

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

2011 Sessions will be held from 6/15/11 to 6/19/11
on Quaker Lane near McNabb, Illinois
at the Yearly Meetinghouse

2010

June 16
to
June 20

YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS AND OTHERS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES 2010 - 2011

Presiding Clerk:
David Finke

Asst. Presiding Clerk:
Janice Domanik

Recording Clerk:
Pam Kuhn

Reading Clerk
Monica Tetzlaff

Co-Treasurer:
Roger Laughlin

Co-Treasurer
Dawn Amos

Admin. Coordinator:
Sharon Haworth

Field Secretary:
Paul Buckley

Youth Coordinator:
Javaughn Fernanders

Steward:
Richard Ashdown

Steward:
Carol Bartles

Steward:
Tim Narkiewicz

Teen Co-Clerk:
Mason George

Teen Co-Clerk:
Quinn Laird

Teen Rec. Clerk:
Sara Raffensperger

Meetinghouse Phone
815-882-2214

ILYM Website
www.ilym.org

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING 2010

NUMERICAL STRENGTH CHART

B-N	Blue River Quarterly				Metropolitan Chicago										WI Osh**	TOTALS		
	CC	Co	St.L	Sr ¹	U-C	DG*	Du	Ev	57*	LF	NS	OaP	RV	SB			UFV	
<u>Members & Attenders Statistics</u>																		
Average Attendance:																		
7	10	21	39	10	8	28	35	7	65	22	35	20	14	5	20	11	5	362
4	2	0	11	5	3	5	2	1	6	4	7	3	2	1	6	1	1	64
<u>Membership Statistics</u>																		
7	29	11	51	6	5	33	52	11	64	19	63	24	15	10	26	11	5	442
3	1	0	4	0	2	9	5	4	18	2	6	4	0	0	12	2	1	73
4	38	19	48	6	2	63	51	2	38	101	71	9	0	2	12	11	2	479
0	0	0	4	0	0	8	4	0	34	2	0	4	0	0	5	1	0	62
14	68	30	107	12	9	113	112	17	154	124	140	41	15	12	55	25	8	1056
TOTAL																		
11	67	30	99	12	7	96	103	13	102	120	134	33	15	12	38	22	7	921
3	1	0	8	0	2	17	9	4	52	4	6	8	0	0	17	3	1	135
NEW MEMBERS																		
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	0	16
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
1	1	1	1	2	0	1	6	0	3	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	0	25
TOTAL																		
LOSSES																		
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	12
0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
1	2	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	12
1	3	18	1	1	0	4	4	1	8	13	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	59
TOTAL																		

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 IYM.

**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	353
Metro Chicago	695
Wisconsin	8
TOTAL	1056

ADDITIONS AND LOSSES BY NAME AND MEETING

ADDITIONS

<p>BY BIRTH/ADOPTION: Collin Emerson Sues (Bloomington-Normal) 8/09 Sebastian Bretl (Downers Grove) 5/10 Hanna Maria Laird (South Bend) 5/09 Sarah Ellis Hungerman (South Bend) 12/09 Mica Allen (Southern IL) 5/10</p> <p>BY REQUEST: Kelly Schobernd (Clear Creek) 12/09 Johanna Denzin (Columbia) 6/09 Joshua Davison (Downers Grove) 8/09 Robert Spryszak (Downers Grove) 10/09 Becki Sallee (Downers Grove) 11/09 Sally Remington (Downers Grove) 12/09 Zachary Johnson (Downers Grove) 5/10 Thomas Simpson (Evanston) 4/10 Mark Robinson (Northside) 5/09 Cecil Romano (Northside) 6/09</p>	<p>Ted Ehnle (Northside) 9/09 Per Stinchcombe (Northside) 2/10 Kiley Bush (St. Louis) 4/10 Kelly Bono (St. Louis) 9/09 Andrew Peterson (South Bend) 12/09 William Stodden (Southern IL) 2/10 Paulette Leonard (Upper Fox Valley) 10/09</p> <p>BY TRANSFER: To: Evanston: Carolyn Anthony, from Homewood (Baltimore), MD, 7/09 To: Evanston: Joyce Schladweiler, from Lake Forest, 12/09 To: Lake Forest: Cathy & John Garra, from 57th Street Meeting, 5/10 To: Northside: Caroline Moore, from Cannon Valley Friends, 10/09 To: Urbana-Champaign: Peggy Boyer Long, From Springfield, 1/10</p>
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LOSSES

<p>BY DEATH: Paul Schobernd (Clear Creek) 8/09 Robert Wixom (Columbia) 7/09 Lorraine Bartnik (Downers Grove) 1/10 Alice Uyttebrouck (Downers Grove) 4/10 Constance Kellam (Duneland) 10/09 Clement Biddle (Evanston) 7/09 Annette Reynolds (Evanston) 9/09 Nancee Miller (Evanston) 11/09 Rob MacGruder (Lake Forest) 9/09 Joan Mueller (Lake Forest) 12/08 Tom Dix (Oak Park) 9/09 Suzanne Potter Wicks (St. Louis) 1/10</p> <p>BY RELEASE OR WITHDRAWAL: Discontinued from the rolls of Columbia monthly meeting, 12/09: Robert Michael Coppinger Elfrieda Agnes Coppinger Christopher Zane White Shane Brandon White Shannon Marie White Lawrence Keith Jones</p>	<p>Jenine Beryl Jones Mark Lawrence Jones Juliet Ariel Jones Brent Alan Barton Ed Beaver Sarah Augusta Gorin Robert Gordon Billy Ray Foster, Jr. Judith Chamberlin Melanie Ann Powell Brian Maxwell Elmo DeSilva Christopher, Connie, Amanda & Sarah Gillock (Evanston) 2009 Robert Hopper (Evanston) 5/10</p> <p>BY TRANSFER: From Clear Creek: Cindy and Gary Reynolds to Tempe, AZ, 12/09 From Downers Grove: Don and Barb MacCrimmon to Madison, 6/09 From Lake Forest: Joyce Schladweiler to Evanston, 11/09 From Upper Fox Valley: Nancy Bunting to Sunrise Friends (MO)</p>
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IYM 2010 Schedule

