson, the AFSC representative, will help us find someone to lead a workshop called “Nurturing Activism” (a.k.a. Creative Engagement Addressing Our Activist Wants”). We hope this helps us form our relationship with AFSC as well. Our final major piece of business was to submit to the greater ILYM a description of who we, the Adult Young Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting, are.

Of course no ILYM session would be complete without the Friday evening hoe-down dance⁷. The very next day, we traveled, equipped with less than accurate directions, to Matthiesen Park once again to walk down into the canyon to witness the

Illinois waterfall. We also listened to traditional Irish song “Finnegan's Wake”⁸ in honor of a current ILYM AYFer who has relocated to other parts (we are coming to kidnap you!).

We cheer ILYM continuing to hold yearly meeting sessions in June rather than July (That's why the corn is so much shorter, we are here over a month earlier, duh!). AYFers have noticed that the heat is much less prevalent during this trial year of holding the sessions in June (the other side of the pillow is actually cool!). Random mention of fireflies: we have them. As we travel to our various Midwest homes, we will heed that oh-so-important-advice, “Objects in mirror are closer than they appear.”

We will leave you with the immortal words of Tom Hanks, “There is no crying in baseball.”

See you on the flip side,

The Adult Young Friends of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Footnotes:

1. ILYM has a website: www.ILYM.org. For a good time call 815.882.2214. (This is the Illinois Yearly Meeting/Clear Creek Monthly Meeting phone number. Please do not call it unless you are looking to call the monthly meeting. Thanks.)
2. Meeting for Business is a meeting where Quakers conduct business.
3. Chicago is a major US city located in the northeast part of Illinois.
4. George Fox was the founder of Quakerism (and he looked fabulous in those old leather britches).
5. Some of us learned about Margaret Fell at the 2008 nationwide (plus Canada) YAF retreat held on the Earlham Campus (That's called a “shout out”).
6. To learn more about the month of January search it at www.Wikipedia.org.
7. In the past, Quakers have been kicked out of the Religious Society of Friends for dancing.
8. We listened to the version by Irish punk rock band Dropkick Murphys; this version can be found on their 1998 album *Do or Die*.
9. Random footnote #9: Casey is illiterate.

High School Friends Epistle

Everyone gathered at IYM with open minds as well as hearts. The anticipation felt upon everyone's arrival was rewarded with creative and educational workshops.

Thursday morning began bright and early with a clearness committee meeting for the clearnesses of Quinn and Liz. Next Javaughn Fernanders lead a yoga workshop for an hour. It was sweaty but full of good cheer and laughter. Then came a very short BUSINESS MEETING to nominate this year's new co-clerk and recording clerk replacing Monica George and Emily Wills. To wrap up Thursday evening, the high school group set up a teepee with lots of help from Chuck.

Friday morning, Zoe (formerly known as Ruth) lead a magnificent demonstration of Reiki. Many found it incredibly rewarding and relaxing. Though most feel a generation gap between the teens and the older folk in the meeting, it was bridged Friday morning during a Q & A session on “Life as a Quaker.” Brad, Brad, Kristen, and Adrian answered all of our questions with incredible stories and insight into their every-day lives and experienced pasts. They opened up to us in a way that changed both generations in a spiritually rewarding way. On behalf of the high school group,

we are eternally grateful. In the heat of the day, we refreshed ourselves by taking the long car ride out to Ottawa for a cool swim with a water slide and cute life guards. The perfect conclusion to the day was square dancing in the front yard of the meeting house with occasional watermelon breaks. Kolton slurped down 13 slices of freshly cut watermelon. He holds the IYM record for the most watermelon eaten during square dancing.

Saturday we woke up early for our out-trip to Bloomington Normal. We went to the farmers' market, the Dennis' home where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch, and then we went shopping. We made it back just in time for the variety show, followed by a lengthy, but lovely business meeting where we came to the conclusion of Rosalie Albright as our new co-clerk and Liz Anderson as our new recording clerk.

Sunday we will close with our sad tearful goodbyes and the dismantling of the teepee.

Junior High Young Friends Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

We send our greetings.

On Thursday we talked about worship and served snacks to the younger groups. We threw animal crackers up in the air and tried to catch them in our mouths. We doodled, made tissue paper trees and played Frisbee.

On Friday Chip Rorem from 57th Street meeting came to tell us about his life's journey and being an architect. Then we served snacks to the younger kids and threw goldfish up in the air and tried to catch them in our mouths. Later we made jump-ropes, necklaces, iPods, shoes, cellphones and heads out of clay.

On Saturday it started to rain so we sat in the tipi then wrote our epistle. We had a good time and are looking forward to next year. Some of us are looking forward to joining the high school group next year, too.

- Isis, Helen, Nathan, Claire, and DD

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 7-11

Dear Friends Around the World,

The 7-11 year old group of the 134th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting would like to share the many activities we have done over the past three mornings. The kids' theme this year is "Making Friends and Keeping Friends."

We "jumped the river" made with two jump ropes and we played Mrs. Mumbly. We played a game where we sat in pairs, back to back, and tried to stand up together. We learned that we had to cooperate and come up with ideas on how to succeed.

We did a role play on the Good Samaritan story and we learned how it felt to be the man lying in the road, the people who walked by, and the Good Samaritan.

In the story of the Good Samaritan we read the laws "Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind," and "Love your neighbor as yourself" and we would like to pass it on to you. We learned that working together isn't just something we can do, but that we have to do.

- Phoebe T., Marlena A., Murphy B., Laure G., Jesse N-B.,
Margaux N-B., Liam G., Amal T.

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 5-6

On each of the three days the group of young Friends was introduced to a game where they would play and ponder the questions drawn.

The first day they fished their questions from the Sea of Reconciliation.

The second day they participated in a scavenger hunt looking for the questions hidden in shells.

The third day they chose the questions from the little boats floating on the "Sharing Sea".

Each day we kept our hands busy with crafts. We created Lava lamps, YoYo water balloons, masks and many extras.

Winding through these activities was a ribbon of games. The Quiet Game, the Statue, listening through a "Telephone" line, and of course boats were floated on water.

We had several people who gave of their time and provided extra hands and ideas. They were Kay Drake, Beth Schobernd, Maurine Pyle and Scott Davis.

These Friends were so very helpful and needed. We really appreciated their presence.

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-4

The Wee Friends enjoyed each other, the love of many friends and the weather. Crafts, stories and singing brought us together. Bubbles, clay and painting tee shirts made for much fun. Long walks, a preschool parade with instruments and a campground "tent tour" were highlights. There was much love, joy and smiles all around.

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2008

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 197 (155 adults, 42 YFs under 19, representing 121 households).

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	54 Adults		
	21 Young Friends	Total:	75
Chicago North	39 Adults		
	11 Young Friends	Total:	50
Chicago South	45 Adults		
	10 Young Friends	Total:	55
Other	17 Adults		
	0 Young Friends	Total:	<u>17</u>
			197

Housing: 77 camped, 33 stayed in cabins, 17 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 70 used motels or local housing.

**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Monthly Meeting Contributions
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Property Improvement</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bloomington-Normal	854.00		
Clear Creek	5,600.00		
Columbia	3,000.00		
Downers Grove	4,250.00		
Duneland	1,600.00		
Evanston	12,300.00		
57th Street	1,400.00		
Lake Forest	13,600.00	1,600.00	15,200.00
Milwaukee	2,400.00		
Northside	1,500.00		
Oak Park	2,970.00	500.00	3,470.00
Oshkosh			
Rock Valley	1,600.00		
Rolla			
South Bend	5,400.00		
Southern Illinois	1,000.00		
Spoon River	1,250.00		
St. Louis	11,366.25		
Upper Fox Valley	2,000.00		
Urbana-Champaign	6,800.00		
Total	\$78,890.25	\$2,100.00	\$80,990.25

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet
June 30, 2008

	To Date	Opening
	6/30/2008	Balance
		7/1/2007
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	53,000.15	70,806.33
Certificates of Deposit	27,867.32	12,282.72
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Money Market Fund	42,966.97	
Total Cash	133,834.44	93,089.05
Prepaid for 2007 session		2,160.45
Undeposited funds	116.27	9,810.00
Total Assets	133,950.71	105,059.50
 Liabilities		
Loans		
Loans from Duneland, Evanston		13,000.00
Deferred Revenue (income rec'd for next fiscal yr.)		250.00
Accts. Payable (June exp. pd. in next fiscal yr.)	18,499.52	
Total Liabilities	18,499.52	13,250.00
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	40,261.82	27,214.39
Unrestricted Designated	53,070.29	48,169.27
Restricted	22,119.08	16,425.84
Total Net Assets	115,451.19	91,809.50
 Total Liabilities & Net Assets	133,950.71	105,059.50

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.

NET ASSETS BY FUND

	UNRESTRICTED by Donors or Business Meeting	DESIGNATED by Y/M/Business Meeting			
Beginning Balance	27,214.39	11,890.32	Payroll Reserves	36,000.00	Deferred Maint.
Net Assets 6/30/2007			Special Gifts	-	278.95
			FWCC WorldMtg	-	

Income					
Contributions-ND	8,950.00	5,302.97			
Contributions-MTG	78,890.25				
AM07 Income	12,380.90				
AM08 Income	12,516.67				
Interest	1,982.65				
Other Registrations	4,756.00				
Other	369.00				
Total Income	119,845.47	5,302.97		-	-

Expenses					
Operating					
Salaries & Payroll	(30,580.34)				
Travel (Staff)	(5,980.99)				
Travel (YM Reprs)	(3,731.87)				
AM07 Expenses	(12,129.92)				
AM08 Expenses	(10,889.46)				
Other Programs	(7,960.83)				
Insurance	(3,785.00)				
Office	(1,863.92)				
Committees	(6,096.30)				
Site	(10,879.41)				(5,278.95)
Support to Others	(6,700.00)				
Building Projects					
Legal/Professional					
Total Expenses	(100,598.04)	(1,323.00)		-	(5,278.95)

Net income (loss) before transfers	19,247.43	3,979.97		-	(5,278.95)
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Transfers					
For FWCC World Mtgs	(1,200.00)			1,200.00	
For Deferred Maint	(5,000.00)				5,000.00
Total Transfers	(6,200.00)	-	-	1,200.00	5,000.00

Ending Balance	40,261.82	15,870.29	36,000.00	1,200.00	-
Net assets					

For the Period 7/1/2007 - 6/30/2008

	RESTRICTED by Donors					
	Property Improvement	Ken Ives Fund	Youth Coordinator	Adult Young Friends		Total
	10,649.95	221.96	5,133.67	420.26		91,809.50

	23,357.12	50.00	215.00			37,875.09
	2,100.00					80,990.25
						12,380.90
						1,982.65
	1,757.95					4,756.00
	27,215.07	50.00	215.00	-		2,126.95
						152,628.51

			(5,348.67)			(35,929.01)
						(5,980.99)
						(3,731.87)
						(12,129.92)
						(7,960.83)
	(782.19)					(3,785.00)
						(2,646.11)
						(6,096.30)
		(271.96)		(420.26)		(16,158.36)
	(8,385.65)					(7,392.22)
	(6,578.10)					(8,385.65)
	(15,745.94)	(271.96)	(5,348.67)	(420.26)		(7,901.10)
						(128,986.82)

	11,469.13	(221.96)	(5,133.67)	(420.26)		23,641.69
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						-
						-

	22,119.08	0.00	-	-		115,451.19
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**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Operating Budget July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

	2008-2009	2007-2008	2007-2008
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income			
Contributions from Meetings	76,800	78,890	72,000
Contributions from Individuals	6,500	8,950	5,500
Interest	2,000	1,983	1,500
Total Income	85,300	89,823	79,000
Expenses			
Operating			
Salaries & Payroll	37,000	35,929	36,000
Travel (Staff)	4,500	5,981	4,500
Travel (IYM Reps)	3,500	3,732	5,000
Insurance	3,800	3,785	3,800
Office	1,200	1,864	1,400
Committees (Detail 1)	9,700	6,097	9,400
Site (Detail 2)	17,000	16,158	10,700
Support (Detail 3)	7,400	6,700	7,000
Transfer for FWCC World Mtgs.	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total Expenses	85,300	81,446	79,000
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	0	8,377	0

Detail references are on the next page

Notes on changes in "actuals" since annual sessions June 18-22, 2008:

- 1) Some monthly meeting contributions for fiscal year 07-08 arrived after 2008 annual sessions. The approved budget for monthly meeting contributions in 08-09 was based on known income as of June 18, 2008, a figure that turned out to be low.
- 2) Individual contributions at 2008 sessions would usually be recorded in the 08-09 fiscal year. This fiscal year 07-08 encompassed two annual sessions, so individual donations appear high. The 08-09 budget reverts to the expected pattern.
- 3) Office line item included a new computer in this fiscal year 07-08, so budget is lower for next year.
- 4) The Salaries & Payroll spending from the operating budget, for this fiscal year only, was offset by \$5,133.67, collected for the restricted Youth Coordinator Startup fund.
- 5) The added income in 07-08 has resulted in a net budget surplus, which will be transferred to designated funds such as Deferred Maintenance.

**IYM 2008-2009 Operating Budget
Line Item Details**

(1) Committees	08-09 Budget	07-08 Actual	07-08 Budget
Ad hoc	100	0	0
Environmental Concerns	200	39	200
Faith & Practice	200	70	200
Finance	50	29	50
Handbook	100	76	100
Maintenance & Planning	100	50	200
Ministry & Advancement	50	0	50
Nominating	50	47	50
Peace Resources	1,300	416	400
Peace Tax Fund	0	0	0
Publications	4,500	2,943	5,000
QVSTWC	50	0	50
Religious Education	500	27	600
Youth Oversight	2,500	2,400	2,500
Total	9,700	6,097	9,400
(2) Site			
Facilities Expenses (oversight: Stew ards)			
Annual services (inspections, w interizing	1,900	1,464	1,500
Mow ing & tree trimming	2,400	2,650	1,600
Utilities	700	1,627	2,100
Repairs	1,000	947	500
Facilities Expenses	6,000	6,688	5,700
Deferred Maintenance Expenses (oversight: M&P)			
as transfer to Deferred Maint fund			
Maintenance & repair projects current yr.	5,000	9,470	0
Future projects	6,000	0	5,000
Deferred Maintenance Expenses	11,000	9,470	5,000
Total	17,000	16,158	10,700
(3) Support			
Pastoral Aid			
Ken Ives Fund (oversight: QVSTWC)	300		
Sufferings (oversight: M&A)	0		
IYM Adult Young Friends (IYM_AYF)	600		
Friends General Conference (FGC)	3,200		
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	600		
American Friends Service Cmte. (AFSC)	400		
Friends Cmte. on Nat'l Legisl. Educ. Fund (FCNL)	400		
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	300		
Assoc. Cmte./Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)	250		
Friend Peace Teams	200		
Project Lakota	200		
Scattergood School	200		
Earlham College	200		
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	150		
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	100		
Pro-NICA	100		
Olney Friends Schools	100		
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	50		
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)	50		
Total	7,400	6,700	7,000

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES WORKING PARTY

The Working Party is continuing the process of gathering information regarding accessibility or difficulty some Friends are experiencing with the IYM grounds and buildings.

We assembled a list of 33 persons from a variety of monthly meetings to share their concerns. Our telephone interviewers were guided by a listening project package intended to increase consistency and result in a body of comprehensive data to work with. It seems successful so far. The results of 21 interviews have been collected to date. The remaining 11 are pending.

Much information from the completed interviews has been informally passed on to Clear Creek and individuals working on plans to expand the IYM facilities by Carol Bartles.

The current list of Friends participating as interviewers include: Ruth Milledge, Chris Goode, Madelyn Godsey, Susanna Davidson, and Carol Bartles.

The current list of working party members are: Ruth Milledge, Bobbi Trist, Carol Bartles, and Robin Johnson (currently acting as clerk).

We are in need of a new clerk and additional people sharing this concern to be active participants in our investigations and analysis.

We continue to see the results of our efforts to be most useful in helping IYM prioritize challenges and select among several proposed solutions to increase the accessibility of the existing grounds.

- Robin Johnson

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 17)

During 2007-2008, the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) continued to raise awareness of the opportunities for building at Illinois Yearly Meeting (ILYM) in an environmentally sustainable way, enhance the appreciation of nature for ILYM, and focus on many challenging environmental issues.

Throughout the year, we worked with the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&DC) in exploring ways to make the proposed dormitory and dining hall buildings be as sustainable as possible. To begin this exploration, the ECC visited several green buildings in the Chicago area on 2007 November 17. We learned about geothermal energy for heating and cooling and solar photovoltaic for electricity at a home and explored a LEED building that features recycled building materials, considerable natural light through special windows, a green roof with plants, solar panels, a geothermal cooling system, and a variety of native plants, which provide a rich, low maintenance landscape. The LEED Chicago Center for Green Technology in central Chicago featured windows which kept out heat in the summer and kept heat inside in the winter, rain cisterns, pervious paving surfaces, native plants, and bioswales which capture rain water. Natural building materials, low-energy appliances, and low-water sinks and toilets preserve natural resources. At the Shed Studio in central Chicago, we learned to use as much passive solar, natural ventilation, and insulation as possible. Building green is almost becoming standard, even though initial costs may be slightly higher than not building green; nevertheless, in the long run, it saves considerably on energy and water use and reduces significantly the contribu-

tion of a building to climate change. Some of us joined with the SE&DC in April to meet with the Troyer Group, the architects of the proposed buildings, to consider issues of building sustainably. Roy Treadway has proposed a workshop on sustainable building at the yearly meeting sessions.

We have also spent considerable effort helping to make the yearly meeting grounds more naturally attractive and inviting to nature. In March, in cooperation with the Maintenance and Planning Committee, members of ECC and others planted 22 new trees at the yearly meeting grounds. They included a variety of trees: sugar maple, American linden (basswood), Chinquapin oak, sycamore, buckeye, sassafras, and redbud. In addition, during the Memorial Day Work Weekend, we cleaned up the pile of timber and lumber near the campfire, trimmed trees, recycled branches as wood chips around the new trees, and removed undesirable plants around the meetinghouse foundation. There is much more to be done to enhance the yearly meeting landscape.

As part of our activities, we are providing opportunities for members of yearly meeting to enjoy the natural features surrounding the yearly meeting site. Sarah Pavlovic and Noel Pavlovic, with artwork by Nancy Halliday, have developed a nature walk brochure for the campground of ILYM with a focus on special natural features, such as birds nests, woodpecker holes, and environmental challenges. For the ILYM sessions in 2008, we have planned on a bird-nature walk adventure, starting at 5:45 a.m. on Saturday, at the Putnam County Nature Preserve.

We continue to raise awareness about the environmental challenges that climate change and energy issues bring. In 2007 November, we shared with the Evanston Friends Meeting in a presentation by Carolyn W. Treadway on “Awakening from our Trance: Reversing the Global Climate Change.” Steve Walsh has offered a workshop on “Money and Friends” at the yearly meeting sessions; this is crucial to understanding the basis of our environmental crisis today. We have also been asked to undertake a review of the cleaning supplies used at yearly meeting and recommend which would be most earth friendly.

We will continue to be involved actively in environmental concerns in the coming year.

- Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minutes 19 and 43)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met six times since our last yearly meeting. Most of our attention during this time has been devoted to two tasks: composing a new section on meeting structure and organization, and revising the section on membership, whose five-year provisional period of acceptance expires this year. We have also begun work on a style sheet.

The membership section was revised in response to comments received over the last five years, then distributed at Continuing Committee and on the IYM website, and revised again in response to comments on the new version. Because this section has already been through a trial period of five years, we now propose that it be adopted for an indefinite period.

The section on meeting organization and structure is now substantially complete as it concerns monthly meetings, preparative meetings and worship groups; but requires some revision before it will be ready for an initial presentation to the yearly meeting business sessions. We are conducting workshops this year on two subsec-

tions of it, concerned with the responsibilities of monthly meetings to other meetings, and with setting up and laying down monthly meetings. We invite interested Friends to attend these workshops and provide feedback on these topics.

We are also conducting a workshop on the section entitled "Friends Manner of Decision-Making," whose provisional period expires next summer. We will be gathering comments on this section at the workshop and throughout the year, with the plan of proposing a revised version for adoption for an indefinite period at yearly meeting 2009.

We are now also making available in 3-hole format the text of our section on marriage, which was adopted for a 5-year provisional period last year. Friends who have the folders distributed over the last few years, containing all the approved sections, may wish to add this section. Official copies have already been distributed to meetings. We plan to assemble new folders containing all the approved sections for distribution during the coming year to Friends who may not have received the old ones.

The Faith and Practice Committee continues to seek the discernment of Friends on what should be included in future sections, and reminds Friends also to send us quotes or queries which they feel would be appropriate for inclusion.

- Peter Lasersohn, Clerk

FINANCE

The Finance Committee met four times this year. In the fall we celebrated the completion of the process of incorporation. We also saw the completion of putting our various properties in the same name. We put in place a system to make the required reports to the IRS when payments of over \$600 are made to any vendor who is not incorporated. All of the loans that were made to IYM to complete the work on the buildings and grounds at McNabb have been repaid. The Finance Committee is grateful to many others who were instrumental in this process.

This year was the first year for the Review Committee (Tom Paxson, Clerk of IYM, Dawn Amos, Co-Treasurer of IYM, and Sandra Huntley, representing the Finance Committee and serving as Clerk of the Review Committee). This committee is charged with the responsibility of approving unanticipated unbudgeted expenses that arise between Yearly Meeting, Continuing Committee and regular meetings of the Finance Committee.

Much of our time was spent supporting our very capable co-treasurer, Dawn Amos, develop financial reports that are more consistent with standard accounting practices and, hopefully, easier for all to understand. This is an on-going process which we will continue to do with your feedback. Again, many have assisted us with this process.

We have tried to make our work visible to all by putting our policies on our web site and distributing them to meetings. In addition we have had a workshop at IYM for those who want more information about the financial aspects of IYM, the committees and meetings.

This year we hope to continue to work on ways to be helpful and supportive to members of IYM and our committee clerks in the area of finance.

- Sandy Huntley, Clerk

HANDBOOK (See Minute 4)

The Handbook Committee met one time and went through the entire Handbook. We would like to propose the following changes be made to the Handbook. These changes are based on our discernment of how to best present the information in the Handbook. We have also tried to find from our own observations when the Handbook is no longer consistent with our practice and we have written descriptions which we understand to be more closely describing the practices. Because we are just a small committee of the Friends, we appreciate input from the yearly meeting at annual sessions to insure the accuracy of the descriptions. It is not the intention of the Handbook to change a practice or policy.

1. Our committee approves publishing the Handbook on the website. If other committees (specifically the Peace Tax Committee) would not like their information on the website, we are comfortable with only publishing certain sections or making the Handbook available only to participating members of IYM.
2. We would like to divide the Handbook into sections. As the Handbook gets longer, we are hoping that by dividing it into sections we can reprint certain sections without reprinting the entire Handbook every year.
 - ◆ **Organization:** Sections 1 -5 (Description of IYM through Other Publications)
 - ◆ **Responsibilities of Individuals and Committees:** Sections 6-9 (Officers, Paid Staff, Individuals with Specific Responsibilities, Committees)
 - ◆ **Annual Sessions:** Section 10, 13, and 14 (Committees with responsibilities at sessions, Memorials, Guidelines for working with youth)
 - ◆ **Groups:** Includes Adult Young Friends (we may also add sections on Women's Weekend and Retreats)
 - ◆ **Specific Practices and Policies:** Section 12 and all the Appendices (Guidelines for those offering (supported) Volunteer Service, Peace Tax, Facility use, Travel, Incorporation, By-laws, Signing Contracts)
3. We would like to update the following sections of the Handbook. Wording for these will be available on the reading table or from the Handbook Committee.
 - a. Changes in Policy or Practice from p. 8
 - b. Plummer Lecture description (new) to be added to page 10
 - c. *Among Friends* description from p. 10
 - d. Description of duties of the clerk of a committee (new) From IYM proposed F&P with additions
 - e. Faith and Practice Description from p. 23
 - f. Youth Oversight from p. 30
 - g. Other Committees from p. 30
 - h. Friends Under Nineteen/Recreation Committee from p. 31
 - i. Description of Memorials from p. 35
4. We would like to move the description of the responsibilities of representatives to other organizations from p. 33 to the section labeled, "Individuals with Specific Responsibilities". We will then take out the list of organizations and refer Friends to the Minute book.
5. We understand that the head of an IYM committee is called a "clerk" and not a "convener", unless specifically noted and will change that through out the document.