Theme: Seeking and Sharing our Spiritual Home

WEDNESDAY:

1:00-6 pm Registration desk open
 2:00-3:30 Opening Session: Worship & Bus. Mtg.
 3:30-6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 Dinner
 6:00-7:00 Movie Night for Kids
 7:30-9:00 Panel of Friends on their spiritual journeys:
 Sandra Tamari and Micah Bales
 9:00 New attendees meeting (meet at reg. table)
 8:45-9:15 Registration desk open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY:

6:30-7 am Early Meeting for Worship
 6:45-7:45 Breakfast
 7:30 New Attenders Mtg. on Sat. (Reg. table)
 8:00-9:00 Meeting for Worship
 (Memorials are read at Saturday MFW)
 9:00-noon Meeting for Business / Children's Program
 10:30-11:30 Registration desk open
 12:00-1:00 Lunch
 1:30-3:45 Craft tent/Recreation
 1:30-2:15 Worship Sharing Groups
 2:30-3:45 Workshops
 3:45-6:00 Free time for committees & socializing
 5:30-6:00 Singing on front porch
 Early supper for children, kitchen volunteers
 Dinner
 6:00-7:00

THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45-5:45 Registration desk open
 7:30-8:45 Panel of Quaker Organizations (Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, AFSC, and Chicago Friends School)
 7:30-9:00 Campfire & Hayrack Ride
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING:

3:45 Women's Theology Group Meeting for
 Worship, Business and Discussion
 3:45-5:45 Registration Desk open
 8:45-9:15 Registration Desk open
 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
 4:30-5:45 Registration Desk open
 7:30-9:00 Young Friends Service Project
 7:30-8:45 Address by Phillip Gullett
 8:45-9:15 Registration Desk open
 9:00-9:45 Snacks

SUNDAY

6:30-7:30 Early Meeting for Worship
 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
 9:00-9:30 Reading of Epistles
 9:00-9:30 Registration desk open
 9:30 Group photo (front porch)
 10:00-11:00 Plummer Lecture by Tom Paxson
 11:30-12:30 Meeting for Worship
 12:30-1:30 Lunch
 1:30 Cleanup and Farewells

Minutes of the Illinois Yearly Meeting
136th Annual Sessions
Sixth Month, 16-20, 2010, McNabb, IL

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION, Wednesday, June 16, 2010

- Minute 1** Our 136th annual sessions opened with deep and grateful worship.
- Minute 2** Our Presiding Clerk, David Finke, read a description from Galatians of the fruits of the Spirit and talked of Robert Barclay's first experience with Friends describing the secret power he felt in the silence.
- Minute 3** Our Clerk talked of the welcome we have all felt as we arrived on the campus and our welcome with God. He discussed Quaker etiquette at a meeting for business.
- Minute 4** We welcomed visitors Micah Bales from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, Vanessa Julye from Friends General Conference and a member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, and Emma Condori-Mamani from Bolivian Mission Holiness Evangelical Friends Church in Bolivia. Assistant Clerk Tom Paxson read a traveling minute for Micah Bales from Great Plains Yearly Meeting. We welcomed Friends who are with us for the first time: Dennis Darling from Springfield Worship Group and Barbara Stanford from St. Louis Monthly Meeting.
- Minute 5** The Clerk's Committee members for these sessions are Dawn Amos, Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, Elizabeth Mertic, and Tom Paxson.
- Minute 6** The Committee of Care for these sessions will be clerked by David Shiner, and includes Margaret Katranides and Mark Mattaini. Friends with any concerns during the sessions may contact them.
- Minute 7** For the first time, we will have internet access on the yearly meeting site during sessions this year!
- Minute 8** The Recording Clerk read a description of Epistle Committee. The Nominating Committee will bring forward names to serve on this committee at tomorrow's session.
- Minute 9** The Recording Clerk read a description of Exercises Committee. Barbara Stanford volunteered to serve. Another Friend will be named tomorrow.
- Minute 10** Sue Styer reported for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee gave a first reading to the list of nominations of the coming year. These are listed in the advance documents.
- Minute 11** The committee recommends the following be part of the Nominating Committee practice. "Clerks of ILYM standing committees should be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee has followed the practice of recommending the clerks of those committees and submitting these in writing to the body in annual session or, as needed, to the Continuing Committee. When there is an urgent need to replace a committee clerk, the Nominating Committee may ask the committee to discern one from among its members. The committee should then ask Nominating Committee to bring his/her name to the next session (Continuing

Committee or annual sessions) for confirmation. Outgoing clerks or standing committee members may also make recommendations to Nominating Committee regarding a committee clerk, based on their sense of the current needs of the committee and their acquaintance with the gifts and commitment to serve of the committee's members. Nominating Committee should prayerfully consider all such recommendations from committee members and should bring forward these names only when Nominating Committee has achieved a sense of clearness." Friends approve.

Minute 12 The Nominating Committee recommends that Illinois Yearly Meeting create a position of liaison to the newly formed Chicago Friends School. The meeting asked that this matter be discerned further during sessions by an ad hoc committee consisting of Bruce Kanarak, Elizabeth Mertic, and Cathy Garra.

Minute 13 The Nominating Committee is aware of the need to name four delegates to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in 2012. The committee recommends but does not regard it as mandatory that the delegates also serve as ILYM representatives to FWCC Section of the Americas. The committee asks that these nominees be brought to the Fall Continuing Committee for action, in order to submit the names to FWCC by December 31, 2010. Friends approve.

Minute 14 The Naming Committee, Elizabeth Mertic, Margaret Katranides, and David Finke, will be bringing forward names of people to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Minute 15 Judy Jager, clerk of Finance Committee, reported for the Finance Committee. The committee recommends that the following people: Richard Ashdown, Steward; Roger Laughlin, Co-Treasurer; Dawn Amos, Co-Treasurer; Grayce Mesner, member; and Sharon Haworth, Administrative Coordinator be authorized to have access to our safety deposit box at First State Bank in McNabb, Illinois. The committee recommends that the following people: Richard Ashdown, Steward; Roger Laughlin, Co-Treasurer; and Dawn Amos, Co-Treasurer be authorized to exercise all powers listed in the resolutions with First State Bank, including signing checks on behalf of Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Friends approve.

Minute 16 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee (see p. 31). The Faith and Practice Committee is working on the part of the *Faith and Practice* book which describes our structure and organization (see p. 53). The Faith and Practice Committee recommends that the meeting adopt the subsection dealing with monthly meeting structure and organization. The subsection will be adopted for a 5-year provisional period prior to inclusion in our *Faith and Practice* book. The committee read one part of the section (through the description of the library) to the meeting. Friends approve this section.

Minute 17 The Faith and Practice Committee has printed a new set of booklets containing those sections of the *Faith and Practice* book which have been approved so far; these are available for Friends to take.

Minute 18 Dawn Amos reported on the name change of her home meeting from "Southern Illinois Society of Friends" to "Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting". Friends accept this change.

Minute 19 We closed with announcements and a time of worship in silence.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION, June 17, 2010

Minute 20 To open our session, David Finke read from a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier.

Minute 21 We welcomed visitors and Amy Lohmolder from Lake Forest Meeting who is with us for the first time. Our Reading Clerk, Monica Tetzlaff, read a letter of introduction for Valerie Groszmann, visitor from Friends General Conference and a member of Kalamazoo Friends Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Minute 22 Our Reading Clerk, Monica Tetzlaff, read excerpts from epistles from the Netherlands Yearly Meeting, Japan Yearly Meeting, and Ireland Yearly Meeting.

Minute 23 Mira Tanna reported for the Nominating Committee. The committee brought forward the following names for the Epistle Committee: Monica Tetzlaff, Wil Brandt, Steve Tamari, and Zoe Rei. Friends approve.

Minute 24 The Exercises Committee will be Barbara Stanford and Jinny Laughlin. Friends approve.

Minute 25 Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property. The Committee serves as a forum among and between The Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, the Illinois Yearly Meeting Stewards, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, gathering and sharing information as an aid to increasing transparency as we more fully integrate the Mills property into the yearly meeting. A full report is included in the minute book (see p. 29).

Minute 26 The committee recommends that the house on the west side of the property be known as the "Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting" to honor the generations of stewardship provided by the local meeting. The property is owned by the yearly meeting and we expect it to have many uses for both the yearly meeting and the monthly meeting. Friends approve.

Minute 27 The committee recommended at the Continuing Committee meeting in March, 2010, that the Ministry and Advancement Committee research the kinds of programs, workshops and retreats that Friends would like to have during the year at our yearly meeting site.

Minute 28 The committee recommends that it be continued for one additional year. Friends approve. The revised charge will be as follows. "The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property will focus on finalizing preparations for readying the Clear Creek House for day use by yearly meeting committees and groups and ultimately for overnight use, while we continue to serve as a forum for sharing information among our representative committees and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting." Friends approve. The committee will continue to consist of representatives from the committees and groups named above. Friends approve.

Minute 29 Co-clerks Neil Mesner and Maurine Pyle presented the Maintenance and Planning Committee report (see p. 35). During the 2009 summer session of ILYM, the yearly meeting united to purchase a six-acre property with a farmhouse

and outbuildings adjacent to the yearly meeting site. The Stewards and the Maintenance and Planning Committee were charged with repairing the farmhouse and cleaning up the six-acre property. To help guide our work, the committee facilitated a visioning workshop in January, 2010. The brainstorming from that process are listed on the website.

Minute 30 The M&P committee and Stewards, along with Clear Creek Friends and the Environmental Concerns Committee, did a tremendous amount of work over the past year, both restoring the house and cleaning up the property. All of these many accomplishments are listed in the M&P report (see p. 35). The total cost of renovation of the property as of June, 2010, was \$79,199. Additional costs of \$6,008 include insurance, utilities, and mowing. The total costs for the year were \$85,207. This was taken from the Property Improvement Fund.

Minute 31 M&P identified some directions the meeting could take in making the house more accessible and other repairs. These suggestions will be further discerned by the Maintenance and Planning Committee as well as the Capital Assets Management Plan (CAMP) this week and reported to the meeting during Saturday sessions.

Minute 32 A Furnishing Committee, appointed by M&P, will discern decisions regarding the selection of furniture. The Furnishing Committee, Beth Schobernd, Sandy Bales, and Nancy Finke, along with Clear Creek Friends, would like input and ideas. They are meeting during sessions.

Minute 33 Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee completed many projects in the past year. A full report of the committee is available on p. 30.

Minute 34 The Environmental Concerns Committee is planning such things as a place of contemplation and placement of memorial trees. The committee has completed the document, "Landscaping Guidelines for the Mills Property." They have also completed mapping our campus, including all of the trees.

Minute 35 Friends are encouraged to walk around our campus and take time to make a closer connection to nature. We have the prairie just coming into bloom and alive with redwing blackbirds. Listen for the great horned owls which are living in our barn. They sound like this, "hoo hoo hoo", or the babies, "zeep zeep zeep".

Minute 36 Our Reading Clerk read the report from the Stewards (see p. 46). The Stewards reported on the final costs for the new property which the meeting purchased at sessions last summer. The purchase price for the new property in June, 2009, came to \$140,527.50 plus additional closing costs of \$7,762.12, making a total of \$148,289.62. Included in the closing costs are the attorney costs, advance money paid by Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, and taxes from the previous year (by agreement).