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING (See Minute 35)

As our name suggests, our committee has engaged in both maintenance and planning of the IYM campus this year. For maintenance, we organized the Annual Memorial Day Work Weekend. M&P, along with Environmental Concerns, Junior High and High School Friends, and other volunteers, accomplished much. Completed jobs include filling and re-staining the front treads of the Meetinghouse, loosening the upper sashes of the Meetinghouse windows, and caulking and filling the siding of the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse. We also added sand to the stain used on the stair treads for better traction since these steps tended to be slippery when wet. Similarly, the loosening of the upper sashes of the Meetinghouse was prompted by the Accessibility Committee to encourage ventilation. In addition to our volunteer efforts, we have also engaged Key Builders to complete the drywall and painting work in the rear hallway of the Meetinghouse, and to install new doors in the Junior Yearly Meetinghouse.

For planning, we have hired Suzanne Siverling, a Lake Forest Friend who is also a property management professional, to develop a Facilities Management Schedule. Suzanne recently wrote a preliminary report which M&P will need to further season. This report begins to give substance to trends M&P has noted in recent years, namely, that our current maintenance funding is insufficient to maintain the IYM campus in a long-term, sustainable manner. According to property management industry standards, maintenance expenditures typically need to be 10% of the value of the buildings and grounds. On average, IYM currently spends just 1% to 2% of the value of this campus. This 8% - 9% spending deficit is even more stark when coupled with the fact that only a tiny minority of IYM's members ever participate in maintaining the campus. While we could not maintain the facility without the continuity and institutional memory these dedicated volunteers provide, it is clear that we will need to increasingly rely on professional tradesmen for our maintenance needs.

For some, such a forecast pronounces doom and gloom for the future of IYM's facilities. Speaking personally, I have encountered a fair amount of resistance to the acknowledgement that we are currently under-spending on maintenance. While it is not the time or place to elaborate on this resistance, the salient fact is that IYM will end up spending this 10% (or near to it) on maintenance whether or not we wish to do so in an intentional manner. It may actually cost more to maintain facilities in a reactionary mode since responding to so-called maintenance emergencies often involves repairing preventable damage. Our current spending for maintenance is akin to fixing a car only when it is towed into the garage after breaking down. By better maintaining our facility, we hope to obviate the need to pay for towing services, along with the accompanying stress.

On a positive note, I would like to mention just one small example of the benefits of intentional and proactive maintenance. On our recent walk through the facilities, we discovered the water heater in this Meetinghouse was installed in the late '70s, which is to say it has served almost double its expected life-span. Since hot water heaters don't tend to go quietly, but tend to burst and flood buildings, our notice of and replacement of this out-of-date appliance may save us the unnecessary cost of flood and related damage. The Maintenance Schedule is nothing more than a compilation of reminders to tell us when to replace things and how much it will cost. In the coming months, Suzanne Siverling will complete this Maintenance Schedule,

which will be a great tool with which to prioritize and optimize our maintenance spending.

The Maintenance Schedule is also giving us financial information with which to work with Finance Committee. We are currently working with Finance Committee to re-align maintenance-related moneys and assigning oversight designations to specific funds to ensure that we are spending these monies responsibly and intentionally. Similarly, we were able to make a budget request to Finance Committee based on budget projections rather than on past spending. While the work between M&P and Finance Committee is only beginning, we are optimistic that this interaction will help open Way for sustainable maintenance and planning of our facilities.

To complete the financial and maintenance picture of IYM, we will need this year to commission a Capital Expense Study. While the Maintenance Schedule will address routine, scheduled maintenance, the Capital Expense Study will address and prioritize major, periodic maintenance expenditures as well as any improvements we may wish to make in the future. This Capital Expense Study dovetails, and should incorporate, the financial plan already being drafted by the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, especially as it relates to the long-term funding of operations and maintenance. In short, proactive maintenance and planning requires that we look at the existing and proposed new buildings under a single umbrella.

I have heard the concern that providing this holistic, campus-wide maintenance & planning picture may dampen momentum to construct a new building. I think it equally fair to propose the opposite: that a new building, taken in context with the overall needs and resources of the IYM community, may open Way to the resources we need for long-term viability. For example, if we have done our homework and can document our projected financial needs, we have a platform from which to ask for grants, specific contribution amounts, and other financial assistance of which we might otherwise remain unaware.

Perhaps most importantly, however, creating the tools necessary to open dialogue among and between committees reminds us less of our fiscal responsibility than of our true purpose that binds us here today. We are, above all, an intentional community of sorts and are called to work together guided by Quaker principles. The fruitful dialogue between M&P and Finance Committee, though still in its infancy, is yielding creative responses that are showing us the Way forward, bit by bit. This creative interaction is the “stuff” of the practice we call Quakerism, and the essence of community building. It is the primary, not secondary, cause of our being called to Quaker community. The resources we need, whether for maintenance or new buildings, will come in time if we work through and actively participate in shaping IYM as a collective vision. Stated another way, buildings in themselves do not sustain community, but community does sustain buildings so long as they are a reflection of a collective community vision.

- Tim Narkiewicz, Clerk

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 65)

In the early 1980s, IYM approved the merging of the former Advancement Committee and Ministry and Counsel Committee into a single entity, the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The stated responsibilities of the committee included, among other things, the following: promoting activities to enhance the life of IYM and its monthly meetings, maintaining contact with isolated meetings and worship

groups, assisting member meetings in planning programs and workshops, overseeing book sales at IYM, coming to the aid of meetings with internal problems, and nurturing the spiritual development and unity of IYM. In order to carry out these responsibilities, the yearly meeting mandated that the committee consist of at least six members.

In the quarter-century since that decision was minuted, M&A has struggled to fulfill its assigned functions. Given the committee's small numbers (9 during the past year) and the great geographical range of the yearly meeting, this has never been easy. In her 1994 report to IYM, the then-Clerk of M&A, Janet Means Underhill, wrote, "We find ourselves shorthanded in conducting adequate visitation around our Yearly Meeting." This comment is typical of those reported by M&A Clerks for IYM over the years.

In recognition of this fact, the Yearly Meeting approved the hiring of a Field Secretary in the early '90s. This position has been staffed continuously since 1995, and the efforts and considerable gifts of our Field Secretaries have proven invaluable. Now, as Maurine Pyle's 3-year term nears its end, we are not yet in a position to make a recommendation to the Yearly Meeting concerning her successor. While we hope that this situation will be rectified shortly, we are concerned about the prospect of trying to handle our considerable responsibilities without the benefit of a Field Secretary for an indeterminate amount of time.

M&A makes every effort to have a committee member keep in close contact with each of our monthly meetings and worship groups. This year, typically, we have been able to do this with most but not all such groups and meetings. Many years ago, prior to the approval of the position of Field Secretary, M&A occasionally asked IYM members who were not on M&A to visit meetings for which no committee member could be assigned. The committee has discussed reconsidering this option in order to assure that none of our meetings or worship groups are neglected.

M&A meets in person three times during the year, once each in the fall and spring sessions as well as just before and during the annual sessions. These gatherings are very special times for all of us, marked by deep worship and profound fellowship. This year we have shared our experiences and perspectives concerning visits to meetings and worship groups. In doing so we have affirmed our commitment, both corporately and individually, to strive to hear the leadings of the Holy Spirit. We are well aware that we can best be of service as M&A visitors by attending to Friends' hopes, prayers, and aspirations, and letting the Divine Will serve as our guide.

Our longtime pastoral counselors, Beth Burbank and Carolyn Wilbur Treadway, have once again requested that their endorsements be continued. As has been the case in recent years, M&A regards the Yearly Meeting's endorsements of both of them as ongoing. This year they will each speak directly to the Yearly Meeting in commemoration of the length of their endorsements – 30 years for Carolyn, 25 years for Beth.

Two years ago, M&A took on oversight of the ad hoc Discernment of Gifts Committee, which hosted a very successful retreat on Eldering this past winter. The ad hoc committee has recommended to M&A that our committee take on oversight, although not necessarily direct responsibility, for an annual Winter Retreat. The ad hoc committee also hopes to nurture the members of Ministry and Advancement. Care will be given to discerning these and other recommendations that have been

made by the ad hoc committee. We on M&A are very appreciative to that committee for their loving and fruitful work.

We on M&A have worked closely with Nominating Committee this year, expressing our hope that our numbers can be increased and our willingness to help bring that hope to fruition. Regardless of our numbers, we will continue to strive to deepen our awareness of the leadings of the Holy Spirit so that we may lovingly serve the meetings and individuals that comprise Illinois Yearly Meeting.

- David Shiner, Clerk

Discernment of Gifts Ad Hoc Committee to IYM M&A (See Minute 33)

We talked about sharing the responsibility for the Winter Retreat among Standing Committees of IYM, and have created a Winter Retreat Procedures Manual, so as to ease the responsibility for those other committees. Mariellen Gilpin and Brad Laird are available to advise, and we are consulting with Peace Resources Committee about presenting Winter Retreat '09, and hope to have an answer by annual session.

We ask M& A:

1. To recommend at annual session an annual Winter Retreat at Menno Haven, as practice for when we have our own retreat center. We want to be ready when the retreat center is built. Retreats can serve both monthly meetings and the yearly meeting. We feel great joy and appreciation for the Young Adult Friends' participation in Winter Retreat '08.
2. To take on oversight of which IYM Standing Committee plans and coordinates the Winter Retreat each year. We are not seeing ourselves as the Winter Retreat Committee in the long run.
3. To recommend a structure for this oversight.

We are creating a survey instrument for Nominating Committees of IYM and also of our monthly meetings, in order to assess the felt needs of Nominating Committees for training in their important work of discerning, nurturing, and utilizing gifts among Friends. Copies of the survey are available for M&A to season. We request M&A:

4. Recommend to the annual session that Discernment of Gifts Committee send the survey to all the monthly meetings and IYM Nominating Committees shortly after annual session, so that we can collate and report the results to fall Continuing Committee. Our intent would be to use the results to prepare a workshop for nominating committee members, in order to assist them with their felt needs.

We thought about an appropriate relationship between Discernment of Gifts Committee and Ministry and Advancement Committee. In addition to our present policy of having one member of Ministry and Advancement who is a liaison between our two committees, we suggest that we provide a written report about two weeks before each gathering of M&A: spring and fall retreats, and annual session.

We brainstormed about the future of the ad hoc Committee on Discernment of Gifts, particularly the work of Nurturing the Nurturers.

- We want to nurture Ministry and Advancement Committee members. How do we feed those who feed others? Not only M&A, but also clerks of meetings might appreciate a nurturing retreat, not a working retreat, just for them. We talked of queries in these retreats to help nurture our nurturers.

- We might offer to elder M&A retreats and the annual session; also M&A trips to monthly meetings. We thought of asking at annual session for Friends who will pray for M&A, then creating an e-list for M&A members to ask for nurturers when traveling or otherwise doing The Work.
- We wanted to encourage M&A members to get spiritual companions, to create opportunities for spiritual companioning when they travel in the ministry. This would develop IYM spiritually– both the ministers and the companions. We suggest they take companions who are both strong already and also nascent spiritual leaders. Take three or four on the journey, not just one. This would be great for the meeting visited, and also for the ministers. We want to encourage elders by teaching tools for eldering.
- We want to encourage the M&A visitors to monthly meetings to look for those individuals who have ministry potential. We could hold workshops and invite those individuals, creating an opportunity to love them into spiritual growth.
- We talked of preparing the space – praying for the quality of worship and providing examples of how to nurture a meeting. Bill Taber’s *Prophetic Stream* was mentioned in this regard, and holding a meeting in prayer between meetings for worship and expecting to be guided.
- We talked of conference-call-facilitated spiritual formation groups for widely separated Friends. Spiritual friendships make opportunities for widely separated Friends to pray at the same time. Elders can nurture each other in these conference calls. We need to nurture the eldering function, the tradition of the spiritual companion who helps bring forth the ministry by being a spiritual teacher and enabler of the minister.
- We spoke of resources – money for travel and conference calls – for ministry among our widely separated and isolated meetings.

We talked about getting several individuals to write short reports for *Among Friends*: Ruth Raffensperger and Casey Kashnig might write about their experience of the Winter Retreat, as well as other individuals. Mariellen Gilpin has drafted some thoughts about her experiences eldering her meeting. We could ask Peggy Boyer Long to draft some thoughts about her experience as someone new to a leadership role. We want to use these reports to help nurture the growth of the spiritual life of the yearly meeting and its constituent meetings and worship groups. One of the things suggested this year was the planning of an annotated list of possible readings for meetings to provide for helping people along their spiritual journeys, which upon completion we will forward to Ministry and Advancement for seasoning. We plan to share the list with the monthly meetings of IYM.

Three members of the current Discernment of Gifts Committee of five will not continue to serve on the committee next year. We recommend that Friends moved to help with the work of the committee let David Shiner know of their interest, so that Ministry and Advancement Committee may discern who should serve.

Field Secretary Report (See Minute 47)

My dear Friends,

Before I leave you I feel moved to share lessons I have learned along the path as your Field Secretary. Some of these messages are gentle and some will fall hard on your ears and hearts. You know that I have always tried to be truthful even when the

truth is not what you prefer to hear. The very future of our Religious Society of Friends rests on the bedrock of speaking Truth to ourselves.

First, I will send you a love letter of gratitude for allowing my service among Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends. What my service as your Field Secretary has meant to me is...

- open hearts and hearths to welcome me
- intimate visits with Quaker families in their meetings and homes
- being treated as a trusted friend to hear secret wounds and sorrows never revealed
- hands-on healing of communities and individuals
- supporting leaders as they try their wings
- stepping back and allowing issues to rise and fall without interfering unduly
- walking beside people on their pathway to joy
- befriending and being befriended by children
- welcoming newcomers
- modeling Quaker values and practices
- attending clearness committees and ministry committees as a helper and listener
- witnessing to the lives of our members and helping them discern their gifts
- receiving generous financial support from family and friends when my personal budget got too tight
- appreciating the courage of my guidance committee at Lake Forest Meeting in their struggle to seek support for my ministry from the meeting as a whole
- and a special thank you to David Shiner, our M&A clerk, who stayed faithfully engaged as my elder throughout my three year walk as your field secretary.

Now here are some difficult observations that I feel the need to share with you honestly and which you may not wish to hear. Please remember that I am the *only person* who has been regularly visiting the entire yearly meeting community.

My assessment is that most of our monthly meetings are not strong. Out of a total number of 21 meetings and worship groups, there are only 11 meetings which currently have more than 10 regular attenders. I hope you are taking this number in. In recent years we have lost Decatur, Thorn Creek, DeKalb and Macomb through attrition. If we plan to become a more vital yearly meeting, we must increase the attendance at our smallest groups.

Let us take a look at what makes for a thriving Quaker community.

- Welcomes newcomers and teaches them the basics of Quaker faith and practice.
- Holds a monthly meeting for worship for business on a regular basis.
- Has a First Day School.
- Visible to the wider community through ongoing outreach efforts.
- Has a ministry committee to support the pastoral needs of its members, such as death, divorce, mental illness and economic need.
- Has a balanced membership of experienced and inexperienced Friends
- Has a program (formal or mentorship) for training people how to serve as elders.
- Does not avoid conflicts in the community and asks for outside assistance when needed to resolve deep disagreements.
- Welcomes people of all faith paths, ethnicities and gender identification.
- Offers spiritual nurture and oversight for the vocal ministry.

- Holds a value of being accessible to the hearing impaired and otherwise disabled attenders or members.
- Understands that the monthly meeting is part of a larger system called the yearly meeting and sends money, messages and members to fulfill that obligation.

Here is my final word to you who are entrusted with the care of the whole community. Many of the meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting are actually isolated worship groups which are functioning at a minimal level of capacity. Some meetings may be small but they are striving to grow. Others are isolating by choice and will decline. A death or a family moving away means that these meetings will soon be closing. We are called the Religious Society of Friends. We are a Spirit-led People of God. This has been our heritage from 350 years. What will be our gift to the children who are following us?

I have been honored to serve you,

- Maurine Pyle

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 38)

In the past year, Peace Resources facilitated a Peace Testimony Workshop at 57th Street Meeting. Carbondale, Columbia and Urbana-Champaign Meetings have requested the workshop for the coming year.

The Peace Testimony Workshop was developed to help Friends explore their relationship to the Peace Testimony and to open the way for the testimony to be manifested among Friends, personally and collectively.

PRC continues to refine the workshop format, stressing that the workshop is not expected to be a one-time experience, but the first step in a process. Further, workshop participants are encouraged to make their personal testimonies available to the ILYM web site and to *Among Friends*.

Other areas of concern to PRC:

- The committee wants to become more of a resource to raise awareness among ILYM Friends regarding a number of issues pertaining to peace and social justice, and is exploring ways to do this.
- PRC would like to encourage the envisioning process for the Peace House on the Prairie. Along these lines, PRC is asking ILYM to create an ad hoc envisioning committee. It further is asking that young ILYM Friends be included on the ad hoc committee.
- PRC also is asking ILYM to make available on its web site a Life Will. The Life Will is a statement by which Friends make it known that in the event they are murdered they do not want the person found guilty of the crime to face the death penalty. The Life Will is seen as a way by which Friends can generate discussion around capital punishment and encourage others to call for the abolition of the death penalty.

- Chuck Hutchcraft, Clerk

PEACE TAX FUND

ILYM's Peace Tax Fund is in a state of transition. The leadership of the committee changed hands three years ago on July 31, 2005. Several months later the committee found that the process of transferring signature authority over the bank

accounts containing the fund's deposits would require signatures from several high officers of ILYM which had never been required before. The committee became concerned that submitting these signed documents might connect the yearly meeting more explicitly to the fund than the creators of the fund might have originally intended, possibly exposing the yearly meeting to a high level of financial and other liability that was never envisioned.

The committee senses the need to carefully investigate available options, including, but not limited to, explicitly establishing the fund as closely connected to the yearly meeting, re-forming the fund as a distinctly separate legal entity, and dissolving the fund. After a year of inactivity followed by several false starts, the committee feels confident that it can present a clear and thorough summary of options at the October 18 Continuing Committee. Through continued investigation, involving the help of paid legal professionals when appropriate, and with feedback provided by Continuing Committee through the coming year, the committee plans to present, at the 2009 annual sessions, several well-defined and well-seasoned options for the future of the Peace Tax Fund. It is hoped that the yearly meeting can then make a well-informed decision about the future constitution of the fund.

Soon after the 2005 annual sessions, the \$48.00 interest earned during the previous year was evenly divided between Christian Peacemaker Teams and another organization (to be discovered). As of March 31, 2008, the Peace Tax Fund contains \$7391.90 in deposits representing 6 individual depositors. It also contains \$196.00 in interest, which, per our usual practice, will be distributed to charitable institutions whose work furthers Friends' life-affirming principles. The committee plans to do this once signature authority has been transferred to the new committee members. This principle and interest is kept in 2 accounts in Chicago's ShoreBank, which focuses on socially and ecologically responsible lending. Since transition to new leadership, the fund has received one deposit of \$627.60 from a single depositor.

- John Knox, Clerk

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE EXPLORATORY AD HOC COMMITTEE

(See Minute 6)

This committee regarding the advisability of having a Personnel committee was staffed at the Fall 2007 Continuing committee. In spring 2008, we conducted a survey of current and former ILYM staff, staff oversight, and officers. We found that though our personnel management is minimalist and mostly successful, information about our personnel processes is not collected together and made available to all affected Friends. There remain several personnel needs related to documenting current practices, procedures and policies, and publicizing this information to the wider yearly meeting. There also needs to be additional evaluation of benefits and compensation, and a review process that ensures loving care of our staff.

This committee did not meet. However, we collected very useful information and look forward to passing it along to the next committee. We strongly recommend that the ad hoc committee be continued another year, with changes in membership as needed.

- Dawn Amos

PUBLICATIONS (See Minute 8)

The ILYM Publications committee seasoned two requests this year, in addition to overseeing both paper and electronic publications. One request, related to our privacy policy, was resolved by returning to our past policy of providing the ILYM mailing list to Friends General Conference, with whom we are affiliated. The other request was from QuakerBooks of FGC, an inquiry into publishing and selling some of our Plummer Lectures. This request was approved with certain conditions, but the process has not begun. (See minutes of Fall Continuing Committee, 2007.)

For paper publications, we produced the annual Minute Book (including a mini-edition of the minutes for fall Continuing Committee) and two issues of the *Among Friends* magazine. Delays in getting out the full Minute Book were partly due to its record length of 108 pages. We are backlogged in our printed Plummer Lectures.

In terms of electronic publications, we posted about a dozen past Plummer Lectures and other talks, as well as the electronic Minute Book and *Among Friends* issues. Online Plummers are now available back to 1986, with some posted from before that. The major achievement for this publications arm was the conversion in March 2008 of the ilym.org web site to a “wiki”, an interface that makes it possible for many Friends to collaborate on updating the web site with current information.

The Publications committee would like to hear from any and all Friends who are interested in assisting with simple web site updates like calendar entries, news articles, links to related organizations, committee blogs, and uploading resources such as documents and images. Contact Dawn Amos to learn more.

- Dawn Amos and David Finke

RECORDS MANAGEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Records Management Committee was created during the 2007 annual sessions (2007, Minute 11) to address the concern of records management for the yearly meeting. The Committee held its first meeting May 24, 2008. We have determined that there are three primary categories of records generated by the Yearly Meeting, those being Financial, Legal and Historical. Much of this information is included in the Minute Book, so the focus of our discussion thus far has been on those materials not included in the Minute Book, such as committee minutes, correspondence, etc. We have also identified a number of things we don't know and are in the process of getting answers to those questions.

In an effort to better understand what records may exist that need to be kept, either for legal or historical reasons, the committee will be conducting a survey of IYM committee clerks, officers and employees. That survey is anticipated to go out shortly after yearly meeting. We hope the results of this survey will help determine the size of our task and inform our way forward.

- Angie Reeks, Clerk; Sharon Haworth; Beth Schobernd

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (See Minute 36)

Illinois Yearly Meeting's (IYM) Religious Education Committee met in early March and shared the findings of the survey which we recently conducted with 18 of the 21 monthly meetings and worship groups within IYM. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about each other and how we approach religious education in each of our communities.

We asked Friends about their needs. The feedback we received was a strong desire for more members and more children in our communities. However, outreach is notably absent. We learned that the most important way to encourage families with children to join us is to be ready for them. Having an established program for First Day School shows children are wanted and valued. When families with children visit meetings and there is no First Day School program in place it is unlikely they will return. Families need the support of others to participate fully in the life of the meeting. In particular, newcomers to the Religious Society of Friends need a way to learn about us.

We heard concerns about “being too small” to offer First Day School. Perhaps if we view our small size as an opportunity for growth, we will see that making way for children to be with us will enable our communities to become more vital. This is the simplest form of outreach—being ready for newcomers who find us on their spiritual journey. We want to assist meetings to make it possible to see beyond their size. I will say a bit more about that at the end of this report.

What follows is a summary of the main findings of our survey:

1. Meetings who make children a priority have a strong influence on attendance by families. These are the statistics about IYM. Please take in these numbers:
 - a. 8 meetings who have regular attendance of 20 or more adults provide regular and frequent First Day School.
 - b. 6 smaller meetings (with fewer than 20 adults) also provide regular and frequent First Day School.
 - c. 7 small meetings have no regular program for children.
2. Successful First Day School programs involve planning ahead. Some meetings plan several months in advance and others plan for the year. Overarching themes or subject areas guide the lessons.
3. “Tweens (11-14 year-olds) and teens stay involved in First Day School and meeting when they are involved with plays and (service) projects. It is important for this age group to feel integrated into the community and embraced as vital members.
4. Successful preparation of First Day School teachers requires good mentoring. Supporting a new teacher by modeling teaching and/or by staying with them for the first lesson(s) improves comfort and confidence with the children.
5. Recruitment of teachers is a perennial challenge for Friends. Typically, parents have to “beg” for help. If we are to keep children in our meetings we need to support the parents by recruiting teachers for them and also by volunteering to be teachers ourselves. Teaching for 2 weeks at a time works well and overlap of teachers by one week is ideal for many meetings. Having 2 teachers in First Day School addresses the concern about sexual abuse of children.
6. Barrier for First Day School are as follows:
 - a. Having no First Day School program is the greatest barrier to having children in our meetings.
 - b. Religious baggage among the adults prevents our children from learning about the roots of our Faith, in particular as it relates to Christianity.
 - c. “Anti-religious” sentiments in some meetings makes it uncomfortable for Friends to minister to each other, which affects how well we teach.

- d. Lack of outreach reinforces the notion that there is no need for a First Day School program. There are no children because meetings are not growing.
7. Needs:
- a. More members
 - b. More children

All the meetings we met with shared a similar message- the desire for growth. Religious education is one avenue of learning and growing together. Outreach is made more difficult and uncomfortable when Friends have not practiced talking to each other about who we are and about our historical roots. In addition, religious education is an essential part of helping newcomers find their way in our Religious Society. This summer at annual sessions we have arranged for Johanna Anderson from FGC's Religious Education Committee to lead a workshop on Friday and on Saturday about outreach, to address this expressed need.

Religious Education Committee members are concerned about how monthly meetings work together. We are all a part of our yearly meeting, yet many of us are very isolated and are not involved with IYM. We heard Friends say they were stretched too thin in their monthly meetings "to give any more to IYM." Part of the purpose of IYM is to serve monthly meetings. By giving to IYM, we give to ourselves and to each other. This is what makes us a Religious *Society*. We want to support meetings to be stronger by facilitating ways of helping each other, despite our distance from each other.

To this end, we are making a few changes in our role as committee members. Each monthly meeting and worship group now has a liaison from our committee to work with you and help facilitate whatever needs you have. If Friends do not know who their liaison is, please contact me by phone at (309) 734-7759 or by email at enarkiewicz@yahoo.com.

We will soon be "unveiling" a Yahoo Group for members of IYM who wish to join it. The focus will be on religious education and it will be a forum for sharing ideas, asking questions, and supporting each other. We will also post Quaker plays, book reviews, lesson plans which Friends have created, and other ideas as they develop. In addition, you will be able to see what books exist in the IYM Traveling library and find out how to check them out. We will announce it on the IYM listserve as soon as the Yahoo Group is ready for use. We are excited about working together more as a yearly meeting. We recognize that we are all part of the same spiritual community, yet separated by physical distance. This is an effort to close that gap. Please join us.

- Elke Narkiewicz, IYM Religious Education Committee clerk

REVIEW COMMITTEE (See Minute 29)

The Review committee was created at the 2007 sessions (minute 4); under the care of Finance committee, it consists of 3 Friends: clerk of Finance, Treasurer, and one of Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk or Recording Clerk. The Review committee is charged with making immediate and sound fiscal decisions between annual sessions, especially for unexpected expenditures that could exceed a budget line item by 10% or \$5,000 (whichever is lower).

In the fiscal year 2007-2008, the Review committee evaluated three main requests. It approved funds for the Youth Coordinator to attend a Pendle Hill workshop

on youth (these ultimately were not used); it approved purchasing Workers Compensation insurance per Illinois law; and it evaluated several unexpected maintenance and repair expenses under the care of Maintenance and Planning. Most of the latter had been approved by the Finance committee, and the Review committee approved a few more.

The review process still needs refinement. We were especially challenged by two problems. 1) Sometimes the expenses exceeding a budget line item were small, but they would add up over time. Once the first added expense was approved, it was difficult to draw a new line in the sand. 2) With the co-treasurer system, there might be weeks between the time an expense is paid by one co-treasurer, and the moment when the other co-treasurer would discover that a line item had been exceeded. Together, these problems resulted in excess expenses in the Staff Travel line item which were not reviewed by this committee.

On the other hand, the review process was an asset in forging new lines of communication between ILYM committees and Finance committee. Specifically, Maintenance & Planning and Finance committees are working together to make a better budget for Site line items in the forthcoming year.

Most of the Site line items will have significant excess spending by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Additionally, the Staff Travel line item will also be exceeded. The Review committee approved the Site items, but did not evaluate the Staff Travel items. The review process will no doubt be tested and refined in the coming year.

- Respectfully submitted by Dawn Amos

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT (See Minutes 21 and 54)

This is the first year of this combined committee. Our charges of Site Envisioning and Development have been two large challenges for us. We began with a focus on the Development component and ended with a focus on Site Envisioning.

At the close of last years annual session, we found that we needed to respond to several issues brought forth during the meetings for business. A new group had been convened to focus on the accessibility needs of Friends on our McNabb site. In addition, the Environmental Concerns Committee declared its increasing interest in seeing that our new buildings be as sustainable as possible. We asked for the ability to hire our architects once more to help us discern how best to address these topics. We proposed that we have another design charette to fold these issues and concerns into our thinking as we refined the design for the new buildings.

Our first focus for the year became the fund-raising component of our responsibility. We convened at McNabb on October 13, 2007 to identify our process. Later in December, Julia Pantoga and Chip Rorem had a conference call with our fund raising consultant, Henry Freeman, to go over the details of our fundraising effort. Henry gave us guidance as to documents and approach. He stressed that we needed a business plan to validate that we were ready to care for our facility.

We reconvened our group in January at the Bartles' to present our progress, discuss refinements in direction and pass out work. We held a conference call with an advisor from the local community college to discuss developing a donor packet as described to us by Henry Freeman which included a formal business plan for the facility. After our meeting, we toured several retreat centers in the area which included a facility particularly interesting to some that was run as a Lutheran Retreat Center.

As we prepared for our charette on April 19, we also looked at an issue coming from Clear Creek. Clear Creek told us that they were uncomfortable with meeting at the relocated Junior Yearly Meeting House. The distance to plumbing and difficulty in heating the meeting room caused the monthly meeting to meet elsewhere in members homes. They said they would like to move on creating a place to meet on IYM grounds if possible (and as soon as possible—even this upcoming winter if it can be arranged) We agreed to fold this issue into our charette along with the other issues of sustainability and accessibility.

The charette at McNabb held on April 19 was well attended and included members of the Environmental Concerns committee, the accessibility work group, and several members of Clear Creek. We discussed alternatives to sustainability that could be overlaid onto a building design. Issues of accessibility were discussed but seemingly these issues needed further focus as the design evolved. Clear Creek was active in expressing its requirements for meeting space and First Day space. They also stressed their hope that space meeting Clear Creek needs would serve the needs of the Yearly Meeting as well. We adjourned to await a response from Troyer Group.

A response came to us in time for the Memorial Day work weekend. Copies of the Troyer concept were printed and sent to Clear Creek for review and comment. After their review they reported back to us that the new designs were falling short of their expectation. They asked Chris Goode, a Clear Creek attender and an architect to help them discern a reply.

Chris prepared some loose sketches responding to guidance from the Clear Creek Friends. He met with them and reviewed the sketches. The sketches spoke to the meeting's condition and they found themselves resoundingly approving them and offering their approval to the SE&D Committee. They suggested we offer the Goode sketches in lieu of the Troyer sketches as a new approach to the development of the site.

This information was coming to the committee just before annual session. We had three phone conference meetings to try to discern the way to proceed. We met on Thursday, June 5th, Sunday, June 8th, and Thursday, June 12th. Over the course of those three meetings, SE&D decided to concur with Clear Creek on the viability of the Goode sketches. We decided to ask Troyer to go on hold for the annual session. They agreed. We asked Chris Goode if he'd be able to present the designs at annual session. He agreed. We told Troyer and Goode that our further work would require guidance from the annual session, so consequently, no further work beyond annual session is authorized.

We look forward to the discernment of the annual session.

- Chip Rorem, Clerk

STEWARDS REPORT (See Minute 40)

This has been the first year of IYM having Stewards rather than Trustees. Dick Ashdown and Carol Bartles are Stewards for IYM.

The work of the Stewards is very similar to the work of the Trustees. Below is a short list of some of the things Dick and Carol have done this year. We hope this gives you an idea of the work of a Steward in Illinois Yearly Meeting.

This year we have researched the zoning regulations of Putnam County, Illinois and are working on how to proceed with zoning if a new building/buildings are built on the property. We work with the insurance company assessing the type and quan-

tity of insurance to carry on IYM. We work with the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Environmental Concerns Committee and the Finance Committee. We answer questions such as, where the Meetinghouse front steps paint was purchased, share historical information on the camp ground, explain where the sewage system tiles are located, we find a local tree trimmer to prune the trees on the Meetinghouse grounds, we have lit pilot lights on the stoves, arranged LP fuel to be delivered to the property and respond to many questions over the year.

Dick Ashdown helped rescue the great horned owl chick he found on the ground, sick and needing attention. We signed contracts for services arranged by the Maintenance and Planning Committee. We arrange the lawn mowing and lawn maintenance. We know the "raccoon man" and arrange his raccoon removal treatment of the Meetinghouse. We answer questions from neighbors in the McNabb community as they arise.

Some of our work requires a lot of attention to details. Some of our work requires a friendly smile. It feels very similar to the role of Trustee. The transition from Trustee to Steward is a smooth one for us.

- Carol Bartles

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (See Minute 41)

Dear IYM Friends,

I am serving my sixth and final year as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Friends Service Committee. Also, it has been my privilege to serve as a representative of IYM on the AFSC Corporation. This too is my last year of serving in this role.

The AFSC celebrated its 90th birthday last year and is moving into its future with a strong sense of mission. In the six years I have served on the AFSC Board we have seen many changes. AFSC had modernized its internal financial system, reorganized the institutional structure of the international programs, revitalized the administration of the Quaker UN Office and facility, developed and operated with a long-term Strategic Plan and successfully brought to millions of people the impact of war through the Eyes Wide Open exhibit. The Eyes Wide Open has been one of the most successful public awareness campaigns in the history of AFSC.

This year, AFSC has brought Kristen Richardson on staff. Kristen is seeking to invigorate a stronger bond between Friends and the AFSC. Kristen will be at our Annual Session this year. Please make her feel welcome as only Illinois Friends can do. I know she is open to ideas you may have when looking into building a stronger sense of engagement of Friends with AFSC. I, too, welcome any ideas you may have for building a stronger connection. Please help us find ways that Friends have the experience of AFSC operating as the outward expression of Friends' values.

- Carol Bartles, AFSC Board member

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

Friends General Conference is a service organization that serves affiliated yearly and monthly meetings in North America. The consultations, workshops, gathering, publications and committee work described below demonstrate the many ways the FGC is serving the members of our yearly meeting. You can access their website at www.fgcquaker.org.

Long Range Conference Planning Committee is sponsoring the annual Gathering of Friends titled "Courageously Faithful" in Johnstown, PA, June 28-July 5, 2008. This gathering will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's address *Nonviolence and Racial Justice* to Friends at Cape May, NJ, in 1958. Copies of the speech (written and oral) will be available at the Gathering.

New publications from Quaker Press of FGC were a novel *The Back Bench* by Margaret Hope Bacon, *Coming into Friendship as a Gift: The Journey of a Young Adult Friend* by Christina Van Regenmorter. *Where Should I Stand? A Field Guide for Monthly Meeting Clerks* by Elizabeth Boardman will be available at the Gathering. *Faith and Play*, a Montessori-based Quaker Complement to *Godly Play*, will be published in September and the publication of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye is expected by the end of 2008. Friends can read interviews with authors, book descriptions and reviews and they can order books online by going to www.QuakerBooks.org.

The Religious Education Committee is sponsoring a Religious Educators Institute, *Out of the Living Silence*, August 14 – 17, 2008 at Bradford Woods near Indianapolis, Indiana. This a great opportunity for individuals involved in teaching First

Day School, working with newcomers or leading adult religious education groups in our meetings to attend, share ideas and learn from others.

Advancement and Outreach Committee (A&O) sponsors www.quakerfinder.org. The exciting new program sponsored by A&O is Quaker Quest—a dynamic outreach program developed in Great Britain. FGC has just received a grant to help with the cost of initiating this program in North America.

Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee continues its work with the World Council of Churches and has seen a change from a time when what Quakers believe was a footnote, to today when the other churches are turning to the traditional peace churches for assistance in approaching issues around conflicts.

The Committee for Ministry on Racism is also working on identifying curricula that can be used with all ages to examine issues around race. In addition they have a web page www.fitforfreedom.org that has information that could not be incorporated in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*.

Consultations and workshops sponsored by FGC committees this year included:

- A consultation by Youth Ministries and Traveling Ministries Committees for those with emerging ministries, November, 2007.
- A consultation by Ministry and Nurture Committee for members of Ministry and Advancement Committees, spring, 2008.
- A consultation by Ministry and Nurture Committee for clerks of yearly meetings to be held in the spring, 2009.
- A consultation by Traveling Ministries Committee for individuals traveling for the Traveling Ministries program of FGC, March, 2008.
- A workshop, *Building and Holding Safe Spaces for Quaker Youth*, on safety issues for overnight events for middle and high school-aged young Friends at Pendle Hill, February, 2008, by Youth Ministries and Religious Education Committees.
- Youth Ministries sponsored a Young Adult Friends gathering, May, 2008, along with PHLYM, Earlham College, ESR and the Newlin Center for Quaker Thought and Practice. The theme was “Living as Friends and Listening Within” and had individuals involved on the planning committee from all branches of Friends in the U.S. and Canada.
- The Committee for Ministry on Racism sponsored a conference, *No Longer Strangers*, for Friends of Color and their families April, 2008.

- Janice Domanik

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER CONCERNS (FLGBTQC)

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns met in Minnesota for Midwinter Gathering in February 2008. We enjoyed the beauty around us while we worshipped, conducted business and reconnected with Friends from around the country. We heard an epistle from a Friend who sought a loving response to the events that were reported to have taken place at two Friends United Meeting general gatherings, one of which was the FUM Board Meeting in Kenya. He challenged us with several queries, including those that follow: How do we in the FLGBTQC community, who have claimed to be a faith community devoted to radi-

cal love, live that out in these circumstances? What might that look like? How can we use our practice as Friends to work through the pain of this situation?

During Mid-Winter Gathering FLGBTQC acted on one such response. A donation from FLGCTBQ was sent to the Kenyan FUM office to be used for those Friends who are suffering from the violence that erupted following the recent elections in Kenya.

The Advancement and Outreach Committee of FGC had asked that FLGBTQC review a draft pamphlet on welcoming meetings. Friends considered the definition of a welcoming meeting and realized the complexity of coming to such a determination. Among the considerations was the degree to which a meeting had embraced marriage equality. An ad hoc committee was formed to consider a response to FGC. This committee discerned that it was premature to edit the pamphlet text and identified two queries for FGC to consider as we work collectively to determine what welcoming meetings that are inclusive of gender and sexual identity might look like. This consideration will further discerned at summer gathering.

We welcome Friends to join FLGBTQC worship at summer gathering and to consider joining us for next mid-winter gathering in Portland, Oregon. FLGBTQC appreciates that some yearly meetings including Illinois Yearly Meeting appoint representatives to FLGBTQC.

- Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

This has been a busy year for Friends Peace Teams. There are currently three project groups which are all developing wonderful relationships with local groups in their areas.

The African Great Lakes Initiative has been very busy providing relief to those affected by an outbreak of violence in Kenya following the general election. There has been a burst of requests for Alternatives to Violence workshops, so additional staff has been taken on and facilitators supported to do this, especially with youth. We are still receiving donations to Friends Peace Teams, Kenya Relief in the memo line. In September of 2008 AGLI and its partners will host the International Conference of the Alternatives to Violence Project. The work and workcamps in Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Congo continue to thrive and engage all parts of local conflicts in trauma healing and peacebuilding.

Friends Peace Teams has been evolving a new structure to better support these exciting projects. Our proposal is to try to have the FPT costs covered by Yearly, Quarterly and Monthly Meetings' basic, undesignated contributions in addition to contributions to the specific regions or activities. This system would allow other donations and grants to be used entirely to provide front line programs. FPT funds would provide the home base, publication and distribution services, and central book-keeping services.

As your representative, I attended monthly conference calls and the Board meeting in Portland, Oregon. As a part of my work during the annual sessions, I will be seeking individuals in Monthly Meetings to receive and distribute Peaceways, and publicize the FPT workcamps.

To be added to the mailing list contact: Friends Peace Teams 1001 Park Ave. St. Louis, MO 63104 or through the website: <http://www.friendspeaceteams.org/>.

- Julia Pantoga

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

The 22nd Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Triennial took place in Dublin, Ireland, in mid-August 2007. It was a wonderful event, as such triennials always are. The special effort undertaken by Ireland Yearly Meeting to insure our comfort was superb, and the fellowship we shared there was warm and deep. The theme of the triennial was "Finding the Prophetic Voice in Our Time." Many of the workshops and sermons were organized around this theme. While we can't say that we definitively found the prophetic voice, our speakers and discussions helped bring us closer to being able to say what such a voice should say to contemporary Quakers, and to the world. The speakers' transcripts are well worth reading at www.fwcctriennialtranscripts.blogspot.com.

While there are many important events at every Triennial, the core of the gathering is the "worship and sharing" group. Each worship and sharing group consists of 12-15 Friends from all over the world who meet daily during the triennial. Having everything "gel" for such groups can be challenging, given that unprogrammed Friends from the USA and Britain are brought together with Friends from the Evangelical tradition in Africa and South America, not to mention all the "flavors" of Quakerism in between. Still, by the end of our sessions (in separate groups), we felt deeply moved by the power of such an incredible exchange between everyone present. As one African Friend said, what we have in common is that we are a family. It really does feel like a family when we meet in these sessions.

For financial reasons, FWCC will no longer sponsor a triennial in three years, but rather will have a World Conference during 2012, planned for Nairobi, Kenya. This should be a very interesting world gathering in a very appropriate location. There are now more Friends living in Africa than in all of North America. It is the fastest growing area for Quakers, and they appear to be well aware of their heritage. Some of the stories they related at the triennial are reminiscent of those undertaken by George Fox as related in his journal. They are looking forward to hosting Friends from around the world, and are keen to do so as brilliantly as the Irish did in Dublin.

Meanwhile, at the Section of the Americas, a successful capital campaign has just concluded. Because many of the donations were restricted to specific programs, the operating budget is still at risk of deficits. The Section continues to evaluate its expenses, and would benefit from renewed and increased support from individuals, monthly meetings, and yearly meetings. The Section of the Americas contributes 25% of its unrestricted income to the FWCC World Office, to support participation by the less advantaged Sections of FWCC.

- Dawn Amos

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSIONS

FAITH AND PRACTICE INTRODUCTION (as approved) (See Minute 19) **Concerning this Book of Faith and Practice**

Early Quakers had a vivid sense of the Holy Spirit as an active presence, transforming themselves, their dealings with each other, and the entire world. They honored each person's direct access to the Light, yet were aware of the frailty of human judgment. Their response was to develop practices of communal listening, seeking, and discerning. Meeting for worship, meeting for business, and some more specialized practices were all developed to allow the group to clarify and support individual guidance and revelation. Today, Quakers continue to revise, refine, and hand on their characteristic practices of corporate listening and waiting, because these practices work.

The practical details of this corporate listening and waiting are of immediate concern to all Quakers. We have insisted on an open and freely shared ministry; as a result, the on-going life of our meetings is shaped to an extraordinary degree by each meeting's members. Caring for ourselves and one another well—calling forth the Holy Seed effectively—requires (and elicits) very careful attention. Each situation is a fresh opportunity, yet our experimental approach has led to a body of experiential learning.

Quakers have naturally supported each other by sharing approaches that have worked well in the past: methods of listening, discerning, and acting that have reliably embodied our core leadings, especially in situations that recur again and again. A book of Faith and Practice records such shared learnings, brought together for the guidance of meetings and their members, and endorsed (in this case) by the Yearly Meeting. Books of Faith and Practice exist to coach Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, individual members and attenders, in how to care for themselves and each other in basic ways. Books of Faith and Practice have proved to be effective means to convey our faith, inspiring and guiding expression of the Spirit's leadings.

This Faith and Practice is intended as a guide to Friends' characteristic practices, embodying the wisdom and experience of Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends. Not every detail of every practice described here will fit the real life situation of every Meeting or Friend. It would be unfaithful to insist that they be followed in preference to the Spirit's present guidance! Nevertheless, we have tried to assemble here descriptions of tested ways of doing things, practices it would be good to follow whenever practical, apart from unusual circumstances or special leadings. This Faith and Practice also includes perspectives on the spiritual meaning and underlying coherence of our current practices, often in the form of excerpts from Friends' writings. Glimpses of this deeper pattern can illumine our usual practices, and can guide improvisation in exceptional cases or new circumstances. These practices and perspectives have empowered our meetings to find unity and move forward in that unity—both unity with each other, and a deeper unity in and with the Holy Spirit.

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all with a measure of the light which is pure and holy may be guided, and so in the light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit,—not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

—Postscript to an epistle from the meeting of elders, Balby, Yorkshire, England, 1656

FAITH AND PRACTICE SECTION ON MEMBERSHIP (as approved) (See Minutes 19 and 43)

Becoming a member is a public act of accepting God's gift of a spiritual home and family. In being recorded as a member, one accepts the support and practices of this community for spiritual growth and assumes responsibility for the activities of the meeting as well as its practical and spiritual maintenance. This is a spiritual community bound together by love in which there are mutual expectations for trust, open communication, forgiveness, participation, and perseverance in the face of differences. Membership does not mean that you have reached a particular level of spiritual accomplishment but it does mean you have decided to pursue your spiritual development in the context of this Quaker community.

The word "seekers" has often been used by and for Friends, but the word may have different connotations for seekers who are members and for seekers who are visitors. People visit us seeking a spiritual community with which they might feel in accord. Members have found a place in our community and are seeking ways to live out the spiritual gifts experienced there.

While some will have grown up in the meeting, others will come first as visitors, then as regular attenders, before deciding to seek membership.

Moving Toward Membership

Visitors to meeting should be welcomed, and care taken to help them understand and relate to Friends' ways. Study groups in which newer attenders mix with experienced members can help, as can easy access to Quaker books, periodicals, and pamphlets. Regular attenders should be invited to participate in the life of the Meeting — to observe and take appropriate part in our distinctive ways of worship, business, and committee work, and in our potlucks, work projects, and ministries. Membership in the Society of Friends is membership in the monthly meeting community. The best orientation to a meeting may be the opportunity to be with its members while they do what they care about.