Minute 37 ILYM received a Property Tax Exemption on the six-acre farmstead based on an appeal with the State of Illinois. The meeting continues to pay property tax on the campground and on the one-acre parcel between the original property and the farmstead. This tax is less than \$100/year. The yearly meeting thanks the Stewards for all their work including, along with some members of the Finance Committee, going through the appeal process to secure our property tax exemption.

Minute 38 The Stewards have arranged for mowing of the property. Some of this work is being done in exchange for storage space in one of our sheds.

Minute 39 The Stewards hired a consultant to complete a Capital Assets Management Plan. This will be seasoned further by the Maintenance and Planning Committee (including the Stewards.)

Minute 40 The Stewards have updated our insurance policy to include the entire campus.

Minute 41 Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee. The committee recommends that it be split into two committees, a Site Envisioning Committee and a Development Committee. Friends approve. A full description is in the SED report on p. 45. The summary charges are given in the next two minutes.

Minute 42 The Development Committee will be taking the opportunity to listen to the visions of the yearly meeting based in the spirituality of our membership and will include the work embraced by all of the testimonies. The committee considers funding for this work. The model followed is one of love. Out of love, we give to the next generation. In love, we must listen to the givers. This process is slow. Some of us will die before we give. Others will give sooner. The time of giving is (and should be) chosen by the giver. Listening is a large part of development.

The details of the charge need to be developed by the committee. It will include documenting how and when Friends intend to give. With discretion, the committee will share relevant information with the Site Envisioning Committee and other committees that may need funding. The committee may be called to assist in raising funds for an upcoming project where funds are required quickly. The committee might seek professional or formal training relating to soliciting donations. This has been done in the past through the assistance of Henry Freeman. As new Friends are involved the committee may be led to empower them with this type of information. Friends approve.

Minute 43 The Site Envisioning Committee is charged with gathering the dreams and goals of the Yearly Meeting and its committees. This charge pertains to the entire campus (new and old buildings and outdoor spaces.) The committee might hold periodic Visioning Retreats or workshops with the other committees (M&A, ECC, PRC, and M&P,) to develop and consolidate the collective vision. The committee is required to consolidate and reconcile these dreams and goals into an overall plan. This work will become the basis for a presentation to the Meeting at large, to be made during the annual sessions. This presentation will include plans, budgets, and timelines. The committee will take the guidance of the Yearly Meeting and refine the vision as directed. Some of the work of this committee may require the hiring of outside consultants. The committee plans to make a report at the 2011 annual sessions. Friends approve.

Minute 44 The Site Envisioning Committee or the Development Committee may bring recommendations for hiring consultants for action by the yearly meeting's Continuing Committee. Friends approve.

Minute 45 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee recommends that the meeting adopt the subsection dealing with monthly meeting structure and organization. The subsection will be adopted for a 5-year provisional period prior to inclusion in our *Faith and Practice* book. The committee read another part of the section (from the Religious Education Committee description through the queries for State of Society report) to the meeting. Friends approve this section with the exception of one query to be reviewed by the committee.

Minute 46 The session closed with announcements and worship.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD SESSION, Friday, June 18, 2010

Minute 47 We opened with worship. David Finke talked of a passage from Isaac Pennington's *Some Directions to the Panting Soul*.

Minute 48 After asking if our hearts and minds are ready for our meeting for business, our Presiding Clerk, David Finke, welcomed all. Monica Tetzlaff read a letter of introduction for Vanessa Julye, a staff representative of Friends General Conference.

Minute 49 The Presiding Clerk read a passage quoted in ILYM Faith and Practice from George Fox's admonition, "So Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town or parish business..."

Minute 50 Monica Tetzlaff read epistles from Germany Yearly Meeting, Monteverde Monthly Meeting, and Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting.

Minute 51 Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (see p. 38). A number of new initiatives have taken shape in Ministry and Advancement Committee during the last year, including facilitating a web presence for every meeting; providing advice and information on death and dying; and dreaming of year-round retreats and workshops, hopefully on a regional basis, to make it easier for more Friends to become involved and to grow in the Spirit.

Minute 52 M&A held a web workshop last year and continues to support meetings in creating websites as an important signpost for our meetings. Contact Mariellen Gilpin for more information.

Minute 53 M&A is working on providing materials and advice that help Friends deal with death as an integral part of our spiritual lives, and practice loving community in the face of a death. The basic premise is that every death is a spiritual experience. As a community, we hope to help make possible spiritual growth through choosing to be fully present in all stages of the death, dying, grief, and transitions process. Some materials are available, including a Memorial Meeting Preparation Checklist.

Minute 54 At the visioning workshop facilitated by the Maintenance and Planning Committee in January, 2010, the desire came forward to have more programs (retreats, workshops, etc.) during the year. M&A has been asked by Continuing Committee to discern this possibility. M&A is already planning regional workshops on various topics. The committee is gathering information in response to three questions: 1) What practical arrangements do I need to come to an ILYM retreat?

2) What would help me decide to come to a retreat within 125 miles of my home? 3) If cost would be a limiting factor, what would be my upper limit to attend a retreat? The committee is continuing to collect responses for a workshop at sessions this year. The committee is also looking for creative ways to have retreats and workshops that will include Friends who have little discretionary income and hope that monthly meetings will also reach out to these Friends.

Minute 55 The Ministry and Advancement Committee expresses our deep appreciation for the loving work, over many decades, of four Friends who are now leaving the committee: David Shiner, Janet Means Underhill, Margaret Katranides, and Nancy Duncan.