Attenders may wish to discuss their spiritual goals and concerns with Friends before making an application for membership, or before feeling any clear interest in applying. Experienced Friends should be alert to this possibility, and make themselves available for such discussion. Attenders who find themselves nourished by their involvement with Meeting, comfortable with Friends' approach and testimonies, and interested in taking up the responsibilities of membership, should be encouraged to consider membership.

Sometimes long-time attenders act with the responsibility and commitment hoped for in members, and feel that they are members in all but name. A Meeting might gently encourage such attenders to join, as a matter of truth-telling and integrity. But occasionally committed attendance without membership is the right choice for someone, and should be respected.

Applying for Membership

An attender who wishes to join begins by making a formal request to the monthly meeting. Usually this takes the form of a letter, which often will describe the nature or history of the applicant's interest in Friends. The clerk of the meeting shares this request with the Meeting during a meeting for worship with an attention to business.

2008 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING

11am in homes
Mail to Clerk: Larry Stout, 602 Normal Ave.
Normal, IL 61761
lawrence.stout@comcast.net
Business: varies

CLEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

14365 N 350th Ave., McNabb IL 61335
11am 815-882-2214
<http://clearcreek.quaker.org>
Mail to: Clear Creek Friends, P.O. Box 202
McNabb, IL 61335
Clerk: Beth Schobernd
beth.schobernd@gmail.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:45 am

DECATUR WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
10am in homes (call)
Mail to Contact: Cindy & Gary Reynolds,
50 Green Oak, Decatur IL 62526
gcreynolds@comcast.net

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Clear Creek Mtg.)
First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
Mail to Contact: Peggy Boyer Long,
73 Country Place, Springfield, IL 62703
peggyboy@aol.com

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO 65202
10:00am 573-474-1827
<http://quakers.missouri.org>
Mail to Contact: David Finke, 1106 Maplewood Dr.,
Columbia, MO 65203
dfinke@iland.net
Clerk: rotates monthly
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:30am except August

DOWNERS GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove IL 60516
10:30am 630-968-3861
<http://www.grammar9davis.homestead.com/meeting.html>
Mail to Clerk: Pam Wolfe, 5725 Hillcrest Rd.,
Downers Grove, IL 60516
midwestgardener@gmail.com
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
Clerk: Noel Pavlovic
npavlo130@comcast.net
Mail to: c/o Marlou Carlson, 813 George St.
Valparaiso, IN 46385
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

EVANSTON FRIENDS MEETING

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
10am 847-864-8511
<http://evanston.quaker.org>
Mail to: Meeting address above
Clerk: Clyde Baker
candjbake@aol.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

57th ST. MEETING OF FRIENDS

5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637
10:30am 773-288-3066
<http://www.57thstreetmeeting.org>
Mail to: Clerk, at meeting address above
Clerk: Janet Marcus
janetmarcusphd@hotmail.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 1:00pm

LAKE FOREST FRIENDS MEETING

101 West Old Elm Road (West Old Elm and
Ridge Rds.), Lake Forest IL 60045
10:30am First Day 847-234-8410
8:00 am Thursday
<http://lakeforest.il.quaker.org>
Mail to: PO Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045
Clerk: Pam Kuhn
PamelaJKuhn@yahoo.com
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640
Worship: 10:00am First Days &
7pm Wednesdays (1049 W. Dakin)
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
<http://www.quaker.org/northside> 773-784-2155
Clerk: Beth Burbank
beth.burbank@gmail.com
Business: 1st First Day at 12:30pm

OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park
 10am 708-445-8201
<http://oprfl.com/opmmf>
 Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL
 60303-3245
 Clerk: Judy Erickson
 jemessage1@yahoo.com
 Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
 4:00 pm (3:30 study) 920-232-1460
 Mail to: PO Box 403, Oshkosh WI 54903
 Clerk: Tom Barlow
 Business: 2nd First Day after worship

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

Just Goods Community Room, 201 Seventh St.,
 Rockford 11am
 Mail to Clerk: Ann Eckert, 310 Hill St.,
 Rockford IL 61107 815-964-7416
 Business: Quarterly, 2nd Sunday after worship

ST. LOUIS RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104 10:00am
<http://www.stlouisfriends.org> 314-588-1122
 Mail to: 1001 Park, St. Louis MO 63104
 Co-Clerks: David Bates
 dbates7915@aol.com
 Anna Sandidge
 Business: 2nd First Day, 11:15 am

Friends Meeting of ROLLA (Preparative)
 (under the care of St. Louis Mtg.) 1:30pm
 803 N. Main St., Rolla
 Mail to Clerk: Chris Jocius, 29 Irene Lane,
 Rolla, MO 65401
 jociusc@mst.edu
 Business: 3rd First Day, 2:30 pm

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
 914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
 10:30 am 574-255-5781
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
 Mail to Clerk: Monica Tetzlaff, 1232 Longfellow
 Ave., South Bend, IN 46615
 mtetzlaf@sbcglobal.net
 Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS FRIENDS MEETING

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
 Carbondale IL 62901 10am
<http://www.siquaker.org/>
 Meeting Contact: Dawn Amos
 dawn@amoshome.com
 Clerk: Mark Amos
 mark@amoses.net
 Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING (formerly Peoria-Galesburg)

504 N. 2nd St., Monmouth, IL 61462
 10 am
 Contact: Elke Narkiewicz, 504 N. 2nd St.
 Monmouth, IL 61462
 enarkiewicz@yahoo.com
 Business: Second First Days at 11:30 am

UPPER FOX VALLEY QUAKER MEETING

Crystal Lake Montessori School, 3013 Country
 Club Rd. (between Crystal Lake and Woodstock)
 10 am
 Mail to: Howenstines, 4614 Pioneer Rd.,
 McHenry, IL 60050 815-385-8512
 Clerk: John Hackman
 johnhackman@att.net
 Business: 3rd First Day, 11 am

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN FRIENDS MEETING

1904 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802
 10:30 am 217-328-5853
<http://www.quaker.org/urbana>
 Mail to: 1904 E. Main Street, Urbana, IL 61802
 Clerk: Sandy Bales
 sbales@uiuc.edu
 Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

A clearness committee to visit with the applicant is either appointed directly by the meeting for business, or (especially in larger meetings) by the Meeting's ministry and counsel committee (or its equivalent). An effort should be made to choose discerning Friends; the applicant's closest associates will not always be the ones best suited for this service.

The clearness committee visits with the applicant in a spirit of expectant waiting and tender searching. Beginning and ending the visit in silent worship is appropriate, as is taking time, during the conversation, to center down and to seek guidance.

The clearness that is sought is two-fold: Is this the right step for the applicant? and, Is this the right step for the Meeting? Topics that may help shed light on this include the applicant's knowledge and expectations of the Meeting and of Friends generally, his or her religious background and journey, consonance with our testimonies, and degree of comfort with the variety found among Friends. The following sample queries may be used by the clearness committee to encourage exploration of these topics. No specific answers are to be expected.

- How does meeting for worship speak to your condition?
- What drew you to begin attending Friends Meeting?
- What do you consider to be central to Quakerism?
- Are there any features of Quakerism with which you have reservations or concerns?
- What changes have you made in your life as a result of your association with Quakers?
- Are you familiar with Faith and Practice and other Friends literature? What have you taken from them?
- Do you understand that membership in the monthly meeting brings with it membership in the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings?
- What is your understanding of the Divine? What is your experience of the Divine in your life?
- Illinois Yearly Meeting and many of the monthly meetings include both Friends who are explicitly Christian and Friends who are not; how comfortable are you with this variety?
- How will you live into our Quaker peace testimony?
- How do you understand the concept of community in light of Friends' testimony?
- What does the testimony of simplicity mean to you and what are the practical consequences of this to your life?
- What does it mean to live with integrity?
- How do you live the testimony of equality?
- In what ways do you see yourself taking on the responsibilities of membership in the meeting? For example: participation in meeting for worship, meeting for worship with an attention to business, committees, stewardship of meeting property and other resources, financial support.
- As Friends we see our spiritual development as a life-long journey. Where are you on this journey and what do you think the meeting's role will be in your future spiritual path?

In some circumstances, a single visit with the applicant will be sufficient; in others, multiple visits may seem appropriate. Sometimes the committee will find it

helpful to meet together before or after the visit. The clearness committee and the applicant should keep in mind that they seek a solid clarity and easiness about the decision, not any pre-determined result. At times, a solid clearness is reached quickly and easily; other times, clearness comes only after labor, but may be just as strong. Sometimes, the clearness that is reached will be that the time is not right for membership—that the applicant or the Meeting is being led to wait. Occasionally the clearness may be that membership in the Society of Friends is not the Spirit's leading for an applicant. If applicant and committee remember that the goal is the clearness that allows faithful action, then these outcomes can be seen as positive ones.

The clearness committee reports back to the body that appointed it. If this was the ministry and counsel committee the report is then forwarded to the business meeting with a recommendation.

The decision whether to accept a person into membership is made and minuted by the Monthly Meeting in its meeting for worship with an attention to business. Although the meeting for business needs enough information to make a faithful decision, personal information not directly pertinent to the decision should not be included in the report.

Membership of Children

Children in our midst, regardless of their membership status, should be treated as full participants in the life of the Meeting. Meetings do well to nurture all children and young adults in making informed decisions with regard to their membership, when the time is right.

Parents who are members may request membership for their children. Some monthly meetings consider children to be full members. Others consider them to be associate members. Still others offer parents the choice of either full or associate membership for their children. Associate membership differs from full membership in that it does not extend indefinitely, but must be re-affirmed by the individual at some later point. Meetings are responsible for continuing a caring relationship with associate members as they mature, and for encouraging them to apply for membership when they are ready, whether before or after the end of associate membership.

A request that a child or children be recorded in either category of membership may be made at the time of the child's birth or adoption, or at the time of the parent(s) acceptance into membership, or later. A child may be recorded at the request of one parent and with the permission of the other. Parents requesting full or associate membership for their children should intend to raise them as Friends within a meeting community. Parents may also choose to request no enrollment for the child, leaving the matter to the young person's own leadings, as he or she matures. Monthly meetings should adopt clear policies about the membership status of members' children for whom no request is made. The Meeting has a responsibility to see that children recorded in membership, along with other children among us, have opportunity to reflect on their commitment as they grow toward adulthood.

Monthly meetings are encouraged to respect and support parents' decisions regarding their children's welfare in these matters. Sometimes (especially when a family of Friends transfers from another meeting) this respect and support will involve wrestling with a category of membership, or a conscientious choice, not previously used in the meeting.

There is no minimum age for applying for membership for oneself. Some young people are ready for membership at an early age; others take longer to mature into a sense of clearness about their spiritual path. Associate members, and young people not recorded in membership, may request full membership for themselves using the procedure described above, at any age at which they feel a leading to do so.

Sojourning Members, Transfer of Membership, Isolated Friends

Friends living temporarily at a distance from their home meeting, and near enough to attend another meeting, should usually request sojourning membership in the meeting they are attending. Members who have moved permanently to another area should transfer their membership to their new meeting. These arrangements go beyond record-keeping, allowing the individual to be forthright and honest about his or her real commitments, and helping meetings care for members in a practical way. Either change is initiated by requesting a letter from one's previous or home meeting, to the new meeting. The request is considered by the home meeting in its monthly meeting for business and unless there is compelling reason, a letter recommending the Friend to the new meeting is prepared and signed by the clerk, and forwarded to the new meeting. Meetings generally treat Friends sojourning among them as members, but notify their home meeting when they leave the area. A home meeting drops a transferring member from its rolls when it receives confirmation that the new meeting has received him or her into membership.

Both members and persons interested in Friends sometimes live too far away from a meeting to attend regularly. The mere fact of living at a distance from one's meeting does not alter membership. Options for such persons include establishing a relationship with a meeting near enough to visit periodically, participation in Quarterly and Yearly Meetings and conferences of various kinds, and forming a small worship group with others of like mind in the area. Many of the monthly meetings of Illinois Yearly Meeting began in just this way.

Termination of Membership

A person may ask to be released from membership in the Society of Friends, and should do so if he or she feels strongly out of accord with the faith and practice of Friends. This request takes the form of a letter to the meeting which may be considered in the meeting's ministry and counsel committee (or its equivalent). When appropriate, a clearness committee may be appointed to meet with the individual. The final decision whether to release the member is made by the meeting for business. In extreme cases a meeting may initiate this process without a letter requesting release, particularly if the member behaves in a way which conveys a false and harmful impression of Friends to the public.

A more common reason for termination of membership is a long term disengagement from the meeting. Every effort should be made to contact the individual before releasing him or her from membership. Meetings should explore such situations with real tenderness, taking however much time is necessary. Real life circumstances are usually ambiguous and difficult to interpret. Friends may drift away until their lives show no evidence of interest in continued membership, yet feel reluctant to break with the past—perhaps for sentimental reasons, but perhaps from a deep, if dormant, sense of calling. Some distance themselves after a conflict in Meeting and never fully return; others find that they are led to put their energy exclusively into another spiri-

tual path, yet retain membership. Some Friends may need years to come to clarity about such issues. The underlying truth is often at least a little different from the explanations offered quickly and casually. Sometimes old wounds need to be healed before any real clearness is possible. There is much potential for hurt in inquiring into an inactive member's intentions—but there is also much potential for hurt in ignoring such situations.

When it becomes clear that someone no longer intends involvement with the Society of Friends, the integrity both of the meeting and of the former Friend will generally be best supported by releasing that person from membership. Friends recognize that faithful pursuit of God's leadings may engage us in outwardly different paths; ideally, a termination of membership can help the former member focus more clearly on the path to which he or she is actually led. The possibility of affectionate relationship with the meeting community, and with friends within it, is by no means terminated by such action.

- Queries adapted from *A Guide to Clearness Committees on Membership* by Lake Forest Monthly Meeting.

MINUTEBOOK INDEXING PROJECT (See Minute 15)

At the 2006 annual sessions, Illinois Yearly Meeting agreed to support my leading to take on the indexing of our minutes. Since that time, I have purchased a reference book that has given me a good foundation in the indexing process, for which I was reimbursed. I have also indexed the 2004-2007 minutes, copies of which are at the Clerk's table and available on the table along with Advance Documents and the daily minutes binders. I am attempting to index the current year as soon as I get them and then moving backwards as well so that the coverage continues to grow.

Without going into the gory details, I have moved from a Word document format to an Excel database this year which makes both inputting and searching easier. With the 2007 minutes, I added a notes column which I think will be useful. I am creating the vocabulary as I go along, and adding See and See Also references as the need becomes apparent. I have been asked about using a software program to search the minutes that are already in digital form, and that may at some point be useful. For the present, I find it instructive to do the work on 4x6 cards. It helps me get a better sense of what might give us the most benefit.

This very much a work in progress and I would appreciate input from Friends before I get too much further into the process. Right now, it would not be overwhelming to go back and change things, but that will change as the database becomes larger. Please take some time to look at the copies available and look up something or someone that interests you, and see if you can find it. That will give me the best feedback about the index's usefulness.

- Beth Schobernd

MEMORIALS

ALFRED CAMPBELL AMES

1916-2007

Alfred Campbell Ames, 91, on August 27, 2007, in Ft. Myers, Florida, of complications from abdominal surgery. Alfred Ames was born July 21, 1916, in Spokane, Washington, the only child of a Congregational pastor and an instructor at the local teachers' college. They lived in Beverly, Kansas, during Alfred's high school years. With a scholarship to the University of Kansas, Alfred received the B.A. degree in English in 1936. While an assistant instructor at the University of Illinois in Urbana, he earned his master's degree in 1937 and his Ph.D. in English in 1942.

Alfred became a pacifist in college while writing an essay, "Christian Attitudes Toward War." The essay won first prize in Kansas University's Essay Contest in Applied Christianity. Upon moving to Urbana, he became a non-resident member of 57th Street Friends in Chicago. He also participated in Urbana Meeting after it was formed. Not being what he considered "an absolutist pacifist," he registered with the Selective Service in 1942. However, a 4-F classification for nearsightedness let him continue his academic career throughout World War II.

Alfred credited Walter Hendricks, a 57th Street Friend, for his appointment to the faculty of the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1944. Moving north to Evanston, he became a member of Evanston Monthly Meeting. He met Eleanor (Nell) Holliday at the 1949 annual conference of the British Fellowship of Reconciliation; they married at Evanston Friends Meeting in 1951. They had no children but kept a flat in England and visited her relatives nearly every year. Alfred served a long tenure as clerk of Evanston Meeting while it was affiliated solely with Western Yearly Meeting and FUM. He is remembered as a strong personality in the Monthly Meeting's history.

In 1951, Frederic Babcock of Downers Grove Meeting recruited Alfred to be his associate on the staff of the Chicago Tribune's Magazine of Books, a position that allowed him to continue teaching fulltime. Five years later, Alfred joined the Tribune's editorial board. He continued part-time teaching at Northwestern's School of Journalism.

Professionally, Alfred Ames was recognized for his favorable review in 1972 of "All Creatures Great and Small" by James Herriot (a.k.a. veterinarian James Alfred Wight). The best-selling author never failed to give Alfred credit for his success, and the two maintained a correspondence until Wight's death in 1995. About six weeks before his own death, Alfred donated his collection of their letters to the James Herriot Museum in England.

In the 1980s, Alfred and Nell Ames retired to Shell Point Village at Ft. Myers, Florida, where she died in 1992. In the fall of 1993, he married Violet Mostoller, a retired librarian whom he met at the retirement community. Alfred retained his membership and active interest in Evanston Friends, often writing letters to members to express his opinions about issues facing the Meeting. Violet is his only immediate survivor.

CHRISTINE OKIE BRUDER

Christine Okie was born on April 29, 1913 in the Philadelphia suburb of Berwyn, Pennsylvania. Education was highly valued in her family: Christine's father was a lawyer and a grandfather and uncle were doctors. Christine was taught at home until she was in the third grade. After that she attended a Friends school in the Philadelphia area. She loved to read and as a young child her favorite book, re-read often, was *A Secret Garden*. Christine loved poetry and wrote short poems to accompany gifts she gave her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each poem was a clue to the gift inside.

After high school Christine attended Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa. She valued her education there and supported the work of the college throughout her life. She was particularly pleased when the college initiated a program to help single mothers. She enthusiastically endorsed the Women With Children program, which provides on-campus residential housing year-round to single mothers and their children so that the mother can pursue a bachelor's degree full-time.

After college she began working for the newly formed Social Security Administration. One of her employees was a tall, good-looking young man from Philadelphia, Ed Bruder. Since it would be improper for Christine to supervise a person with whom she was developing a romantic relationship, her supervisor thoughtfully transferred her to a different division so the courtship could continue. Christine and Ed were married in Texas, where Ed was transferred to work for the Border Patrol. He continued to work in government administration throughout his career. While he was helping to settle orphaned children in Germany after WWII, he realized that a pair of 5 1/2 year-old boys needed the care and love that he and Christine could provide. The youngsters flourished and Christine would often remark at her good fortune to have so many grand-children and great-grand children.

Ed was transferred several times during his career. In addition to Pennsylvania they lived in Texas, New York, Washington, Arizona, and Illinois, where they joined Downers Grove Friends Meeting. After actively supporting open housing in the Chicago area, the Bruders retired near Phoenix and were active in the meeting there. They decided to build a solar home—very innovative for the time. As Ed's health began to fail, they returned to Illinois to live near their sons, Ted and Charles. After Ed's death, Christine continued to live near her sons and their families in Bolingbrook—until a house fire in 2006 forced her to move. She lived with her son Charles and her large extended family cared for her until her death on April 16, 2008.

At the memorial meeting held at Downers Grove Meeting on May 18, 2008, family and Friends recalled Christine's serene presence at family events and faithful attendance at meetings for worship and business. She was an integral part of the weekly discussion group at DGFM on the "Psychology and Spirituality of Aging." Her wise counsel will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

BERNICE COURTEOL

October 26, 1910 - December 11, 2007

Bernice (Bernie) Courteol was an early, very active, and devoted member of Lake Forest Meeting. Along with her husband Paul, she served the Meeting for many years as co-clerk. Her death occurred in Sacramento, California, where she had lived for many years.

As a ninth generation Philadelphia Quaker, Bernie participated in Quaker Meetings throughout her life, beginning in Philadelphia with her parents, Nellie and Norman Zimmerman. Bernie and future husband Paul Courteol met at George School and they married in 1933 after Paul's graduation from Lafayette College. Paul and Bernie spent most of their married life in the Chicago area. As members of Lake Forest Meeting in the early years before the Meetinghouse was built, they were directly involved in the planning and detail work of the member-inspired home in the woods.

Minute bits of Quakerly "contention" inspired by this building were remembered fondly by Bernie in a note sent to the Meeting on occasion of its 50th anniversary celebration a few years ago. With a twinkle shining through her written account, she spoke of the weeks of Friendly quibbling over the long-term value of tan versus green carpeting, before consensus could be reached.

Over the years Bernie practiced Quaker social action through silent vigils for peace, involvement in the Civil Rights movement, and serving as draft counselor for conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. Her extensive Quaker library has been donated to Earlham College. She was a long-term volunteer at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, where she became a certified EKG technician. Bernie was also active in the League of Women Voters in both Illinois and Sacramento.

In the Meeting community, Bernie was particularly warm and caring toward members and attenders, generously providing home-baked delicacies and friendly visits at important junctures in their lives.

Following retirement, Paul and Bernie moved to Georgia in 1977 and then to California in 1986.

Bernie is survived by two daughters, Ouida Parker of Soldotna, AK, Mary Kasch of Sacramento, CA, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Her husband, Paul, and two infants, Paul Junior and Caroline, preceded her in death. An early June memorial service was planned at Lake Forest Friends Meeting. Paul and Bernie's ashes were then commingled and spread at Lake Forest Friends Meetinghouse grounds.

- submitted by Barbara Fuhrmann

ALTON A. EARNHART

December 29, 1923 - March 25, 2008

Alton A. Earnhart, a longtime member of Evanston Friends Meeting, died on Tuesday, March 25, at his home in Porter, Indiana.

Alton maintained his membership in EFM, where he served as a loyal Pastoral Secretary from 1958 to 1960. Alton was known for his kindness and soft-spoken manner toward all members under his care during those years. He visited everyone in the meeting several times and worked with Young Friends, plus taking care of the meeting's office work. He later attended 57th Street Meeting as well as starting a worship group along with his wife in their home in Indiana. This group later became the Duneland Friends Meeting.

During a peace march on Easter weekend in 1960 which took Friends and others from Great Lakes Naval Training Station to Roosevelt University, he met and walked with a lovely young woman named Ellida Ryan, a student at the University of Chicago Graduate School. They fell in love and married the following year in Evans-

ton's Unitarian Church. Alton and Ellida raised two children, Ruth and Ryan. Ellida died at a relatively young age, and Alton and his daughter Ruth shared a home until his death at the age of 84.

Having attended Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, in 1941-42, he was then drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1944, after which he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University in 1949. In 1954, he took a sojourning membership in Miami Monthly Meeting, Ohio. From 1956-58, he attended Wilmington College in Ohio while he was teaching in Carlisle School, Carlisle, Ohio.

Alton lived a life of service, while maintaining his love for gardening and farming. He was employed by Paulding County, Ohio, Farm Bureau from 1949-51. He worked for Retarded Children's Aid at Hull House in Chicago from 1961-62, and with the Association for Merit Employment in Indianapolis from 1962-66. From 1966-85, he was employed at Bethlehem Steel in Chesterton, Indiana. He and Ellida and the children hosted the 1976 Continental Peace Walk.

Alton is survived by his daughter Ruth Earnhart of Porter, Indiana, his son, Ryan Earnhart (Christine), a granddaughter Rachel of Hopewell Jct., New York, a brother, Earl Earnhart (Janette) of Oregonia, Ohio, (Alton's birthplace) and long time friend Dan Smith, of Muncie, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his brother, LaMar (Marion) Earnhart of Xenia, Ohio.

A memorial service is planned for May 17, 1 PM at Barker House, 444 Barker Road in Michigan City, Indiana. Memorials may be directed to The American Friends Service Committee (Peace Building Program) at 637 South Dearborn St., Suite 3, Chicago, IL 60605, Save the Dunes Council, 444 Barker Road in Michigan City, IN 46360, or the VNA Horton Hospice Center, 501 Marquette Street, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.

Alton will long be remembered by the old timers within Evanston Meeting as a dearly loved, tender, and hard working young man with a kindly soul who gave his all to the meeting. He was greatly missed when he left Evanston.

- prepared by Virginia Laughlin

ELIZABETH T. HENDERSON

Elizabeth T. Henderson was born September 15, 1918 in Sadorus, Illinois, to Harold and Elizabeth (Schriber) Thrall. On March 6, 1942, she married Ronald A. Henderson, who preceded her in death on July 12, 2002. They shared 59 years together. She died at 89 years of age in LaPorte, Indiana. She spent the past year with her son Harold, who tended to her at the end of her life.

Elizabeth graduated from medical school at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1943. She practiced as a physician for 6 years at Pine Mountain Settlement School in Karlan County, Kentucky, where she cared for patients in very remote rural areas. She and her family moved to Farmington, Illinois, after her second child was born and her husband became a math teacher at the local high school. She practiced medicine for years in the Farmington area—often seeing patients in her living room—to care for those in need. She retired in 1989.

Elizabeth was a longtime member of Peoria-Galesburg Friends Meeting. She was a quiet and humble presence among us. She enjoyed gardening, camping, peace activism, and was an avid reader. She raised three daughters and two sons and loved her family.

TEDFORD LEWIS

Tedford Pierce Lewis, a lifelong resident of Webster Groves, Missouri, passed from this world on November 20, 2007. He lived life fully and died gracefully with family gathered and holding him in the Light as he journeyed onward.

Tedford was a lover of humanity and a world traveler. He took great pleasure in life's simple beauties, thrived on problem solving and found joy in his many roles as husband, father, businessman, laborer, and fearless fighter for peace and justice.

Youngest of three boys, Tedford was born March 1, 1919, at the home of his parents, Charles and Emily. Happy innocence ended when Tedford contracted scarlet fever at age 6; his mother nurtured him through a long convalescence, but she died suddenly the following year. Housekeepers and cooks were replaced in 1930 when Charles married Emily's sister, and Aunt Helen became Mother.

Elementary and high schools were in healthy walking distance and the neighborhood supplied friends and good adventures. The family struggled to make ends meet during the long Depression and Tedford's entrepreneurial spirit evolved as his father devised ways for everyone to help out. Tedford and his brothers kept 100-plus chickens in the back yard and a little red wagon was Tedford's egg delivery vehicle. While teenagers in the 1930's, the Lewis boys created and ran Camp Eagle. This was a community camp where Ted and his brother Leonard devised whole summers of traditional crafts and games and outdoor activities for children. Throughout his life Tedford loved organizing good-time gatherings!

Congregational church was a town-center edifice and the family attended regularly. Tedford's formal education continued at Grinnell College and Washington University.

Mother Helen was an intellectual academic turned mom, Charles was pragmatic, and the boys were encouraged to think with a wide-world view on life. Tedford and his older brother both became conscientious objectors when drafted in WWII. Tedford performed civilian public service at a mental institution in Montana. The CPS Smokejumpers continued as an active political group and Tedford helped coordinate many special reunions – the latest in 2006.

After CPS, Tedford's life was unsettled and his thirst for adventure took him to a teaching position at the American University of Beirut. While leading a student group in southern Lebanon, he was by chance present and able to offer assistance to the first Palestinian refugees of 1948. This experience—along with friendships and appreciation of Arabic culture gained in travels through the Middle East and Balkan countries—galvanized Tedford's lifelong concern for this region and its peoples.

Returning home, Tedford established a small construction business and began building houses. He married Margaret Warner in 1952, beginning 55 years of loving companionship and a family of 5 children. Life got busy. The young family moved into a very old house, beginning a lifelong renovation project and creating a home that provided welcome and shelter for many folks. In their early married years, Tedford and Margaret were also leaders in international peace organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, War Resisters League, and Fellowship of Reconciliation.

In the mid 1960's Ted and Margie packed up the family and headed to Micronesia, where Tedford designed and supervised construction of a high school on Moen Island (Truk.) Following this, the family continued backpack-adventuring round the

globe – Japan through SE Asia, India and the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy; arriving home two years later.

Back home, back at work, two more babies (plus 3 near teenagers), real estate management, and the politics of the late 1960's made life fuller than full. Tedford added just a little bit more to make sure he started each day with a long list. Family was a big priority and Tedford gave (almost unconditional) encouragement for whatever his children dreamed up next. He showed his love in many wonderful ways.

In the late 1970's Tedford and Margaret explored new religious territory with the Society of Friends. The St. Louis Meeting provided loving support and spiritual direction for many years. Tedford also became keenly active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Tedford was a self-made man who used his business success to support his beliefs. He was founder of the World Community Center and lent generous support to causes that helped refugees and disadvantaged people. Tedford was active in many local organizations promoting peace and social justice. He was a member of the Business Executives Move for Peace in Vietnam, and a leader in the movement that ended that war. He continued nonviolent opposition to America's wars of empire until the end of his life.

His memory is cherished by his wife, Margaret, children, Stephen, Lannie, Tedford, Jr., Christopher and Erica and five (soon six!) grandchildren. We are inspired to continue his work for a better world.

DONALD E. NELSON

Don Nelson was born March 5, 1917, was raised in a Lutheran family and lived in the McNabb area all of his life. He married Helen Jean Mills on November 24, 1938. He and their four children (Carol, Donald, Kitty, and Ruthann) joined Clear Creek Quaker Meeting in May 1951. As he has said, it was probably better for him to be adopted into the Quaker organization than to not go at all.

He worked in the poultry business most of his life, getting started when he bought Millway Hatchery from his father-in-law, Turner Mills. He expanded into the livestock feed division and built or bought five elevator feed mills. He also started an advertising specialty distributorship in 1956, which his daughter, Kitty Irvin, later took over.

He was active in the community, in Grange, school activities, in Rotary, and was one of the founding members of the Edgewood Golf Course.

Within the Quaker community, when introductions were made after Meeting for Worship, Don is remembered as saying he was Helen Jean's husband. When yearly meeting had their meals in the old dining hall (now Junior Yearly Meetinghouse) he was one of the adults who helped to wait on tables. In more recent years, he was on the Cemetery Committee. He supported Helen Jean's work with the Quakers and we feel he really became more involved and dedicated in his later years as his health was declining.

Some of his favorite Quaker memories were the times he and Helen Jean hosted guests in their home during IYM. They also invited Clear Creek to meet in their home in the winter. During the last 10 years he was instrumental in bringing Helen Jean to Meeting, which required some amount of assistance since she was often in a wheel chair. In the last 15 months when he was without Helen Jean's presence he enjoyed visiting with Clear Creek Friends over potluck or coffee hour. Often he

spoke in Meeting about how much he missed her. Both his and Helen Jean's presence are still felt through the visits and participation of their daughters, their grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Don died November 28, 2007 at the age of 90. At his memorial service, the following was read, "...you raised a good family and you supported your community. Both will miss you beyond words."

ELDORA SPIEGELBERG

Eldora Spiegelberg was a member of St. Louis Friends Meeting for more than 40 years. She challenged us to live the Quaker Testimonies and was forever calling us to be our best selves. Whether she was challenging our First Day Schoolers to learn the 23rd Psalm (and giving them a dollar for doing so), serving on the local American Friends Service Committee or passionately leading the Alternatives to Violence Project, it seemed her energy and optimism were boundless. Friends, strangers and ex-prisoners all found a warm welcome around her table and in her home. Beneath the warmth was a fierce dedication to social justice and utter fearlessness in undertaking her work. In her late 70's she was arrested for trespassing on a military base during the build up to the first Gulf War. She founded and oversaw an annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance. Eldora was dedicated to ecumenical cooperation and led interfaith vigils at the site of murders in the city. She also represented Friends with the St. Louis interfaith partnership and was chosen by them to meet Pope John Paul II when he visited the city. Illinois Yearly Meeting recognized Eldora's many spiritual gifts when it invited her to give her 1991 Plummer Lecture "Walk Cheerfully Over All the Earth."

Eldora was devoted to her family – her husband Herbert Speigelberg, who passed away in 1990, her daughters Lynne Morgan and Gwen Butler, who died in 1995, and her three grandchildren. Eldora loved music, art and reading. Even after her stroke robbed her of many of her abilities, she could still sing harmony and impressed us with a deep sense of her grounding in the Spirit. We miss her.

LORENA JEANNE TINKER

Lorena Jeanne Tinker, born December 3, 1921, devoted many of her 86 years to trying to help those in her own large family as well as the countless others in the world beset by poverty and war.

Over the years, she attended and taught at a remarkable range of institutions -- primarily on social justice issues in the psychology and peace studies areas. Working with her husband during the years he served as a Methodist minister in Iowa, she became a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the early 1960s when Leonard became a staff member of the American Friends Service Committee.

Moving to Fayette in 1991, she became active in the Columbia Friends Meeting (a 1 1/2-hour round trip from Fayette). Although some in Meeting had known Lorena Jeanne before, it was at this point that most of us started to appreciate her concerns for those in the world who were in such desperate need, and her dedication to the peace testimony of the Society of Friends.

Out of the silence of our Meeting for Worship, she sometimes spoke of her feelings from a religious perspective and then suggested an obligation for action on the part of herself and our Meeting. For Lorena Jeanne, action was a necessity. We saw it best during the tragic wars in Afghanistan and Iraq when she worked with existing

peace groups in Columbia, participating in many of the vigils and demonstrations despite her failing health. We saw it in her playing a lead role in starting new local peace groups.

Lorena Jeanne died at the home of her daughter, Hope Tinker, on February 28, 2008. We can remember her active life in the causes in which she believed.

We'll miss Lorena Jeanne Tinker.

- compiled by John Schuder and approved by Columbia Friends Meeting

STATES OF SOCIETY

CLEAR CREEK

The most memorable aspect of this year was the winter. Driving through snow, ice and unusually cold temperatures was more difficult than before. We gathered. Despite the long walk to the bathroom which is across the road in the Meeting House. Despite the cold Clear Creek room where we have been meeting with the aid of a portable heater. Still we gathered.

On the day of Don Nelson's funeral ice had formed in layers on roads all across Illinois. Some of it was deceptively invisible until you felt the sudden slip of car wheels. His funeral was still well attended by family and local friends.

The Nelson family once again invited Clear Creek to hold our winter meetings within their home. So for a few Sundays we gathered in this home on Quaker Lane.

Our personal service projects continued under the dormant, grey winter skies. Grayce and Neil Mesner continued to visit two prisons bringing comfort and friendship to inmates. Carol Bartles gathered insights from her last year of working with AFSC. She has been working with an IYM group to remove barriers and improve accessibility to the Meeting House grounds. Rachel Mershon accompanied another group trip to Mississippi to rebuild houses in the devastated areas left by Katrina. Jeannie Marvin re-joined the volunteer hospice program at her local community hospital. Dick Ashdown faithfully did his best to provide heat in the Clear Creek room so that our meetings were more comfortable. Bob Bartles wrote a business plan for the IYM Development Committee for the new building. Todd Kuzma and Neil Mesner encouraged us not to give up on our adult education program. We began reading from a study guide, "Exploring Quakerism" by Marsha D. Holliday, which has provided lively discussions.

Jim and Elizabeth Bumgarner returned early from Florida this year. A few of our lively discussions have taken place in their home and it has been a joy to be with them.

A bright spot during our winter was Andrew Bartles', son of Carol and Bob Bartles, request for membership. Over the years we have witnessed his daring travels to far-flung places around the world and his natural ability to communicate and assimilate into different cultures. This year Andrew graduates from Beloit College and we look forward to more of his visits with us. Ruth Raffensperger is also at Beloit College and she has formed a student Quaker group on campus. She is finding more unity in her life this year.

Diane and Mike Dennis led Youth Quakes with our IYM teenagers and developed a service project with young friends from Clear Creek. They painted tee shirts to earn the money to donate to help the AGLI Friends Peace Team program in Africa.

Beth Schobernd became our new clerk of Meeting. We agreed as a Meeting to a two-year term for clerks with a co-clerk to help.

We entered into spring with a common feeling and decision. Clear Creek Meeting must have a warmer place to worship, preferably with a convenient access to a bathroom. We expressed our collective frustration in a minute which we presented to the proper channels and resolved to work with IYM to find a solution.

Spring has come as a most welcome relief. On April 5, 2008, members of IYM gathered at the Meeting House to plant new trees. We look forward to resuming meeting within the main building and welcoming IYM home.

COLUMBIA

To assess the State of our Society for the period ending in Spring of 2008, Meeting collectively addressed 4 sets of queries, finding it a worthwhile exercise.

I. *Worship: the basis of our Life Together.* Friends generally found our silent, waiting worship to be fulfilling: drawing us closer together as we attend to our Divine Center. “It is working!”

When we gather in worship to attend to the business of the Meeting, we now find much greater regular participation, sharing both in decisions and implementation. Many attributed this to our Spiritual Life & Nurture Committee’s work in helping us think about worship and practice its disciplines. Some decisions became clear only after years of dwelling with challenging issues: we found God’s Presence guiding us as we used the loving skills of outside Friends provided through ILYM’s Ministry and Advancement.

II. *Our organizational life.* Almost everyone finds a way to participate in meeting the needs of the Meeting: property, finances, refreshments, work with children, newsletter and committee work. We haven’t always let our needs be known, but Friends welcomed that we’ve started sending an annual fund appeal letter. The donor base has broadened. We’ve noted increased familiarity with and use of good Quaker Process.

III. *Our life as a Community of Friends.* We ask ourselves, “What hard matters have we worked through this year, and what have we learned?” We have experienced the culmination of a full year of deliberate, carefully-structured work involving retreats and small groups. These addressed what we had identified as difficulty in using candor and dealing directly with one another. In these exercises we worked on building trust and respect and expanded our listening, sharing, and community building skills, increasing our capacity both to express ourselves and to hear others. Several recent crises and long-standing challenges led us to bring in Janet Means Underhill and Margaret Katranides, who launched us on and then helped us finish a process on which we’d been stuck for years. Meticulous organization and work for maximum participation helped most everyone feel part of our resolution of issues, which we didn’t take up again as business until we were spiritually prepared. A genuine experience of God’s transformative power helped us move ahead as a united Meeting with tenderness and greater awareness of each other. We then laid down our special joint planning group, after Meeting approved a minute stating our intentions of being welcoming to all and being open to taking under our care all who wish to be married and who have met all of the requirements of our Quaker process.

Newcomers have testified to finding a loving new church home, which one described as “life-changing.” Our Gifts and Leadings Committee has used a prayerful nominating process to help everyone feel part of the life of the Meeting.

Last year we reported having a new family with 3 children and our joy in reviving a First Day School Committee. This continues, with addition of another family with 3 young children, and shared participation in work with all of them on a regular basis. Having children among us again has helped us come together as a Meeting. Spiritual Life and Nurture organized the adult religious education “Meeting for Learning” hour, to good effect.

Our connection with Quakers beyond this Meeting has been spotty. Through a limited number of Friends we participate in our Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, but the experience is not widely shared, perhaps because of our more remote location.

However, numerous Friends express interest in worshipping among other local Friends groups. This past year we've seen contacts open up with 2 different unofficial worship groups about an hour away, to the delight of those who have participated. We realized the closeness of our bond with Quakers in Fayette when we jointly planned memorial observances for our beloved Lorena Jeanne Tinker.

In our membership statistics, we increased by one, as Jeff Brittell's membership became official. He joins us from another town when possible, and happily was part of forming this report.

IV. *Our participation in the larger communities around us.* We are pleased that Friends are involved through non-Quaker' groups in work for peace and justice and relief of suffering, multiplying our own witness. A partial listing includes Fellowship of Reconciliation, Alternatives to Violence, Columbia Peace Coalition, Voluntary Action Center, Food Pantry, and CROP Walk. Our contacts through the Interfaith Council and Church Women United, and our support of the local Catholic Worker program also are meaningful. A weekly vigil at the Post Office against militarism is approaching its 30th year, founded by the Friend who is invariably there.

It is good to realize that we are not entirely focused on ourselves. We also rejoice to hear of the work done by young adult Friends who grew up among us, embodying values that we share deeply together. We continue to ask ourselves, throughout the year, "What does the Lord require of thee?" and open ourselves to being led by The Light.

DOWNERS GROVE

During our most recent year, we welcomed several new members: Laura Hans, Sara Sainsbury and Susan Gilmore; the latter membership was transferred from the Mountain View Meeting in Denver. Attendance at First Day worship crept up to about 40 persons (though some 30 in the summer) as a number of new attenders have regularly joined us, including: Peter Poshepny, Sally Remington, Jan Mullen, Cheryl Whitesel, Tom Fairbank, Dorian Hadley, Sung Jin and Mae Lee, Forrest Johnson, and Paulina Bartnik. In October, Tom Fairbank's request for membership was approved and plans for a welcoming event are underway.

On the membership loss side: the McMahon family of Jeffrey, Liisa, Mitchell and McKayla moved due to Jeff's new job in Florida; Barbara and Joseph Matt moved in retirement to Davenport, Iowa; and Laura Hans moved to Evanston Friends Meeting following her marriage to Martin Zelder.

Friends celebrated the long life of Pauline Forsythe as the bulbs planted in her memory flowered in the spring. Pauline's family were back with us on September 1 as her son, Mark, was remembered in a memorial service. Despite the past 16 years of his profound disability, Mark clearly touched many lives in his hometown. On August 21, Joe Matt was remembered as his family and Friends gathered at graveside services in Naperville.

In addition to First Day worship, the Meeting's regular activities included: (1) hymn singing before First Day worship; (2) a twice monthly Adult Religious Education group studying Quaker and other religious spiritual materials; (3) a Bible study group, also twice monthly; (4) a monthly Meeting for healing; (5) A children's educational program held at the same time as adult worship; (6) significant activity on behalf of Friends in Need; (7) leadership of our clerks and many Friends' participation in a wide variety of Meeting upkeep work.

Especially busy this year was the Peace, Environmental and Social Concerns (Outreach) Committee, which planned and put on a Sustainable Living Fair held on the campus of the College of DuPage on a very warm, sunny day in June. Our Meeting was joined by several other interested organizations in the area.

The New Meetinghouse Committee has also been very busy. After about ten years of planning and work, we are nearing our goal of a new, accessible home. A called Meeting has settled the final details and the architects and the builder, working together, should finish working specifications shortly after this writing. We expect to have the new building up and running, perhaps as soon as early 2008.

DUNELAND

Jesus taught that love was the highest virtue just as God's first motion was an act of love. The love we seek, the love we find, and the love we share, is that of a family, unconditional and enduring. We are a small Meeting and in our small way Duneland Friends seek to learn the way of peace and hold it up as a beacon to our children. We've grown in the way of peace through living it with one another, both in adversity and in good times. We have learned to deal honestly with one another and trust in that *Love* which binds us together. Virtues learned in families can be enduring throughout life.

Our worship has most often been silent, though Spirit-led messages have been spoken into the stillness from time to time. Friends not likely to speak out of the silence find opportunities to share at the end of worship when Friends are invited to share joys, prayers, or spiritual concerns.

Both worship and fellowship have been enriched by the presence of three new attenders (Matt Channing, Rob Albrecht-Mallinger and Matt Berg). We miss them when they are absent but are glad to know they will return. As a worship family, we care deeply for the children among us. So much so that young Friends remain in worship with us: Faith Badgley (age 2), Ethan Cobb (age 3), and Daniel Freire (age 4). While the occasional noise and movement might distract some Friends, we see their participation as godly play and setting the foundation for later centered contemplative worship. We continued First Day School for Daniel this year. Emily Pavlovic continues to occasionally attend Meeting and has commenced to work on the Friends in Scouting "*Spirit of Truth*" program. She has experienced the large IYM high school Friends as her larger family by participating in the Quakes throughout the year. We purchased subscriptions to *Friends Journal* for Nathan Pavlovic and Ashlee Miller-Berry who are respectively attending Grinnell College and Illinois Wesleyan.

For a long time we have sought divine guidance as to how to serve the local community. While one Friend who is interested in doing local service was searching out possibilities, another Friend strongly suggested the perfect service project, one not requiring much physical activity while meeting a tangible need: providing material needs (linens, over-the-counter medicines, toiletries, fruit juice, toys, and more) for the expanded homeless shelter run by Christian Community Action. Regular communication will allow us to help meet their needs throughout the year. Presenting a worship service to the Unity Church in Valparaiso was another form of service to the larger community. Though numerically small, we continue to support Illinois Yearly Meeting through service and committee participation throughout the year as well as during the summer sessions: Roxy on Ministry and Advancement, Sandy on

Finance, Marlou in Religious Education, Sarah on Youth Oversight and Environmental Concerns and Noel on Environmental Concerns.

Just like families we are spread out geographically; consequently we have had occasional worship and potluck at the homes of Heidi Badgley and Fernando and Priscila Freire besides the regular homes. We hope that our Quaker spiritual family, just as your biological families find love and inspiration. We pray that our spirit and love-led actions witness to our human family in these times of economic, military, and ecological earth peril.

EVANSTON

“Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.”

Isaac Pennington, 1667

Greetings to Friends everywhere from all who worship, learn and grow in the community of the Evanston Friends Meeting.

Spiritual Nurture - Our Meeting for Worship remains the center of our life together. Most First Days 60-80 of us gather to open our spirits and hearts to the presence of the Divine. We are a fairly consistent group of members and attenders, enriched almost every week by several visitors. We joyfully welcomed seven new members in 2007: Dana Des Jardins, Carol Moschandreas, Jason Orloff, Mary Theis, Sue Tursman, Danielle Schultz, and Paul Barker.

We have found that our familiar practice of admitting late-comers only when our children leave after about 20 minutes enhances our ability to center down. We continue in our practice of inviting prayers of concern or gratitude during the final five minutes or so of Meeting for Worship, finding that this opens us to one another in deep ways. We discontinued our experiment of inviting “afterthoughts” just before the rise of meeting as we seemed unable to find the right words for this kind of participation. Vocal ministry is often deeply offered among us while we work to find ways to help us all understand its role in our community worship.

We renamed our “Second Hour,” now calling it our “Meeting for Learning.” With that change some have noted their expectations for becoming engaged have increased. Our practice of sharing spiritual journeys one First Day each month continues to be rich in building bonds among us as well as in revealing ways to grow in our own lives. This year, as an experiment, we have had panels of members and attenders share how specific life circumstances (illness, parenting, etc.) have drawn from and contributed to their spiritual journeys. The willingness of participants to share openly and honestly has been a gift to us all.