Minute 56 Paul Buckley reported on his activities as Field Secretary for the year (see p. 41). Strengthening our small, scattered communities (which includes all of us) and increasing outreach have been at the heart of the work of the Field Secretary. To that end, the Field Secretary has starting traveling with a collection of books to sell or give to monthly meetings and worship groups to help in the exploration of topics relevant to that group. The “traveling bookstore” is under the care of the Ministry and Advancement Committee. The Field Secretary reminded Friends of the importance of preparing in advance for new visitors to our meeting, especially people of color. If we wait until someone is standing in our doorway before preparing a place for them in our meeting, it is too late. The Field Secretary has also visited meetings and worship groups, made presentations on various topics, and held a one-day silent retreat open to Friends from any ILYM meeting.

Minute 57 Elizabeth Mertic reported for the ad hoc committee concerning the Nominating Committee’s request that we have a liaison to the Chicago Friends School. The group recommends that the yearly meeting not appoint a liaison at this time but that we reconsider if the Chicago Friends School asks for one. Friends approve.

Minute 58 Co-Treasurer, Dawn Amos, gave the Treasurers’ report. The activities of the yearly meeting are largely supported by contributions of monthly meetings. Our Property Improvement Fund is a restricted fund that is mostly supported by individuals.

Minute 59 Our yearly meeting fiscal year ends June 30. The final reports will be put into the minute book (see p. 22) and brought to the Continuing Committee meeting in the fall.

Minute 60 Last year the yearly meeting approved an increase in the suggested donation from monthly meetings. Monthly meetings have begun to make these increases, but it takes more than a year before the yearly meeting receives this because of the difference in fiscal years in many cases.

Minute 61 The Co-Treasurer described our Net Assets by Fund report. Reading down the columns, the unrestricted, not designated activities reflected our year as usual. Expenditures in our Property Improvement Fund exceeded income during this year.

Minute 62 Co-Treasurer Roger Laughlin gave the first reading of the budget for FY11 (see p. 26).

Minute 63 Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee (see p. 33). It is now possible to donate to the yearly meeting via the meeting website. The yearly meeting receives 97% of the donated amount. The committee has developed a master list of items in the ILYM safe deposit box. The committee plans an informal audit of the yearly meeting books for October, 2010. Finance Committee reminds Friends that when committee expenses exceed the budgeted amount by 10% or \$5000, whichever is lower, the overage must be considered by the Review Committee before the expenditure is made.

Minute 64 The Finance Committee proposes adding the following queries to those the Review Committee considers when evaluating requests for expenses pertaining to the buildings and grounds: “If an unexpected opportunity or expense has become apparent related to the yearly meeting’s real property (land, buildings, equipment), the committee may also consider the following additional queries. Is this work fulfilling a part of our vision toward the future of our site or is it maintenance (repair or replacement) to our existing buildings and grounds? If this expense is part of the new vision, does it fit within the restrictions and expectations of the donors to the Property Improvement Fund?” Friends approve.

Minute 65 The Finance Committee recommends that the Maintenance and Planning Committee be asked to identify a prioritized list of projects, with anticipated costs, the total of which would need review if exceeded; and that the Continuing Committee be empowered to authorize projects which Maintenance and Planning does not identify before the end of our current annual sessions. Friends approve.

Minute 66 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee (F&P). The committee revised Query 10 from the set of queries in the state of society section read yesterday. The new query will be, “What is the witness of the meeting? Is this witness apparent to the general public?” Friends approve.

Minute 67 The F&P committee recommends that the meeting adopt the subsection dealing with monthly meeting structure and organization. The subsection will be adopted for a 5-year provisional period prior to inclusion in our *Faith and Practice* book. The committee read another part of the section (from Responsibilities of the monthly meetings under its care through the end of the section) to the meeting. Friends approve with the exception of two concerns to be held over.

Minute 68 The Presiding Clerk brought forward information about activities and concerns about our Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, and Witness Committee (QVSTWC) (see p. 76). The Assistant Clerk presided during this discussion.

Minute 69 Quaker Volunteer Service, Training, & Witness (“QVSTWC”) has been a standing committee since 1995, preceded by an ad hoc committee on relations with AFSC. Much has changed since 1995 with many of the committee’s original goals met. Last year, QVSTWC reported on two hopeful new developments in Quaker service, regionally and nationally (pp. 37-39 of the 2009 Minute book.) A unit called “Quaker Volunteer Service” has now begun in Chicago with 57th Street Meeting underwriting it and providing spiritual care. It has an oversight committee comprised of Friends from a number of monthly meetings. Also, a new “Quaker Voluntary Service Network” has arisen following a consultation at Pendle Hill in February, 2009, at-

tended by three of our members. And, we note ongoing workcamp activity among the Lakota people in a project under care of St. Louis Meeting. However, as reported in our previous years' minutes, the committee has had reduced activity and diminished numbers in recent years, although administering the Ken Ives Scholarship Fund. The remaining members, mostly unable to attend these sessions, have asked that they be released and that the committee be laid down.

Minute 70 In 2007, QVSTWC brought forward a series of queries to the yearly meeting. These were read again to the body. Friends gave witness to experience doing service projects. There is a sense that service opportunities should be made available for young adult Friends, for retired Friends, and even some in between these ages. We recognized many opportunities for service with outside organizations and opportunities for service around the yearly meeting grounds. Mark Mattaini, Chuck Hutchcraft, and Elizabeth Mertic were asked to form an ad hoc group and to bring a report to Continuing Committee on ILYM involvement in service opportunities. Friends approved releasing members of QVSTWC of their duties.

Minute 71 The Presiding Clerk closed with announcements and worship.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH SESSION, Saturday, June 19, 2010

Minute 72 We opened the day with our meeting for worship with the reading of memorial minutes and continued into our worship for business. Presiding Clerk David Finke shared words of guidance from Edward Burrough in 1662 to proceed in the wisdom of God.

Minute 73 We again welcomed visitors who were introduced earlier in the sessions.

Minute 74 Reading Clerk Monica Tetzlaff read selections from epistles from Great Plains Yearly Meeting, Australia Yearly Meeting, and New York Yearly Meeting.