First Day School offers opportunities for learning and growth for our children and youth, as well as for the adults who serve as teachers. We have had classes for children in three age groups during the past year—lower elementary, upper elementary and middle school. We appreciate those who faithfully work with the children, but have struggled to find enough teachers and curriculum with which we are comfortable.

Approximately one quarter of our meeting’s members and attenders now participate in small spiritual development groups. Most of the four groups meet monthly in homes or at the Meeting House for disciplined worship, sharing, and discussion. Our

traditional silent retreat at Lake Geneva in October deeply refreshed the 22 persons able to attend.

Service - Members and attenders continue to feel strong spiritual promptings to serve and to work for justice in their own communities and across the world. Examples of individual leadings range from interpreting for the deaf at the annual demonstrations against the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, GA, to extending hospital care to civilians in war-torn and AIDS-afflicted countries; from creating life-size puppets for peace demonstrations to networking with city officials who seek to end violence; from reaching out in musical performances to advocating solutions to global warming. Even without formal support committees, Friends have felt their personal leadings uplifted in prayer and encouraged in many informal ways.

Our annual yard sale again yielded \$1,000-plus donations for Right Sharing of World Resources and three other worthy organizations. By selling refreshments, our older elementary school children made a substantial donation to the Heifer Project. Our Friends of Latin America continue to fund higher education for two students in Guatemala. Each fourth First Day all Friends are invited to gather for a simple meal...soup, rice, and bread, and to contribute what they would spend if dining out to Right Sharing of World Resources.

Evanston Friends hosted a weekend for Adult Young Friends in addition to the annual Youth Quake for high schoolers from several states, and we were again invigorated by their presence. During 2007, a number of us had our hearts warmed and our vision enlarged at gatherings of Metropolitan and Yearly Meetings and FGC. Nevertheless, we struggle with the limitations of time and energy that prevent many of us, particularly young families, from participating in the wider community of Friends.

We were delighted to record Madelyn George of our meeting as a conscientious objector.

Knowing One Another in That which is Eternal - To grow together as well as to “bear with one another,” we must know one another. We have developed a variety of occasions and traditions to help that happen.

- We try to remember to wear name tags on First Day mornings.
- We celebrate birthdays each month with cake and song following Meeting for Worship.
- We brought Christmas caroling to the homes of four of our older members and attenders in December.
- We have breakfasts on the first First Day morning and potluck on the second each month.
- We have “friendly dinner” groups that gather regularly.
- Our young adults often enjoy informal fellowship together.
- Video nights are held at the meeting house two times a month.
- We work on things together...the yard sale, yard clean up, and various hosting events.

And so our year has gone, rich in retrospect with connections with God and one another. We are grateful to all whose presence has brought the meeting with them for our many gatherings, celebrations, and worship.

Our prayer is that with steadfast faithfulness to worship, discernment, and service, God’s amazing work in the world may be done by us all.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

Last year we felt a renewed energy dawning in our midst. This continues as many of our hopes and desires come into fruition. The work of dealing tenderly with conflict and struggles within the Meeting gives us a deeper awareness of our commitment to the Meeting and its members. Past years' work has prepared ground for deeper spirituality and sharing. Growth has been deep and broad. Last year's visioning retreat led to the nurturing of a Visioning Committee, and arising independently though very much with its support, a movement to bring Quaker Volunteer Service to 57th Street, with help of Friends in surrounding communities. Both efforts have given 57th Street Meeting's future solid footing.

Quakerism 101's series of readings and talks was again led in the fall, well attended by meeting members, attenders, and community members. In November, our annual Fall Retreat hosted Dawn Rubbert from St. Louis Monthly Meeting and David Finke of Columbia Meeting for IYM Peace Resources Committee's Peace Testimony Workshop. We learned more about each other while exploring the Friends' peace testimony. Individual peace testimonies were authored and shared. Now we begin a more focused and experiential program of spiritual formation, attended by individuals working together on spiritually deepening experiences – disciplined readings and meditation. A weekly Meeting for Worship with Concern for Healing has begun. In searching for ways to deepen our Meeting for Worship, a few Friends have begun gathering under the leadership of Visioning Committee to establish worship a half-hour before Meeting for Worship formally begins and we have been hosting a rich worship sharing experience prior to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business each month.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee continues to participate in community organizations and events, including the Hyde Park-Kenwood Interfaith Council, National Religious Coalition Against Torture, Chicago's Bud Billiken Parade, a showing of "The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib," and the displaying of a "Torture is Wrong" banner from the meeting house to be discussed by the neighborhood community.

The Meeting's First Day School has thrived with the regular attendance of 3 members, 4 attending children, and the supervision of a childcare worker. Our oldest young Friend now assists our children aged 1 to 4. We cherish and nourish this group and, to bring them into our community, hold a well-attended monthly intergenerational pancake breakfast and worship. This year the children read *Benjamin the Meeting House Mouse*, which helped ground more seasoned Friends in Quaker practice as it introduced new young Friends to Quakerism. This book along with crafts, puppets, plays, and the gift of music and song were our First Day School program. For older Friends, the monthly Quaker Thought sessions (working through Barclay's *Apology*) continue to be well attended and relished.

Work on the Meeting House and its grounds continue. The basement, cleaned and painted, serves as a fellowship hall for snack, potluck, and other gatherings. A new play structure in the yard is to be erected. The upstairs library is organized and catalogued, and the Library Committee now prepares to provide a rotating collection of topical readings in the meeting room.

Our committee structure, reinstated a few years ago, is working. We have 16 resident adult members and 21 regular adult attenders (either members elsewhere or still seeking). These 37 serve on committees and in leadership. Most First Days we have casual attenders and visitors joining us, with a total of 2 to 3 dozen gathered for

worship. Though challenged by the modest size of our Meeting and the scope of our responsibilities and dreams, the past year has seen maturation, new growth, and movement forward with humility and joy!

LAKE FOREST

Lake Forest Friends Meeting has been seeking to move more deeply in growth with The Spirit toward understanding and responding to the concerns of our community and individuals. We conducted a listening project on finances which was designed to strengthen the community through a deeper level of communication, understanding and compassion by sharing with others in active listening. The queries were designed to encourage participants to express the spiritual connections that underlie the variety of contributions given to the meeting. The responses have been tallied and are in the process of being moved to the appropriate committees for further consideration.

In recognition of what seems to be a growing trend at this time for individuals to have leadings that move them into conducting ministries outside the monthly meeting, an ad hoc committee to study supporting ministries under the care of Lake Forest Friends Meeting was formed. The committee prayerfully sought to examine loving ways to respond to individuals who feel The Spirit is leading them. The framework is built on the concept that the spiritual leading to serve will be strengthened and deepened by being under the care of the meeting and the mutual accountability that that provides. The meeting community provides nurturing companionship and prayerful support on one's spiritual journey. It is thought that both the meeting and the individual will share in growth in The Spirit as they walk this path together. After gathering together questions and concerns from the meeting for worship for business over three consecutive months, the revised document, *Ministries Under the Care of Lake Forest Friends Meeting*, was approved in March.

Meeting for Worship holds the core of our community. Silent meeting for worship moves from being in quiet to being in The Silence and gathers us together under the umbrella of Eternity. We become one. We are watered by spoken ministry when it is given by The Divine. We seek way to open for this to occur more frequently.

The life of the meeting is a flow over the design for life in this world.

- Two of our elder, beloved members have passed on this year. Bernice Courteol passed in California, December 11, 2007. A celebration of her life will be held at the Meeting House in June, 2008. Blanche Frey passed July 16, 2007. A Meeting for Remembrance was held during our joint Thanksgiving Meeting for Worship with Upper Fox Valley Monthly Meeting. It was a special happening.
- Cynthia Chuan Si Sewell was born April 6, 2006. She was adopted by Irene and Tim Sewell, July 30, 2007, and arrived home with her sister Jame, August 8, 2007. Braden Thomas Dudzinski was born on February 13, 2008, to Christine Domanik Dudzinski and husband Mark.
- Jason and Michelle Stacy transferred their membership to St. Louis Meeting in February 2008. Beth Tarter moved to Honolulu in February. A letter of introduction was sent to Honolulu Monthly Meeting. We miss each of these wonderful people and wish them well on their journeys.

- Courtney Smith and Dan Penn were married under the care of the meeting September 29, 2007.

The meeting retreat was well attended and held deep sharing of our spiritual journeys. We also had forums on QUIT (Quaker Initiative Against Torture), the FWCC Triennial in Ireland, one from AFSC on the high cost of war in Iraq, and a program about Play for Peace in India.

Our standing committees are in various states of reorganization. The efforts of time and talents given in service of the meeting are evidence of our members' and attenders' love for this community. It is wondrous to realize that the meeting moves forward with totally volunteer talent and commitment.

Our First Day School brings delight to the adults and way forward to the children and young people. We rejoice to have our young ones participating in the Meeting.

Over all there is a hum of activities designed to respond to the diversity of our members and attenders. Under all is the love of neighbor and worship held in The Light, in The Deep Place of The Divine.

- Janet Means Underhill

NORTHSIDE

Northside Friends Meeting has survived another year. Last year's State of Society report sounds like a long time ago, much to our pleasure and surprise. It's as though we've been through a storm, but now the rain is ending, the wind is calming and we are entering a new harbor. The trust issues of last year, while not completely resolved, are being worked through, and we are doing our work in a more Spirit-led way this year. In a number of ways we are relaxing our vigilance and trusting that Spirit has brought and will bring us through.

With two regular meetings for worship—on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening—and many special events, we continue to create space for worship in Friends' lives, and attract new attenders to the Society of Friends, here on the north side of Chicago. We also continue to hold a regular monthly Meeting for Worship for Healing, and have started a new Spiritual Support Group.

The settled quality of worship remains strong and nourishing to many Friends. We have less vocal ministry than before, but this may reflect our reduced numbers. We remain able to create a good space for worship even in a challenging environment. Sometimes it feels that the clock demands that we rise before the Spirit has quite let us go. Wednesday night worship feels intimate, and the fellowship afterwards is strong and sustaining.

Accepting ourselves as a smaller meeting, we have made changes to our committee structure, once again forming a Ministry and Counsel committee out of what were two committees. We are still seeking way forward on how a reduced committee structure can lead the meeting.

Even as a small meeting, we have achieved much in the form of improvements and outreach. Our finances are more stable, our Business Meetings more calm, and our fellowship has grown in surprising ways. Twice, we've gathered together to go to a local theater show. We now have a regular newsletter, and recently published a new directory, after a lapse of several years. A Friend even established a group for Northside on Facebook, a social networking site. Several Friends have made personal efforts to renew our relationship with the Japanese-American Service Commit-

tee, in whose building we meet. We have sent letters to our Meeting members and attenders requesting clarification regarding such matters as membership and financial contributions, and these prompted actions by many Friends. We even find that there is an abundance of food at rise of meeting, despite having no committee to oversee this!

Several Friends have concerns regarding retirement issues, and others are having to let go children as they grow into adulthood. Other Friends are now parenting young children. There are life shifts all around, and we have responded by having impromptu gatherings in Friends' homes, and forming a First Day Program with an established syllabus for the year. Our care of our children remains a fruitful growing edge for us.

Some of our reduction in numbers is due to withdrawals: one long-time active Friend withdrew his membership in the summer, and several others, whom we hadn't seen for many years, did as well. There have been significant losses for other reasons as well. Friend Tom Stabnicki's partner of nine years, Dan Majewski, died this past fall. He was remembered at a Memorial Meeting for Worship held by the Meeting at Tom's home.

Many Friends travel long distances to be with us, and we have a wide circle of Friends who only can worship with us occasionally but are strongly committed to the meeting. We are very aware of a wider Northside fellowship of Friends who have moved away but remain in close contact with us, often through our listserv and regular visits.

Last year, we focused on advancement issues, but have not yet been led to united action. However, Friends are more open and able now to reach out to others, and bring friends, partners, and business associates to Meeting for Worship.

Our connections to the wider Quaker fellowship stand out to us: members continue to be very present at IYM, a member has recently joined FGC's Central Committee, and we are a meeting well known to Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. This spring we look forward to hosting the Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee, a program committee of FGC Central Committee. These connections enrich us and lift our spirits.

Northside helped coordinate worship at an exhibit of Eyes Wide Open in downtown Chicago on Memorial Day, even adjourning our normal Sunday morning worship to Grant Park. Recently, we held a potluck and fundraiser for Friends in Kenya, something which came together quickly and smoothly for us, and the late spring we will hold our historic intergenerational picnic. Some Friends in Chicago are beginning to organize a Friends School for the city.

Our increased activity surprises and pleases us; we are following our Light to have way open before us into these activities. As a meeting, we're still seasoning advancement issues and reaching out into the community, especially as a smaller meeting, but we find that action in the world is most life-giving when it arises organically out of us. Our main activity is building a space where things can happen, rather than imposing a list of obligations.

Worship remains the centerpiece of our life together, and fun is still something we do well; there is often much laughter among us. We believe we are becoming more comfortable in who we are as a renewed community, and are grateful to the abiding Light for carrying us forward, comforting our hurts, and lifting our hearts.

OAK PARK

There seems to be a feeling of harmony in our Meeting this year. Our attendance is pretty stable. The Oversight and Peace & Justice Committees meet regularly and are well attended, and other committees meet when they feel led to. However, attendance at business meetings is lower. Long-time attender Elinor Fallert can no longer attend meetings due to health reasons, and we deeply miss her presence. There have been no new applicants for membership.

Because there are fewer at business meetings and fewer regular committee meetings, we struggle to meet the needs of our entire Meeting community. Although several have expressed an interest in renewing a ministry & worship committee, no one has volunteered to lead this effort. We are saddened that some have not found sufficient spiritual support to continue to attend regularly. Our meetings for worship are not always enriched by vocal ministry. We would like worshipers to come prepared with hearts and minds open to the still small voice within.

The Adult Religious Education programs are well attended, and have led to an exploration of how we do monthly queries. Along with the monthly potlucks and PADS dinner services, they have provided excellent opportunities for Friendly fellowship.

Our First Day School attendance has fluctuated a great deal this year. Some children who attended regularly in past years are now older and feel the need to separate from classes that are usually associated with younger children. However, the various sessions on care for animals and the environment seemed quite well received by those who attended. We also have had the blessing of families with babies coming occasionally, and have put a donated fold-up playpen to use.

Our Meeting publicly renewed our opposition to capital punishment this year with sending a letter to local newspapers and our elected State representatives. We also have engaged in activities to oppose the continuing violent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our Peace & Justice Committee is continuing a strong commitment to environmental issues, and has created various opportunities for the entire Meeting community to participate. They have also initiated a partnership with our landlords, the Oak Park Art League, to create a Peace Tower with artwork for an annual village festival. We believe that addressing environmental issues is critical to resolving violent conflicts rooted in resource allocation. If we all get used to thinking about how to use resources prudently and fairly in our own community, that will lead to living more peacefully and could have beneficial effects beyond our community.

OSHKOSH

Our Meeting is small and most of our members have familial responsibilities outside of it. This sometimes places stress upon our resources, both within and without the meeting. This year has been one of balancing our religious and secular needs. Each of us has had to give time to family emergencies that could be handled in very few ways. This sometimes limited our participation in Meeting but was met with patience and understanding. It should be recognized that this praiseworthy understanding was a hard-sought spiritual gain.

Within the Meeting we have striven to enlarge our knowledge of both the Spirit and of our society. We have struggled with our place within the world and the larger fellowship of Friends. We have tried to help other friends in need and sometimes

been frustrated by a lack of ways to get speedy help to the appropriate locations. We have had to find other vehicles than Friends to meet some of these needs. This, of course, led to much searching of the Spirit and of the place Friends should or could play in the modern world.

This is an on-going search with very few finite and definite answers, but many more questions as the Search path branches out. Our own ever-changing lives reflect the problem, the search, and some of the solutions. It is important to realize that the flexibility to meet change is one of humanities' saving graces, but it is also important to recognize that some of our beliefs/ideals stand the test of the Light and must be both kept and striven for. All too often we react to events as the world has taught us to, rather than taking the time to wait for the Light—especially when we are not in Meeting. The changes and challenges we perceive must be guided and formed by the Light, rather than our actions being driven by change and the world around us. Have you meditated in a secular meeting lately? Or just thought, and voted? We need to be more active in taking our religion into every aspect of our daily life and hereby making a statement and standing up for God and the Light. The Society of Friends is a “hands-on” religion that believes that God is revealed through us. The little daily practices of faith often provide a more lasting testament than the big sacrificial deeds.

ROCK VALLEY

The past year has brought some major changes to Rock Valley Friends Meeting. In the fall of 2007 we left our home of the last 30 years, Friends House at 326 N. Avon St. in Rockford. Friends House Neighborhood Center for Creativity & Non-Violence, which had owned the property and offered programs for the community since 1994, was dissolved. This came about due to a dwindling number of board members and dwindling financial support for the work at Friends House. The property was deeded over to another local non-profit organization which plans to sell it. But we have found a wonderful new home! We now meet mostly at the Community Room of the JustGoods Fair Trade Store at 201 Seventh St. in Rockford. The Just-Goods property is a ministry of Rockford Urban Ministries and also houses Midtown Marketplace which supports the local harm reduction outreach program, Total Health Awareness Team (or THAT Place). This new space is attractive, inspiring, comfortable, and handicapped-accessible. The Community Room is also used for art displays, so we have art works to inspire us as well. Although there were several First Days last winter that we did not meet because of the weather and our small numbers, we have experienced some new attenders since we have moved to the Community Room. We have also recently had renewed contact with some members we had not seen in a long time. Also, once a month we have been meeting in the home of one of our members. Overall, we are very satisfied with our new meeting place at Just-Goods and feel that this is a positive change for our Meeting.

This year has also brought our Meeting sorrow in the form of deaths of the very young and the very old. On Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008 Michael and Karen Kerr's first child was born and died a few hours later. He was named Ian William Kerr and was born too premature to survive. Ian was also Ann and Brent Eckert's first grandchild. A Quaker memorial service was held on March 29 at the JustGoods Community Room. On June 6, 2008 Lyle Lathrop, aged 95, died peacefully, with his wife Brit at his side. A Quaker memorial service was held the following First Day, June 8, at the JustGoods Community Room. Another more public memorial service

was held July 7 at Wesley Willows, where Brit and Lyle have lived for the last couple of years.

Rock Valley Friends Meeting continues to be a very small group which is sometimes discouraging. But we are a very close group and supportive of one another and that is our strength. We are optimistic and hopeful about the future of our Meeting; that our new meeting location is a positive change and that it may bring new seekers to our Meeting.

ROLLA PREPARATIVE MEETING (2007)

Friends' Meeting of Rolla is a small meeting and over the past year has been getting smaller. One of our founding members has had two strokes. As a result he and his wife have been unable to attend for some months. The mother of another member recently moved into assisted living in St. Louis and he has spent many weekends with her. The loss of three people makes a big dent in a small meeting. Some of the other attenders might be described as "occasional."

Why don't the occasionals attend more regularly? Possibly because from one First Day to the next the same group does not gather, and as a result a strong sense of fellowship fails to develop. Another problem with small meetings is that meetings for worship with a concern for business tend to be neglected; and/or decisions are made by a core group, and the remaining members and attenders feel left out. Generally, those who do attend Rolla meetings seem satisfied with the experience and their reasons for not coming on a regular basis are unclear.

Another factor is that we do not provide First-Day school. One of our members is prepared to teach small children, should any attend. Also, we give time on the third First Day of each month to reading and commenting on a selected book. Lately we have been reading *Whispers of Faith*, in which young Friends discuss their experiences of Quakerism.

Rolla and Columbia Meetings were tasked with planning the Blue River Quarterly Meeting last fall. We overcame distance by having joint committee meetings by telephone. One of our members had access to low-cost long distance service and by using multiple phones on the Rolla end and a speaker phone on the Columbia end, we were able to have successful meetings under the leadership of Columbia's Rachel Pia. It did not appear that we could find someone to prepare the meals in the camp kitchen. Volunteers were available to prepare breakfasts. Ginger Philpot of Rolla agreed to prepare a main dish and salad for one meal, to be served by Alex Primm and his wife Cathy. For the remaining two meals we ordered a variety of sandwiches from Panera for the one and a variety of pizzas from Pryor's Pizza in Rolla for the other. Chris Jocius served as general purchasing agent.

For years we have met in the Wesley Foundation building. The Wesley Foundation is the student organization of the United Methodist Church and we have developed a warm relationship with the Rolla branch. When Wesley moved to a new location near the edge of the UMR campus a few years ago, the students helped us to move to the new building. Missouri Methodists have decided to discontinue their support of the Wesley Foundation. The building is to be sold and we must find a new meeting place very soon. We have investigated several possibilities and found them to be either unsatisfactory or too expensive. Your prayers would be appreciated.

ROLLA (2008)

At the time of last year's State of the Society message we were looking for a place to hold our meetings. After some negotiation we are now meeting regularly in the parlor of the First United Methodist Church (FUMC), each First Day at 1:30 PM. The church's worship/study activities prevent us from meeting earlier in the day. The FUMC staff people have been very accommodating.

Our average attendance has dropped to about three. Illness, or that of close relatives has taken its toll. Meeting at different places until we found our present home was a factor. Although we are listed in various church directories, meeting in a large church building of another congregation greatly reduces our visibility. We are considering means of outreach. One of our members is posting notices on bulletin boards of grocery stores, gas stations, etc., and we have plans for reviving our newsletter.

We are grateful for the helpful visit of Margaret Katranides and Michael Ruberton of St. Louis Meeting.

In First Day School we are reading and discussing *Practicing Peace*, by Catherine Whitmire.

When I told one of our members that I was to write this State of the Society message, he said "Tell 'em we're hanging in there!"

ST. LOUIS (2007)

For St. Louis Friends Meeting this year has been one of re-envisioning, renewal and change. Such growth is seldom straightforward or painless, but we are hopeful. We are mindful of our many blessings, including our effervescent and overflowing First Day School. As we strive toward clarity of purpose and simplicity of practice we seek to regain a sense of unity and joy in our community.

ST. LOUIS (2008)

After a period of restructuring and change, 2008 finds St. Louis Friends feeling renewed. Our meetings for worship have deepened and grown more gathered. There is a sense that Friends are speaking out of a sense of expectant waiting upon the Light, without prepared speeches. Spoken messages are received with tender listening and space is given to hear one another's ministry.

We adjusted our worship hour to 10:00 am and now follow it immediately with meeting for worship with a concern for business on second First Days. The earlier meeting time combined with a newfound trust that the meetings will not be allowed to go on all afternoon has led to increased participation – much to our joy. However there is a concern that adequate space may not be given to weighty problems. We continue to labor to walk this fine line between efficiency and Spirit-led decision-making. Vast improvement has been made by the meeting in not doing committee work in the face of the meeting for worship with a concern for business. At the same time, we are mindful that we are not doing as well with follow up when committees are charged with work as we should be. This is another area where we are striving for balance. Individual Friends continue to learn to discern whether concerns they raise stem from the Spirit, rather than from personal agendas or worries. We are working with a Quaker Etiquette for meeting for business and hope that it will become easier to make the best use of the meeting's time in speaking from the Spirit

and letting the chaff fall away. Perhaps in this way we can be both prayerful and timely.

Although we are still feeling our way toward some of the answers to our new work structure in the meeting, there is a sense that we have deeply considered what work of the meeting truly needs to be done, and what could be let go even though we “always have done it.” This in turn has led Friends who had been feeling weary and burned out, to feel renewed vigor and a joyful lightness in the work of the meeting. This change is most welcome, even as we acknowledge that we are still working on marrying our new structure with a mindfulness of Quaker process.

Our First Day School continues to grow with nearly thirty children regularly attending. Adults are enjoying a new Friendly Bible Study group and there are a number of thriving spiritual directions groups and Friendly Dozens groups where Friends meet in smaller numbers. We recently held a wonderful attenders’ dinner with more than 80 Friends in attendance. We welcome all of these signs of a healthful and growing meeting.

We continue to seek ways to strengthen our witness on behalf of Friends’ testimonies; to let our lives speak of simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality to a world in need of healing.

SOUTH BEND (2007)

Our Meeting has continued to grow this past year. With this continued growth has come joy, many changes, and the blessed challenges of maintaining a hallowed sense of community.

The Meeting once more welcomed new members and attendees from various backgrounds. Five individuals became new members (Julie Ferrer, Javaughn Ferranders, Dan Hungerman, John Kindley, Jessica Tannenbaum), another transferred his membership (Chris Morrissey, from Santa Monica Monthly Meeting), and two more have requested transfers of membership (Ann and John Miller). We also welcomed a number of new attendees, some new to Friends and some quite familiar with Friends; many of these attendees have been active in attending Meeting for Business, working on committees, and of course in providing fellowship.

Along with this growth our Meeting has implemented a large number of practical changes in the past year. Many of these changes focused on Meeting for Worship, including the introduction of nametags, a greeter, altering the way the meeting ended, and creating a “second-hour” period for activity following the rise of meeting. Business Meeting was moved from before Meeting for Worship to after, to prevent time constraints from affecting our deliberations. The composition of a number of committees changed a great deal. The requirements for serving on clearness committees for membership were also clarified to allow non-members to participate.

We have been gratified to see that these changes have not hindered our worship, nor unsettled many members, but generally have improved the worship and fellowship we share. Some of these changes were suggested by individuals new to our Meeting, and represent, we hope, an ideal way in which a community can evolve to address new needs and ideas in a Spirit-led way. The ability of the Meeting to consider, implement, and adapt to so many changes without serious friction represents one of the most gratifying aspects of the past year.

Of course, our Meeting has faced challenges in the past year as well. Some of these changes were instituted in response to concerns that pre-worship activities were

not as vibrant as they could be. There has also been a struggle for some committees to meet, or to achieve the critical mass needed to address all that the committee members would like to address. While overall the Meeting grew in size, we saw some community members move to other locations or decrease their participation. Members and long-time attendees who moved out of residence included Kate Gibbons, the family of John Gallagher and Maria Melendez-Gallagher, the family of Cheryl and Matt Hutchinson, and Martha Turner; Jessica Tannenbaum withdrew her membership. Our Meeting remains very concerned that Friends both young and old continue to stay involved and not drift away.

The Meeting also struggled to determine appropriate financial support for other Quaker bodies, and in particular Illinois Yearly Meeting. While the Meeting has not reached a firm conclusion on this topic, members have felt that the discernment process itself has thus far been instructive. We look forward to more progress on this.

With these changes in the Meeting and these continuing challenges, the Meeting has maintained a sense of spiritual unity, one which is discernable to visitors despite the relatively poor aesthetics of our meeting facilities. We continue to enjoy potlucks and other informal interaction throughout the year. A meeting with attention to marriage between two new members (Julie Ferrer and John Kindley) was held in April. We once more held a retreat which was very enjoyable, although we hope the next retreat will see even more participation.

The Meeting continues to lack a committee devoted exclusively to peace and social justice, although the Meeting remains active in community social issues including participation in the Center for Peace and Nonviolence. In the past year two Meeting members also housed a refugee from Chad, an undertaking for which the Meeting provided some support.

Friends have been blessed with strong Meetings for Worship where the spirit of God has clearly been made manifest. Worship is well attended with strong vocal ministry. The continued vitality of our worship is the main source for our growth and spiritual sustenance.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (2007)

Southern Illinois remains a small meeting, with five resident members and about eight attending worship each week. Many in the meeting community are at their busiest stage of life, raising teens. This is also a stressful stage for marriages, and our meeting has undergone deep seeking related to two divorces in recent years. We do not have many visitors, and most of those do not continue attendance for more than a few weeks. We frequently struggle with the question of outreach, amid these other pulls in our lives. There remain many uncertainties about the future of the building that houses our meeting space.

The more encouraging news is that we have participated in more community-building activities this year. We've had two visits from IYM Field Secretary Maurine Pyle that accompanied group gatherings, including play time. We finished Quakerism 101 this fall and then began worship sharing and discussion around the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice section on the Testimonies. Some of our resulting discussions have been very enriching, and we often surprise each other with descriptions of our relationships with God. Though challenging for all involved, the clearness committees that we formed around the divorces also served to bring us together in spirit.

We have been consciously in connection with area peacemakers during the year, including sponsoring the placement of a Peace Pole in Carbondale, sponsoring public lectures, participating in anti-war observances, writing a meeting letter to the editor, and—amid nervousness, joy and humility—over Labor Day weekend 2006 we organized the local display of AFSC's Illinois exhibit of Eyes Wide Open, which received a great deal of favorable press coverage.

Southern Illinois Society of Friends gives its love and support to Dawn, Mark, Miranda, Delia and Marlena Amos as they participate in the African Great Lakes Initiative to build an Alternatives to Violence peace center in July 2007. The Amoses, having been through clearness with the meeting, are led to donate their time, money and effort to the African Great Lakes Initiative in Lubao, Kenya. Our meeting is moved by their dedication and commitment and offers them financial and spiritual support as we are able as they undertake this work. We ask that other meetings and organizations join with us in supporting the Amos family spiritually and financially as they follow this leading, and that we all hold them in the Light as they undertake this endeavor.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (2008)

Southern Illinois Society of Friends (Carbondale) has enjoyed more community-building in the past year. We consistently have 7 to 11 adults attending worship with business, and our children include Victor (2), Corey (3), Eli (6), Marlena (9) and Delia (12), with occasional visits from the older youth. Perhaps our most satisfying activity of the past year has been our "Life of the Meeting" pot lucks in Friends' homes, one of which was attended by Field Secretary Maurine Pyle. We continue to explore our identity as a meeting, partly in service of understanding our needs so that we can evaluate alternative meeting spaces. These gatherings have grown our warmth and compassion for each other.

We enjoy discussions nearly monthly, most recently discussing Quaker membership, with the ILYM Faith & Practice section on Membership as a starting point. We united to create more structure in our First Day School program, hiring teen Kevin Hensold as a consistent assistant each week and rotating the adult presence among the parents. We also rotated the clerk and treasurer roles this year.

Outreach is often at the forefront in September when the school year begins; this year we at least managed to restore the announcement of our existence by installing signs on the building. We still struggle to follow through with ads and flyers or welcome-programs for newcomers.

For the first time in several years, and ironically since the spring was the wettest in recent memory, our spring camp-out was not rained out. We always enjoy our pot-luck at the camp site, the camp songs around the fire, early breakfast and games, and worship in the open air. God gives us many gifts to be grateful for.

SPOON RIVER (Formerly Peoria-Galesburg)

We have changed the name of our meeting from Peoria-Galesburg Meeting to Spoon River Quaker Meeting, to better reflect our location. Our meeting meets every First Day at 10 a.m. We start with a short reading—it may be from A Quaker Reader, *Faith and Practice*, or may be a query. We end worship by sharing joys and sorrows—a new practice for us. We typically have 6-7 adults and 3 children present, with one of the adults out of worship teaching First Day School. We have First Day

School every week and are proud to have a strong program for our children. Following worship on second First Days we have Meeting for business. In our business meetings we consider each month both how we are growing inwardly as individuals and as a community, as well as outwardly as a meeting. Because we desire for our community to grow in both strength and numbers, we choose one new way to implement outreach each month.

On the 4th First Day we continue our practice of having a worship sharing on a topic selected from Marsha Holliday's book, *Exploring Quakerism*. We have a potluck lunch afterwards and always have lots of goodies to enjoy. We advertise this event in local papers and occasionally receive phone calls of inquiry and visitors.

We have three new attenders who have enriched our community tremendously. Jennifer Nass asks many good questions of us. Her desire to understand the Quaker faith has given us cause to share more of ourselves, our values, and our individual beliefs. Her son Eli—who is 4—has changed the dynamic of our meeting from one with two children who are siblings to that of a small circle of young Friends. We are very grateful for his presence. Susan Simonds is also a new attender. She is a hospice chaplain and brings to us the gift of music. We have started singing ½ hour before worship and everyone enjoys this new practice!

We are looking forward to another visit from Field Secretary Maurine Pyle on May 11th when she will do a program on the Clearness Process. We have invited Bloomington-Normal Meeting Friends to join us and to share in a potluck afterwards. We are especially grateful to Friend Maurine for her service as Field Secretary. Through her visits and support, she has assisted our meeting to see beyond its small size, to see our potential as a strong spiritual community, and to make ourselves visible to the surrounding community.

UPPER FOX VALLEY (2008)

The Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting continues to thrive as a Worshipping group seeking growth and clearness through our meetings for Worship with a concern for business, our study group attempts, our outreach efforts and our love for one another.

We continue to meet in the Montessori School in Woodstock owned by one of our members. It is located centrally in our county and offers convenient access to main routes which intersect with other existing Friends in the Fox River Valley. Attendance at Sunday morning meetings has risen to an average of 10 to 16 including a visitor family with 3 young children, and a member family with 2 youths who occasionally attend. We have a surprisingly well balanced food fellowship or potluck every Sunday which provides for us excellent socialization and more story telling following its start at rise of Meeting. We are feeling leadings to visit the Aurora and St. Charles declared meeting sites more frequently. The Aurora family holds Meeting for Worship on the last Sunday of each month. The laying down of the DeKalb Meeting by IYM also tugs on our heart strings since we have a member completing her sophomore year at NIU. She stays in touch by e-mail and occasional holiday time visits and spring breaks.

In April Maurine Pyle, IYM Field Secretary, conducted an Outreach Workshop at our meeting site which was attended by close to 20 Friends. We envisioned a number of new directions for our meeting's outreach some of which were realized, like providing more information to our community through our *Northwest Herald* and

The Independent Newspaper beyond a listing. Other ideas, like having a community program of music and a lecture on global warming by Carolyn Treadway and developing a website are still seasoning. Many of us did participate in Carolyn's presentation at the Evanston Meeting in November during the time that the IYM Environmental Concerns Committee toured Chicago's green centers .

Later in the springtime a reporter from the Herald covering the Montessori School learned of our meeting. At their request, four of us met at the Colonial restaurant one morning for an interview. A photographer and videographer later attended our worship meeting and produced a video. The article was on the first page in the local/regional section of the *Northwest Herald*.

The 4 recent regular worshippers who have joined us bring with them a wealth of experience from other traditions which serves to weave a tapestry of spiritual diversity challenging our Quaker singularity. A couple of us (F)riends regularly participate in Taize services that take place in four different churches in the county, on different evenings of the month. It is a "form of musical prayer led by musicians where Silence is a central part of the service, and is a gift to many of us in a busy world." Some of that music has found its way into our own "pre-worship" quarter hour and the Spirit has even led in the sharing of the repetitive chants and songs in our worship hour. We have an occasional meeting of total Silence.

We have recently been tendered by the blessings of the move of a long time Quaker Friend from the Fox Valley Meeting, Wisconsin, to Woodstock, who regularly attends our worship and also by the letter from an adult young Friend requesting membership to our meeting. She is studying at Shimer College in Chicago, a college for bright young High School graduates which has the motto, "to serve rather than be served". She is currently sojourning in worship at 57th Street Meeting.

Ginny and Roger Laughlin visited our Worship Meeting a couple of times during the past year and we welcome them back at any time. David Shiner and Nancy Wallace, David being now our IYM visitor from Ministry and Advancement, came to our study group and worship at the end of the year.

Our monthly study group has left our homes to take place on Sunday mornings on a weekly basis 45 minutes prior to our 10am worship meeting. Only a few members attend it along with one of the new people. We have committed to the six UK Quaker Quest books by purchasing them. We have now almost completed the study of *Twelve Quakers and God*. It is quite different from a Quaker 101 study group. These Quakers write from their own different experiences with their own words. Our discussions then give rise to sharing our own experiences and our own words which are of course also different, and we reveal to each other who we are, in being, in knowing and in action. The books are; *Twelve Quakers and God ... Worship, ... Pacifism, ... Evil, ... Simplicity, and ... Jesus*. Getting to know each other better heightens our understanding, our sensitivity, our communication and our love for each other. Some of us feel that we are becoming unified and prepared for unknown challenges that lie ahead.

What we lack in programs within our monthly meeting we make up for at this time in our involvement with other programs within the community. One family received the Peace and Justice Award in McHenry County in the fall for their environmental work. One member is active on the board of the Defenders, and 3 of us are members of the Land Conservancy of McHenry County. One family was also written up and honored on the editorial page the next day in the *Northwest Herald* for plac-

ing easements on another 31 acres of their land, preserving the open space and the natural resources to perpetuity. They are exemplary in this regard as it is noticed that many others in the county are doing the same thing with many of their acres. The goal in 2003 was to preserve another one thousand acres by 2008.

Most important is our small meeting's involvement with Quaker Organizations. A few of us attended the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting meeting in Oak Park. The program was on the death penalty. One of our new people who attend our meeting is talking about the establishment of a data base in which citizens voluntarily sign an advance directive so that if attacked and killed, the death penalty would not be used against the offender. One of our representatives is on both the youth committee as well as the on IYM's Continuing Committee. Several of us attended the Continuing Committee, in Urbana last year. About 10 of us attended The Gathering at River Falls, Wisconsin, in July. Three of us are active with the national QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness) bi-annual steering committee meetings.

At this juncture our Monthly meeting is not saddled with lots of busy committee work. This can be seen as a blessing, but we do not know what lies ahead or why we are being given this freedom. We operate as one committee-in-the-large and everyone finds a role and makes a physical and spiritual contribution. Our meeting and a family of the meeting which provided weekly oversight in the 6 years of custodial and medical care of Mary Fyfe, also supporting the husband-wife couple who were her caregivers from the Philippines, received a nice generous monetary gift from her estate at the end of the year. We were grateful and yet humbled as we received these gifts.

Two other occasional attending non-members have dealt with life-threatening illnesses since our last report. In November of 2006 Don Etes passed away. He had been battling cancer for the past six years. He was an occasional visitor to our worship meeting and shared many of our values and testimonies, especially the testimony of simplicity. He considered himself a Quaker but never left the Catholic Church. As he was planning his final Mass with the young priest at St. Thomas, he wanted it to be very clear that he had no allegiance to the Pope. The priest questioned whether he really wanted a Catholic Mass and they finally came to an agreement that he did. He had become a medical equipment designer, due to his extended illness. He also had an agricultural background and was raised on a farm. In compliance with Don's last will and testament, his brother saw to it that he did not enter a hearse but the casket was placed inside of an old manure spreader on top of bales of hay. Another request to one of our members who had an Amish background was that she acquire a buggy whip and an Amish hat which was laid on the seat of the manure spreader. The Cadillac hearse followed the simple procession to the memorial park. This was Don's final testimony on simplicity.

One of our attenders, Betty Tuft, was 89 years old when she had a stroke last year. As she recovered, she sold her home and her possessions or gave away many things that she owned and moved into Assisted Living at Valley Hi Nursing Home. One of our members visits her every Wednesday afternoon. She continues to be politically active with letter writing as she was active when she attended our meeting. During the silence when we heard papers scuffling, we knew that we would be challenged after rise of meeting to write to a legislator. Her recovery and resilience is a challenge and a joy to all of us.

It was said of the 1st century Christians, "...how they loved one another!" May that be said of us. We have also been experiencing and wish to express our love for the Illinois Yearly Meeting, a meeting that supports our outreach and unifies our mutual leadings and our work in many different ways.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN (2007)

Urbana-Champaign Meeting is in a state of relative good health and spiritual vigor. Maurine Pyle, IYM Field Secretary, and Martha Turner, IYM representative from Ministry and Advancement committee, presented a workshop on vocal ministry in the fall. Friends shared their hesitations about delivering vocal ministry, and participated in an extended period of worship. A number of ministries came forth in that time, and since the workshop there has been more ministry in our midst. Maurine expects to return March 10 to present a workshop on outreach, and another on prayer and discernment April 29. We look forward to her return.

We have had a number of reasons to ask for prayers: Eli Nathaniel Hannah, Chris Baker, Terri Mittenthal, Don Chenoweth, Reuben Golden-Trist, and Merlin Taber had health challenges this winter. We first instituted a prayer circle when Eli Hannah was born, and Sarah Jacobs, an inquirer, came to prayer circles. Prayer circles became times for sharing of soup and conversation as well as concerns. At our silent retreat in January, we took turns holding sick Friends in the Light throughout the retreat.

We successfully completed a Mortgage Challenge, leaving us only \$4000 left to pay on our mortgage. The Spirit moved at our Meeting for Brainstorming, held to decide our spending priorities, and we later approved a mission statement for meeting. One Friend was so inspired at the Meeting for Brainstorming she went home and wrote a letter requesting membership. Deborah Jadhav, Kim Thoren, Barbara Kessel, and Charlotte Green have all become members. We have two new birthright Friends, Eli Nathaniel Hannah and Evan Carter Ching, and a number of new young attenders. One of our disaffected Friends has returned, and we continue to hope the others will return eventually.

We approved a brochure welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Friends, and approved the word *marriage* for both same sex and different sex ceremonies of commitment. Business meetings have been reflective, mutually supportive, even (dare we say it?) efficient: on three memorable occasions, business meeting concluded in 40 minutes.

Religious Education has childcare on 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Quaker programming on other Sundays. Our Tween Friends had a party, just hanging out and getting to know each other better. We had a Game Night and Pizza Party, and we also decorated the Christmas tree and had a potluck, for which the Tweens made soup. We had a Christmas Eve carol sing and candlelight worship. RE arranged a Friendly Dance March 9. These occasions for intergenerational fun mean all ages know each other better now. New life, new faces, and new efforts for the betterment of our Society proceed in Urbana-Champaign Meeting.

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN (2008)

Many of us notice the depth of our silent worship lately. Perhaps this process is helped along by some members, who arrive early in order to soak the meeting room,

and the arriving Friends, in prayer. A spring of creativity seems to bubble forth from the silence we share together. This creativity expresses itself in many ways.

Advancement Committee has blessed us with their energy and enthusiasm this year. Among other activities have been Quaker Eights – supper groups that meet monthly at one another’s houses (or at a restaurant) – and Spiritual Nurture groups, which meet regularly to worship-share on a query. One of these groups quickly became a close-knit group that doesn’t leave it to the convener – if she doesn’t move in a timely fashion, other members make the contacts necessary!

Another initiative has been a series of sessions every Thursday on the theme, “Change: Difficulties and Discoveries.” Friends are working on deep personal changes and discovering some of the ways in which prayer can support their efforts. A rhythm of arts worship, prayer-experimentation, reflection in journals and in heartfelt discussions, and “homework” has Friends excited about their inner processes. It is hoped that this series will help Friends come to know one another in that which is eternal, and that this may help our normally-silent worship begin to experience more spoken ministry. (Our meeting is blessed with many spiritual nurturers and ministers, but more spoken ministry would be welcomed.)

Advancement Committee suggested that Meeting needed a coordinated prayer effort for needs in our membership, and worked with Ministry and Oversight Committee to create Prayers, Concerns and Celebrations (PCC) moderated by John Holm with the help of a guidance committee. Friends with concerns and celebrations they wish to share with Meeting contact John, who announces the need for prayers during worship or through the meeting email list. Other activities Advancement has sponsored include Vacation Friends School, a dinner-dance and silent auction to raise money for the meeting’s Emergency Fund, and two canoe outings.

The Emergency Fund is an initiative of the Peace and Service Committee, and is used to help poor people in the community whose needs sometimes fall through the cracks in the social service network in our cities. Peace and Service continues to make sandwiches for the homeless on Second Sundays and RE and Hospitality raise money in order to support an AIDS orphan through African Great Lakes Initiative. We believe these social justice efforts and many others grow out of the quality of our worship. Meeting’s growth and development arises directly from a spiritual foundation.

The Meeting has a new Handbook of Meeting Procedures, which covers everything from good manners in business meeting to how to disinfect the toilets. This forty-page document was the creation of an ad hoc committee at Ministry and Oversight Committee’s recommendation, and will be updated yearly. Originally written by seasoned Friends who plumbed their memories of how we do things, we have created a process by which newer Friends will help carry on the work in future years. Recently Ministry and Oversight wrote a new minute on membership for children, which will be added to the Procedures Handbook.

At Christmas the Tweens baked cookies to give to the Catholic Worker House. Religious Education Committee is always looking for teachers. We feel a real need for continuity of First Day School personnel, and definite goals and objectives in our curriculum, carried out over the long term. As a result, some parents would like a paid curriculum coordinator. We have formed an ad hoc committee to consider this and other ways to make an RE program that really attracts young families. This has to be a team effort of the whole meeting.

We are delighted that Brenda Koenig and her children, Corbin, Sage, and Jonas Phillips, became members this year, as have Paul Healey and Rebecca Rohloff. Peter Rohloff's clearness for membership is also in process at this time. We welcome Jonathan Holm and Christopher Hansen's request to be married under our care. We celebrate a decided increase in attendance, particularly by young families. This is very precious to us, because many meetings are aging and fading away. Our decision to provide childcare as well as regular First Day School classes is being blessed by these families.

We have retired our mortgage – and it only took three years, thanks to a small Mortgage Challenge and two small bequests, in addition to regular monthly payments. We saved a significant amount of money in interest by paying off the mortgage so quickly.

We welcome Maurine Pyle, IYM's Field Secretary, on her regular visits to our Meeting. She led two workshops at the end of February, one on how to deal with painful thoughts that sometimes come up during worship, and another on sharing thoughts during silent worship.

All these signs of creative new life and growth come to us as an inheritance from the spiritual nurturing of the Friends who came before us. Our departed Friends left us a culture that helped us come together again as a people, after the divisions caused by the sale of the old meetinghouse, and take the leap of faith necessary to build a new meetinghouse. Friends who perceived the construction of a meetinghouse as opportunity, said to one another, "If we build it, they will come." We continue to reach out to our disaffected Friends, and to nurture one another as our old Friends taught us. May we be part of the inheritance of those Friends who come after us, that the Religious Society of Friends in Urbana-Champaign continue a vibrant community.