Minute 75 The Recording Clerk, Pam Kuhn, read a correction to Minute 56. This has been incorporated in that minute.

Minute 76 Chuck Hutchcraft reported for the Peace Resources Committee. The committee's purpose has evolved to explore how to work for peace beyond simply opposing war, and how to speak this truth to power grounded in the Light. A full report is included on p. 43. Highlights include the Peace Testimony Workshop, including a do-it-yourself version for meetings which is now being used and new workshops being developed to explore the dynamics of peacemaking, bringing back the blog where Friends can contribute to the question of "how do you see peace", and an effort to stop state-sponsored torture. Working for peace must become a way of being. It is further the sense of the committee that to effect this way of being it is important not only to be firmly rooted in the Light, it also requires the skilled knowledge and use of peacemaking tools, some of which already exist and some of which have yet to be developed. It is incumbent upon Quakers, one of the historical peace churches, to take on this job.

Minute 77 PRC recommends ILYM adopt the following minute: "As Friends we hold dearly to the tenet that there is that of God in everyone. Holding every life in the Light, we abhor the use of torture or abuse of prisoners, whether by our own or

any other government. Torture degrades everyone involved – policymaker, perpetrator and victim. To understand the causes, nature, and scope of this cruel and inhuman practice by our government and to ensure that this cruel and inhuman practice will never again be carried out in our name, we join the call for an impartial, nonpartisan, and independent commission of inquiry. To find restoration, we must know truth.” Friends approved with two Friends standing aside.

Minute 78 Friends feel a call to actively engage with the Peace Resources Committee to further seek active ways that our yearly meeting can work to eliminate the use of torture.

Minute 79 Co-Treasurers Dawn Amos and Roger Laughlin reported on the budget. Next spring the Finance Committee will review changes in the donations to others. The Treasurers asked for approval of the budget (see p. 26). Friends approve.

Minute 80 Co-clerk Neil Mesner and Steward Tim Narkiewicz reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee. The committee will be concentrating on two things next year: stabilizing the piers under the meeting room for an estimated \$800 and repairing a roof for an estimated \$3000. Other items mentioned in the Maintenance and Planning report will be seasoned further.

Minute 81 The committee is seasoning the Capital Assets Management Plan report that was prepared by a consultant. The committee will meet with him again and then create a plan for property. M&P will be holding weekly conference calls to prepare for this meeting. M&P hopes to bring a complete report to Continuing Committee. M&P may bring other improvements to Continuing Committee for approval. [See Minute 65] This is an ongoing process. It will help us plan our goals and how we will meet them.

Minute 82 The yearly meeting, which owns the property, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, which cares for the property during the year, work together in the loving oversight of our building and grounds. The Maintenance and Planning Committee, Site Envisioning, Environmental Concerns, Finance Committee, and the ad hoc Committee on the Mills property are all part of the yearly meeting work on the property. In this year of planning, capital improvements to the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting and other areas of the campus will be considered and acted on after reports are brought to the yearly meeting for action.

Minute 83 Roy Treadway gave a second report for the Environmental Concerns Committee. The committee has been exploring procedures and materials to cover or “green” the Meetinghouse kitchen roof with plants. The committee will experiment on a 48-square-foot area with a \$250 mini-grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness, matched with \$250 from Illinois Yearly Meeting. Last summer, ECC collected 230 postcards for the Countdown to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. The committee has been mapping trees, writing a recycling coordinator description, and reviewing the use of a compost bin at sessions, and will be working on some of the FWCC concerns on global change initiatives. Our property is an oasis for wildlife and the committee urges that this is be part of our planning process.

Minute 84 Environmental Concerns Committee is planning to plant a memorial tree in memory of Robert Wixom. The committee will be erecting a purple martin house from Paul Schobernd’s collection of things.

Minute 85 Sarah Pavlovic presented the final report of the Nominating Committee with officers, committees, and individuals with specific responsibilities listed for the coming year (see p. 111). Friends approve. Some positions not yet filled will be brought to Continuing Committee for action.

Minute 86 Peter Lasersohn reported for the Faith and Practice Committee. The committee presented two changes to the section on monthly meeting organization and structure read yesterday. Friends approve.

Minute 87 The committee asks Friends to read carefully the section on Worship Groups, Recognized Meetings, and Preparative Meetings and send comments to the committee. The section is on p. 70 and is posted on the website.

Minute 88 A Friend expressed concern about the reception of the report from the Peace Resources Committee. Out of worship came forward the value of Quaker process that happened during the PRC report and the committee's increased commitment to communication. Peace witness is how we are known in the world and how we must proceed in love for the work of all of our committees. As Paul spoke to early congregations, we are one body. We value the parts of body and are grateful for the body as a whole.

Minute 89 We closed with worship.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SESSION, Sunday, June 20, 2010

Minute 90 We heard outgoing epistles from the Fireflies (3-5 year olds), 6-8 year olds, 9-14 year olds, High School Friends, and Adult Young Friends. (See p. 20)

Minute 91 The Epistle Committee read the epistle for the yearly meeting. Friends approve. (See p. 19).

Minute 92 The Exercises Committee read the exercises for the yearly meeting. Friends accept them. (See p. 17).

Minute 93 David Shiner reported on Friends World Committee for Consultation. A report is on pp. 50 and 51. FWCC will hold a World Conference in 2012 in Kenya. The theme is "Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world". ILYM is invited to send four delegates.

ILYM's Ministry and Advancement Committee is supporting regional gatherings held by FWCC Section of the Americas centered around the theme of Salt and Light in October in preparation for the World Gathering. [See Minute 13]

Minute 94 Naming Committee will report and bring names for action to the Continuing Committee.

Minute 95 We ended the 136th annual sessions with worship.