ILYM COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Clerk: Roy Treadway

2009 Bob Cordova
2009 John Hackman,
2009 Hal Mead
2009 Noel Pavlovic
2009 Sarah Pavlovic
2009 Meg Nelson
2010 Alice Howenstine
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Roy Treadway
2010 Bob Wixom
2011 Adrian Fisher
2011 Nancy Halliday
2011 David Wixom

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik
Peter Lasersohn
Colleen Reardon
Larry Stout
Bob Wixom

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Sandy Huntley

2009 Judy Jager
2009 Nancee Miller
2009 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2009 Bob Bartles
2010 Cathy Garra
2010 Sandy Huntley
2010 Bruce Kanarek
2010 Pam Kuhn

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Pam Kuhn

2010 Margaret Katranides
2010 Patricia McMillen
2011 Pam Kuhn

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Clerk: Neil Mesner

2009 Bill Howenstine
2010 Robin Johnson
2010 Neil Mesner
2011 John Hackman
2011 Chuck Howenstine
Ex-Officio: Stewards

WORKING PARTY TO STUDY ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

(Under the care of Maintenance and Planning)

Carol Bartles
Robin Johnson
Ruth Milledge
Bobbi Trist

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT

Clerk: David Shiner

2009 Beth Burbank
2009 Brad Laird
2009 Joan Pine
2010 Margaret Katranides
2010 Janet Means Underhill,
2010 David Shiner
2010 Nancy Duncan
2011 Mariellen Gilpin
2011 Mark Mattaini
2011 Angie Reeks

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DISCERNMENT OF GIFTS

(Under the care of Ministry and Advancement Committee)

Sophie de la Mar
Janice Domanik
Brad Laird

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Elizabeth Mertic

2009 Elizabeth Mertic
2009 Scott Searles
2010 Sue Styer
2010 Judy Erickson
2011 Brad Ogilve
2011 Sarah Pavlovic
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert
Margaret Katranides
Elizabeth Mertic

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2009 Chuck Hutchcraft
2010 Phyllis Reynolds
2010 Breeze Richardson
2010 Chuc Smith
2011 Patricia McMillen
2011 Bridget Rorem
2011 Dawn Rubbert

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clerk: John Knox

2009 John Knox
2010 Chris Jocius

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Dawn Amos

2009 David Finke
2009 Pat Wixom
2010 Dawn Amos
2010 Judy Erickson
2011 Marcia Nelson

Ex-Officio: Presiding & Recording Clerks, *Among Friends* editor, Webservant

QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE, TRAINING AND WITNESS COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Julia Pantoga
2009 David Finke
2009 Marti Matthews
2010 Judy Jager
2010 Julia Pantoga
2010 Carol K. Zimmerman

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Elke Narkiewicz

2009 Chris Jocius
2009 Chris Goode/Kate Gunnell
2010 Elke Narkiewicz
2010 Marie White
2011 Sophie de la Mar
2011 Michelle Stacy
2011 Katherine Wengel Young

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Clerk: Chip Rorem

2009 Chip Rorem
2009 Julia Pantoga
2010 Richard Ashdown
2010 Bob Bartles
2010 Carol Bartles
2010 Sallyann Garner
2010 Bill Howenstine
2010 Jeannie Marvin
2010 Dennis McQueen
2010 Bobbi Trist

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerk: Peter Albright

2009 Diane Clark Dennis
2009 Meg Nelson
2009 Breeze Richardson
2010 Peter Albright
2010 Mark Amos
2010 Ellen Baranowski
2010 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2010 Sarah Pavlovic
2011 Michael Dennis
Ex-Officio: Teen clerks, Youth Coordinator

OTHER AD HOC COMMITTEES

AD HOC COMMITTEE to explore the advisability of a Personnel Committee

Michael Dennis
Judy Jager
Valerie Lester

AD HOC RECORDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Sharon Haworth
Angie Reeks
Beth Schobernd

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2009 Nora Vera-Godwin
2009 Genevieve Wimp-McCann
2010 Todd Kuzma
2011 Robert Godsey

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2009 Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

2009 Elaine Meyer-Lee

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2010 Debra Penna-Fredericks
2011 Wil Rutt

FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER CONC.

2010 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2009 Suzanne Siverling
2010 Charley Earp
2010 Stephen Domanik
2010 Gaelan McQueen

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2009 Julia Pantoga

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2009 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2009 Scattergood: Sharon Haworth

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2009 Dawn Amos
2010 David Shiner
2011 Jeanette Baker

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

2009 Alice Howenstine

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2008 CLERK'S COMMITTEE

Dawn Amos, Sue Davison, Janice Dominik, Nancy Duncan, Peter Lasersohn,
David Shiner.

2008 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Steve Kuhn, Monica Tetzlaff, Jeannie Marvin

2008 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:

Bob Cordova, Chris Goode, Rose Dennis

2009 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Friends Under Nineteen & Recreation: Chicago North
Food and Adult Program: Chicago South
Site Preparation/Housekeeping/Cleanup: Blue River Quarterly

QUARTERLY CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: Jeannie Marvin
Metropolitan Chicago General: Martha Turner

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

***AMONG FRIENDS* EDITOR:**

Cindy Reynolds

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Brent Eckert

WEBSERVANT:

Dawn Amos

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE
of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Clear Creek Meetinghouse, Tenth Month 20, 2007

Minute 1: The meeting opened in worship. Thirty Friends were in attendance.

Minute 2: The clerk reviewed a tentative agenda, to which some adjustments were made.

Minute 3: Dawn Amos delivered the treasurer's report. Since our last yearly meeting, loans from Duneland and Evanston Monthly Meetings have been paid off, leaving us with no liabilities, and total assets of \$89,869.77. The Adult Young Friends have adopted their own finances, to which the IYM Adult Young Friends Fund has been transferred.

Minute 4: Minutes 1 to 3 were read and approved.

Minute 5: The clerk reviewed an appeal from Friends Disaster Service for volunteers to help with rebuilding efforts in Greensburg, Kansas. Friends are urged to consider this and other opportunities to work with Friends with affiliations other than Friends General Conference.

Minute 6: The clerk reported that a trust established by Mary Fyfe sent letters to Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting, McHenry County (now Upper Fox Valley) Monthly Meeting, and Illinois Yearly Meeting, regarding planned disbursements from the trust to these meetings. Since Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting has been laid down, Tom Paxson wrote to the trust's lawyer, indicating that according to our discipline, the property rights of a laid down meeting are transferred to a larger meeting of which it is a part, in this case Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 7: Sue Davison reported that Martha Turner, Mariellen Gilpin, Ruth Raffensperger, and Susan Tursman had been identified to Friends General Conference as Friends with emerging gifts in the ministry who might be invited to an upcoming FGC Emerging Ministers Conference.

Minute 8: The clerk reported that Friends General Conference has requested our mailing list, and implied that providing it is part of our affiliation agreement with them. However, our current privacy policy appears to prohibit providing this sort of information. The issue has been referred to the Ministry and Advancement Committee, to consider the advisability of amending our privacy policy. Several Friends spoke to this issue; the clerk will convey a summary of their views to the Ministry and Advancement Committee.

Minute 9: Minutes 4 to 8 were read and approved.

Minute 10: Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (attached). One upcoming meeting and several visits and other activities are planned, including tours of "green building" projects, which it is hoped may help IYM in making our own building projects more environmentally responsible.

Minute 11: Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been working on sections on membership and on meeting organiza-

tion and structure. The membership section had been approved for a provisional period which will expire this summer; a revised version will be sent to monthly meetings for comments, in the hope of bringing a final revision for approval at yearly meeting this year.

Minute 12: Minutes 9 to 11 were read and approved.

Minute 13: Sandy Huntley reported for the Finance Committee. The committee is concerned that definite policies be established for the administration of sufferings funds. Friends refer this issue to the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Sandy also distributed packets of information on Finance Committee practices and procedures to monthly meeting representatives.

Minute 14: Pam Kuhn reported that Sandy Huntley, Dawn Amos and Tom Paxson had been appointed to the new Review Committee, under the care of Finance Committee, in accordance with Minute 4 of our 2007 annual sessions. Requests by committees for expenditures in excess of 10% of the committee budget or \$5000, whichever is less, should be referred to this committee for approval.

Minute 15: Judy Jager reported that legal papers had been signed this morning to transfer three lots of IYM property from the trustees to the corporation. One more signature is needed, from a trustee not currently present. Once these papers have been filed, our “hybrid” manner of organization will end and all property will be held by the corporation. An affidavit has also been signed and will be filed, affirming the continuity of organization from the trust to the corporation. Friends appreciate the work of Judy Jager and Cathy Garra in facilitating the transition from the trust to the corporation to this point.

Minute 16: John Knox reported as the new clerk of the Peace Tax Fund Committee that the papers required to grant him signature authority for the fund would appear to link its assets more closely to those of Illinois Yearly Meeting than has previously been the case. He seeks direction on what to do. Friends recommend that the Peace Tax Fund Committee review all materials connected with the establishment of the fund; consult with the administrators of other peace tax funds; seek the advice of a lawyer, preferably the lawyer who was consulted at the time the fund was established; and report to the next meeting of Continuing Committee.

Minute 17: Minutes 13 to 16 were read and approved.

Minute 18: Elke Narkiewicz read a report from Tim Narkiewicz for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. Tree maintenance and planting have been a major recent concern. Raccoon removal and other projects are planned for upcoming work. A regular maintenance schedule is being developed. The committee’s mission statement remains in draft form, but has not been revised.

Minute 19: Ruth Milledge reported for the Working Party on Accessibility Issues (attached). The Working Party plans interviews with Friends to identify accessibility concerns, followed by a general survey of Friends throughout IYM to set priorities. A plan will be developed in response to the survey results, to be reported to the spring session of the Continuing Committee.

Minute 20: Minutes 17 to 19 were read and approved.

Minute 21: Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. Sandy Bales has stepped down from Environmental Concerns; Meg Nelson is now serving on this committee. Alyssa Rowan has been added to Religious Education Committee. The Nominating Committee is still seeking a reading clerk and a third steward.

Minute 22: Dawn Amos read a report from David Finke for the Publications Committee. Lucy Duncan of the FGC Bookstore has expressed an interest in QuakerBooks of FGC stocking and selling copies of the Plummer Lectures. Publications Committee envisions (1) that we send copies of new Plummer Lectures to FGC for sale by QuakerBooks in lots of 50, while continuing to distribute Plummer Lectures within IYM as previously; (2) that FGC be allowed to set the price of Plummer Lectures they sell; (3) that FGC not be charged for the copies we send them, the cost being absorbed by the Publications Committee budget; (4) that the copies be sent to FGC with the understanding that any copies not sold after a reasonable time will be returned to IYM, rather than destroyed or discarded; (5) that living authors of previous Plummer Lectures be contacted about the possibility of selling their lectures through FGC. Following discussion, Friends encourage the Publications Committee to work with FGC to make Plummer Lectures available through QuakerBooks, but to consider charging FGC for the costs of additional print runs.

Minute 23: Minutes 20 to 22 were read and approved.

Minute 24: Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. The committee has several concerns: IYM Friends do not systematically share religious education resources; we do not adequately help newcomers learn about Quakerism; religious education for adults is neglected; in many meetings, children's religious education is largely left to parents. To build up communication and cooperation across the yearly meeting on religious education matters, the committee plans to appoint liaisons to all the monthly meetings in IYM, and to set up a Yahoo! group devoted to religious education in IYM, as well as a religious education section of the IYM website.

Minute 25: Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. The committee is developing a fund-raising brochure, and is working to build up its relationship with other committees in developing plans for the new building. A tour of existing retreat centers is planned for January 5.

Minute 26: Minutes 23 to 25 were read and approved.

Minute 27: Mike Dennis reported for the Youth Oversight Committee. An IYM youth Facebook page has been created. Many Young Friends are hoping to participate in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage next summer. The committee asks whether it is appropriate to use some of its budget to provide financial support for IYM Young Friends participating in the pilgrimage. Friends affirm that the committee may use funds from its budget for this purpose. Quakes are planned for November 9–11 at 57th Street Meetinghouse, January 18–21 at Evanston Meetinghouse, and May 23–26 at Clear Creek Meetinghouse.

Minute 28: Dawn Amos reported that the annual meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will be held at Waycross Episcopal Camp, Morgantown, Indiana, April 3–6, 2008. The organizers are requesting dis-

plays and activities organized by yearly meetings in the area, including Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Minute 29: Mariellen Gilpin reported for the committee planning the upcoming Winter Retreat. Elaine Emily will be conducting a workshop on eldering at this year's retreat. The committee requests \$100 to use in planning and coordinating the retreat, and also requests that it become a regular line item in the yearly meeting budget. Following a discussion in which Friends considered establishing a standing committee for organizing the Winter Retreat, it was decided not to do so at this time. The request for \$100 to support this year's retreat is referred to the Review Committee.

Minute 30: Minutes 26 to 29 were read and approved.

Minute 31: The clerk reported that Judy Jager, Dawn Amos and Michael Dennis have agreed to serve on the ad hoc exploratory committee regarding the advisability of having a personnel committee; the committee may add to its membership by informing the clerk. Angie Reeks (clerk), Beth Schobernd and Sharon Haworth have agreed to serve on the ad hoc Records Management Committee.

Minute 32: Sharon Haworth reported for the Blue River Quarterly Planning Group. Almost all positions have been filled. Ellen Baranowski is the overall coordinator. The theme for the children's program will be "Making Friends, Keeping Friends."

Minute 33: Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. The theme for the adult program will be "Our Ministry of Reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Ken and Katharine Jacobsen have accepted an invitation to speak on Saturday evening. Pam Kuhn reported that the Plummer Lecturer will be Elizabeth Mertic.

Minute 34: Sue Davison reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. All positions have been filled; the overall coordinator is Sue Styer.

Minute 35: Minutes 30 to 34 were read and approved.

Minute 36: The clerk announced that Lake Forest Meeting has offered to host the spring meeting of Continuing Committee, March 1, 2008. Friends approve.

Minute 37: Maurine Pyle distributed a page entitled "Becoming a Thriving Meeting, as Discovered by Midlothian (VA) Friends Meeting," and a second page entitled "A Self-Evaluation of Our Monthly Meeting." Maurine is available to assist meetings in the processes outlined in these pages.

Minute 38: The clerk requested that yearly meeting committees send copies of their minutes to the clerk of the yearly meeting, and to the Administrative Coordinator.

Minute 39: Friends thank Clear Creek Meeting for their hospitality. Appreciation was also expressed for Maurine Pyle's work as Field Secretary.

Minute 40: Minutes 35 to 39 were read and approved.

Minute 41: The meeting closed in silent worship.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE
of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Lake Forest Meetinghouse, Third Month 1, 2008

Minute 1: The meeting opened in silent worship. Thirty-two Friends were in attendance.

Minute 2: Announcements and introductions were made, and a tentative agenda reviewed and amended.

Minute 3: Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's Report. Net assets total \$116,520.47, not including the value of land and real property. The Property Improvement Fund and Special Gifts Fund both show significant increases. The overall financial condition of the yearly meeting is reported to be strong.

Minute 4: Cathy Garra gave the Finance Committee Report. The yearly meeting trust has been dissolved; all property is now owned by the corporation, and the deeds have been filed. The committee has filed an Attorney General report declaring IYM to be a charitable organization. Friends are reminded that reimbursement requests should be approved by, and whenever possible sent to the Treasurers by, committee clerks or annual session coordinators. Reimbursement of expenses for IYM-related travel is available for Friends who would otherwise be hindered from traveling. Friends are expected to pay their own expenses unless doing so would be a burden on them.

Minute 5: Dawn Amos gave the Review Committee Report. The committee approved expenses for Javaughn Fernanders to attend a workshop, and for workers' compensation insurance for all paid staff.

Minute 6: Minutes 1–5 were read and approved.

Minute 7: Sharon Haworth reported no further information since Fall Continuing Committee from the Blue River Quarterly Meeting IYM Planning Group.

Minute 8: Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Chicago North Planning Group. Food coordinators have been identified. Brian Young of the Earlham School of Religion has agreed to be the Wednesday night speaker. There is a possibility of having Florence Ntakarutimana from Burundi speak on Thursday evening. A question was raised about the practicality of the current deadline for *Among Friends* submissions, given the earlier date for yearly meeting this year.

Minute 9: Sue Davison reported for the Chicago South Planning Group. Coordinators for Site Prep, Purchasing and Cleanup have been identified, as have cooks for Site Prep. A coordinator for Housekeeping is still needed. Friends are urged to help with Site Prep and Cleanup.

Minute 10: Minutes 6–9 were read and approved.

Minute 11: John Knox reported for the Peace Tax Fund Committee. He has made a preliminary review of materials from the establishment of the fund, and recommends that the committee as a whole conduct a more detailed review, consult with the original committee charged by IYM to examine the issues involved in setting up the fund, and with current depositors, and make a recommendation to the yearly meeting

whether to link the fund more closely to IYM, dissolve the fund, or take some other action. Friends encourage the committee to continue along the lines suggested.

Minute 12: Minutes 10–11 were read and approved.

Minute 13: Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee is continuing to modify the Peace Testimony workshop they have developed; two such workshops at local meetings have been given or are planned; the committee is available to present additional workshops if meetings are interested. A workshop is also planned for yearly meeting. The committee is also starting work on developing a follow-up workshop to their existing program.

Minute 14: Pam Kuhn presented the Handbook Committee Report. The committee proposes nine additions or revisions to the handbook to reflect decisions made at the yearly meeting's 2007 business sessions; Friends approve these changes.

Minute 15: Robin Johnson reported for the Accessibility Working Party. The working party has assembled a list of 30 volunteers to provide information about accessibility issues at yearly meeting; additional volunteers are welcome. Interviewers have been identified; it is hoped that a report may be prepared in time for the April meeting of the Site Envisioning and Development Committee.

Minute 16: Nancy Wallace reported on display materials connected with the IYM Meetinghouse and with Lake Forest Meetinghouse to be exhibited at the April 3–6 FWCC sessions in Morgantown, Indiana; other meetings are encouraged to send materials to her and David Shiner for display. Friends are also encouraged to invite Latin American Friends who will be attending the sessions to visit their meetings.

Minute 17: David Shiner reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The committee is currently very small; Friends are encouraged to suggest new members either to M&A or to the Nominating Committee. Maurine Pyle's term as Field Secretary is ending; nominations are also sought for a new Field Secretary.

Minute 18: Janice Domanik reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee has been composing text on meeting organization and structure, and revising the section on membership. Copies of the recently approved marriage section and the current draft of the membership section are being distributed; comments on the membership text are solicited by April 18th. The committee hopes to bring a version of this section to yearly meeting this summer for approval for an indefinite period, as the 5-year provisional period for the existing text expires.

Minute 19: Minutes 12–18 were read and approved.

Minute 20: Elizabeth Mertic reported for the Nominating Committee. They propose Steve Kuhn as Reading Clerk; Friends approve. The committee is still seeking a steward. Breeze Richardson was erroneously listed in the minutebook as representative to Friends Peace Teams; this position is still open. Suggestions are sought for Assistant Clerk.

Minute 21: The clerk proposed Sue Davison, Brad Laird, and Tom Paxson (ex officio) for the Naming Committee; Friends approve.

Minute 22: The clerk reported that Mike Dennis had conveyed a request from Young Friends to hold a sweat lodge ceremony at yearly meeting this year. Doing so would involve construction of a ceremonial mound, lodge, path, and fire pit. The clerk read a letter he sent to Mike in reply, indicating that this was a matter requiring a decision by the yearly meeting in its regular business sessions rather than the Continuing Committee.

Minute 23: Minutes 19–22 were read and approved.

Minute 24: Patricia McMillen reported on a concern from Oak Park Monthly Meeting, calling for the abolition of the death penalty. Oak Park plans to propose this summer that IYM also adopt a minute calling for the end of capital punishment. It was pointed out that the clerk of IYM is empowered under existing minutes to write letters expressing the yearly meeting's opposition to the death penalty.

Minute 25: Dawn Rubbert reported St. Louis Meeting's concern that planners of children's programming at yearly meeting communicate with the Friends responsible for First Day School at local meetings, to get input about what the programming might be, and to inform them about the program so that they can prepare the young people for it.

Minute 26: Elke Narkiewicz raised a concern that guidelines be developed on the responsibilities of IYM committee clerks in reporting to the yearly meeting; this matter is referred to the Handbook Committee.

Minute 27: Maurine Pyle reported on a concern from John and Mariellen Gilpin on helping Friends cope with the final stages of dying. John and Mariellen have excerpted critical passages from a book by a hospice nurse on this topic; Friends may obtain electronic copies from them.

Minute 28: Minutes 23–27 were read and approved.

Minute 29: Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. They are working with Maintenance and Planning to plant trees on the yearly meeting grounds and do other landscaping work. They are also working with the Site Envisioning and Development Committee to explore ways to make the new buildings as green and sustainable as possible. The committee is working on a nature walk brochure on the IYM campground, and is planning a bird/nature walk for the 2008 yearly meeting. The committee continues to seek ways to raise awareness about climate change, energy issues, and other environmental concerns.

Minute 30: Tim Narkiewicz reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The "raccoon dormitory" has been removed from the yearly meeting house; the ceiling near the back entrance is being rebuilt to discourage further nesting. Trees and limbs which were in danger of falling have been removed. The committee continues work on a Facilities Management Guide; a draft should be ready for review soon. Projects have been identified for Memorial Day Work Weekend.

Minute 31: Janice Domanik reported on a request from Friends General Conference for our mailing list. Current IYM policy reserves the mailing list for IYM purposes; however, sharing the list with FGC is required under our affiliation agreement with them. FGC assures us they will not share the list with other organizations. Our cur-

rent policy was adopted to protect our members from commercial solicitation; IYM had regularly shared its mailing list with FGC prior to its implementation. Friends approve resuming this practice, and ask the Publications Committee to draft new language expressing our privacy policy, to appear on the directory and other publications containing personal contact information.

Minute 32: Minutes 28–31 were read and approved.

Minute 33: David Finke reported for the Publications Committee. Information on Quaker peacemaking efforts in Kenya have been posted on the IYM website. The new Faith and Practice section on marriage has also been posted, as have a number of older Plummer lectures and other talks. The committee is concerned that the annual minute book is becoming overly long. They recommend that committees and meetings limit the length of their reports to 1–2 pages if possible, and that text which will be published elsewhere, such as handbook language, not be published in the minute book. The question was raised whether Continuing Committee minutes should be included in the minute book.

Minute 34: Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. The committee has adopted a system in which each member serves as a liaison to specific local meetings. A survey is being conducted to discern the religious education needs of local meetings. A Yahoo! Group relating to Quaker Religious Education has been set up to facilitate the sharing of information. A Religious Education webpage is also planned for the IYM site.

Minute 35: Minutes 32–34 were read and approved.

Minute 36: Friends approved recommending to the yearly meeting that the minutes of the Continuing Committee be published in the annual minute book.

Minute 37: Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. The committee has toured several retreat centers, and is developing a packet of information about the new building project to use in fundraising efforts. Estimates of the cost of the new buildings range from \$680,000 to \$1,500,000; the wide range is due to the preliminary nature of the plans. The committee has begun developing a business plan for the maintenance and operations of the facility; a facilities management plan is being researched; a list of key donors has been developed and is being reviewed. A workshop with the Troyer Group is planned April 19 at Clear Creek to discuss sustainability and accessibility issues related to the new buildings; all are invited to this all-day event. Clear Creek Meeting is anxious to have a meeting space with heat and a bathroom; this may involve reconfiguring the plans to include three smaller rather than two larger buildings.

Minute 38: Minutes 35–37 were read and approved.

Minute 39: David Finke directed our attention to an entertaining report on the activities of IYM Adult Young Friends on the FGC website.

Minute 40: Sue Davison reported on planning for the Winter Retreat on eldering. A sizable number of Friends have registered, including quite a few from smaller meetings, Young Adult Friends, and a large number of children.

Minute 41: Dawn Amos reported for the ad hoc exploratory committee regarding the advisability of having a personnel committee. The committee is conducting a survey on personnel issues and hopes to have a proposal ready by yearly meeting this summer.

Minute 42: David Finke reported for the Quaker Volunteer Service, Witness and Training Committee. Greg Woods has been appointed the new workcamp coordinator for Washington Quaker Workcamps. David also called attention to Quaker Volunteer Service, a program supported by 57th Street Meeting, which provides assistance, including room and board and a small stipend, to volunteers doing peace and justice work or community organizing in Chicago. Support for this organization is also sought from other meetings. A flyer was distributed with information about applying to volunteer. David also reminded us of QVSWTC's queries on p. 53 of the 2007 minute book.

Minute 43: Minutes 38–42 were read and approved.

Minute 44: Gratitude was expressed for the hospitality of Lake Forest Meeting.

Minute 45: The meeting closed in silent worship.