EXERCISES

Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends (ILYM) met for Annual Sessions this year from June 16-20. The numbers grew from Wednesday through the weekend as Friends were able to adjust their schedules to attend many of the sessions. Gone are the days of the front lawn being filled by the horses and buggies. The acquisition of adjacent land provides additional parking for the numerous automobiles that now arrive from Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois. One Friend came all the way from Bolivia.

Friends experienced challenges of faith and action as they listened to the words of Sandra Tamari and Micah Bales on Wednesday night as they spoke of their spiritual journeys. Micah expressed his struggle with faith as he journeyed through his twenty seven years of challenges. Sandra was and continues to be moved by her witness of the struggles of the Palestinians.

The Faith and Practice Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting presented about eleven new pages of text focusing on monthly meeting organization and structure. These pages were developed and approved after extensive consultation with monthly meetings.

On Thursday evening, Mary Pikul shared the dreams and hopeful expectations of the new Chicago Friends School to be opened in September. Sonia Tuma shared responses of the AFSC to economic difficulties and the refocusing and rebuilding they are doing in the areas of Peace Building, Immigrant Rights, and Justice. Emma Condori brought greetings and shared the story of Friends in Bolivia and their quest for education and the work of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.

It seems that the traditional Friday night dancing on the lawn brought out more Friends than ever before, both young and old. It was a beautiful evening but we could see the clouds gathering. Dancing and the watermelon feast were just completed when a severe storm hit and Friends quickly retreated into the meetinghouse.

The unusually large number of memorials and especially those of younger Friends made for a deeply spiritual session on Saturday morning. Long-time Friends will be greatly missed as the Yearly Meeting moves forward with its many children who will hopefully take their place in the leadership of ILYM.

Friends enjoyed viewing and using the new facilities on the west edge of our property, formerly known as the Mills property and now known as the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Several meetings were held there and Friends enjoyed the lovely view from the windows, the comfortable furniture and the air conditioning. Environmental Concerns Committee urged Friends to enjoy the prairie coming into bloom and the family of great horned owls. Many were lovingly concerned about the nest of barn swallows on the front porch, obviously agitated by the noise surrounding them.

Friends also appreciated the addition of the tent for meals. The lower level dining was more quiet as Friends divided their times between the two areas. Meals were delicious as usual, and help was always available to help disabled Friends carry their meals to the outside.

Mason George, a high-school-aged documentarian, presented to Friends his award-winning film, *The Quake that Rocked the Midwest*. Well received, disks of the documentary are available with all proceeds going to the Youth Oversight Committee of ILYM. The Young Friends spent Saturday afternoon at Starved Rock

cleaning up trash on the grounds as their annual service project. The Adult Young Friends had been to Starved Rock the day before.

Children loved being here. Their exuberance and enthusiasm were enjoyed by everyone. Adults observed that they seemed to all look out for each other. A black cat added to most of the children's enjoyment. The playground equipment and the sandbox were especially appreciated by the children. They also enjoyed a hayride.

The wonderful array of speakers throughout the week culminated with the humorous yet spiritual talk on Saturday night by Phil Gulley, Quaker pastor and author. The annual Plummer Lecture was presented by Tom Paxson on Sunday morning.

The theme "Seeking and Sharing our Spiritual Home" was developed both through our interactions with the land and buildings and through our relationships with God and one another.

- Respectfully submitted by Barbara Stanford and Jinny Laughlin

REGISTRATION REPORT FOR IYM 2010

TOTAL REGISTRATION: 204

REGISTRATION BY QUARTER:

Blue River	55 Adults		
	20 Young Friends	Total:	75
Chicago North	53 Adults		
	14 Young Friends	Total:	67
Chicago South	36 Adults		
	15 Young Friends	Total:	51
Other	11 Adults		
	0 Young Friends	Total:	<u>11</u>
			204

Housing: 77 camped, 40 stayed in cabins, 13 stayed in the High School "bunkhouse", and 74 used motels or local housing.

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 cents per mile in 2010) 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.

EPISTLES

2010 Epistle of Illinois Yearly Meeting

To Friends everywhere,

It is with wonderful joy that we take this opportunity to share our greetings with the global community of Friends, both as individual local communities and as the collective community that make up the Religious Society of Friends. During Sixth Month, 16th-20th Days, 2010, we gathered for the 136th annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting near McNabb, Illinois, under the theme of “Seeking and Sharing Our Spiritual Home.” During our gathering we followed the leadings of the Spirit and paid special attention to our many “homes” – homes among one another, within the fellowship of Quakers across the globe, and amidst the natural and built environments that make up our yearly meeting campus. Our theme was explored not only in adult programs but also in youth programs that explored creating and sharing sacred space, and envisioning plans for new site usage in the context of the Testimonies of Stewardship and Community. The Peace Testimony, a context in which we also share our spiritual home, was a theme in various workshops, presentations and a business session in which we worked on our response to torture. Through the course of our business sessions we paid special attention to keeping our physical and organizational homes in order – our physical home in relation to the property development and maintenance, and our organizational home in relation to the process of composing and seasoning a major portion of our new *Faith and Practice*.

The reflections of our community were aided by various presenters who shared their spiritual journeys, the value of their spiritual homes, and provided insights into how we are connected to the work of the wider Quaker community. These presenters included Sandra Tamari, a member of the board of the Quaker United Nations Office and a member of ILYM’s St. Louis Monthly Meeting; Micah Bales, a Friend in traveling ministry under the care of Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Mary Pikul of Chicago Friends School, Sonia Tuma of the AFSC Central Regional Program, Emma Condori of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, and Phillip Gulley, a recorded minister in Western Yearly Meeting.

We rejoiced in being able to utilize and explore the opportunities of the new house and six acres purchased last year. The house has been completely refurbished over the last six months thanks to the considerable time, effort, and energy of various yearly meeting members. As our physical home had been expanding, our spirits had been nourished through worship, workshops, speakers, worship sharing, and the fellowship of hayrack rides, intergenerational square dancing, and games on the lawn.

We also appreciated sharing our campus with various other companions including a barn cat whom our youth named “Jamie,” a family of great horned owls nesting in the barn of the newly acquired land, the red-winged blackbirds, who after a long absence from the area are now nesting in our recently reclaimed prairie grass field, and the fireflies, who in lighting up the campus at night, reminded us to let our Inner Light shine.

The annual sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting were held with joy, challenges, intergenerational community engagement, centering and focusing queries, deep listening and love – all the ingredients for the continual development of our spiritual home.

In the Light,
Illinois Yearly Meeting

Adult Young Friends Epistle 2009

To Friends Everywhere,

The Adult Young Friends met with joy and exuberance in our opening session. We welcomed traveling Friend Micah Bales, who shared his spiritual journey with us. We also welcomed several new members to our expanding group.

Together we examined the purpose of our group as a whole and our sense of AYP's direction by holding a visioning workshop. We discussed how we want to witness our service testimonies. We want to strengthen our community while connecting to the larger meeting. We came out with a stronger sense of who we are – providing a spiritual home to Adult Young Friends in a transitory state of their lives. We help to facilitate the transition from Young Friend to Adult Friend by serving on committees in the larger meeting, and leading children's groups and worship sharing sessions, while supporting and nurturing each other with conversation and a trip to the nature park of Starved Rock.

Speaker Phillip Gulley's address resonated with our sense of community and reinforced our determination to support and nourish each other. During our session we lived our transition from Young to Adult. We were touched by acts of kindness, explored our theme and our Meeting for Worship, and met the challenge of Quaker business process.

As our group matures, we continue to build more organic processes and bring our members together. We send our love to the wider Quaker community, and invite them to join ours if they are ever near.

High School Friends Epistle

Dear Friends,

It's one in the morning on Sunday, and we are finally sitting down to write the epistle. We are so sleep deprived, we don't remember much of what happened.

One thing we do remember is yoga on Thursday and Friday mornings. In addition to this strenuous exercise, we played ultimate frisbee. We all agree that nap-time is time well spent. We would wake up early for breakfast, and then fall asleep once more.

Also on Thursday and Friday, we talked to Vanessa Julye about ethnic Friends and their struggle to be recognized. We also had worship sharing about what Quakerism meant to each of us. We described Quakerism through positive words of what we do, instead of what we do not do which is often easier.

There has been a stray black cat around the campus of Clear Creek that has become a Friend. According to Sam, its name is Asmodeus. Sam thought that it was a cool name. The name Asmodeus is surprisingly a demon of hell, according to the internet. Asmodeus, the cat, is actually very nice. However, he bites your arm if you pet his stomach. See Sam.

Friday, we played tag in the rain, and played cards. After the rain abated, square dancing excited our hearts and feet. The last dance, the Virginia Reel, was last because it initiated some more rain, and most of us huddled in our bunkhouse, dry and warm. During the storm, a pillow fight ensued, where Quinn lost pathetically to Mason. Quinn fake cried to psyche him out. It worked. Kevin and Sam played minor roles as well.

Saturday is the day of the out-trip. We did a service project at Starved Rock, where we picked up trash and recyclables, and our shoes were drenched in mud. After a picnic lunch in the shade and a cuddle puddle, we continued to Ottawa for Green Fete Festival. Our hopes and dreams were crushed upon arrival, for the festival lacked appeal. We walked around downtown and overwhelmed the local ice cream store. 20 ice cream treats and happy bellies later, we slept droolingly in the car.

Shake it up, ILYM High School Friends

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 9-13

Dear Friends,

This year we did lots of things, including walking the grounds of the meeting, seeing one of the great horned owls that live in the barn, and recognizing parts of nature. We watched a movie called *The Man Who Planted Trees*. It was about a person who changed barren land into a healthy environment over many years. We talked about the Quaker testimonies of Community and Stewardship. We brainstormed ideas for improving the Illinois Yearly Meeting Grounds and talked about where they might be located on the site. Lastly, we made our plan for the site. We included a pond, a bee farm, windmill, orchard, and a library with good books (not about Quakers). We decided not to include a roller-coaster, water-park or a Quaker museum. We had a fun time except for the rain storm.

Sage, Amal, Liam, Kaleigh, Lindsay, Marlena, Sophie, Laure, Murphy

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 6-8

Greetings from the ILYM 6 to 8 year olds. We are Ashley, Dustin, Ethan, Henry, Jad, Jasmine, Kiran, Kiva, Liam, Lilly, Nathan, Quinn, and Stella.

Each day we met with all the FUN kids for songs at the playground. Then our group played name games and read stories having to do with homes both physical and spiritual. We made a mural/collage about homes. We went outside to seek our own ILYM spiritual homes. We made them out of string, sticks and yarn. Some of us shared houses with each other. Some of us shared with trees, flowers, grass, ants, spiders, birds, walnuts, bark, sticks, mulberries, blackberries, lightning, rain, more rain, sunlight, stars, dark, sky, and wind. We can visit our ILYM homes every year - even when we are old. We can remember our ILYM homes when we are away - even when it is winter.

We read nine books. Our favorites include *The Little House*, *Frida the Wondercat*, and *Cinderella's Rat*. We joined the 3 to 5 year olds to hear a story about Abraham and Sarah, who lived in the desert and had Isaac.

Epistle from the Young Friends aged 3-5

Dear Friends,

We are the FIREFLIES, the 3-5 year olds at the ILYM annual meeting. We have had a good time this summer. We did art projects, including making cards for members of our families. We sang songs. We read stories. We visited each other's tents and cabins and it was fun sharing our 'homes'. We also really liked snack.

We missed Hollis until today. He swallowed some poisonous pods from a false blue indigo plant. He rode from Monmouth to Peoria in an ambulance and then had to stay all day in the hospital in Peoria. We are glad he didn't die.

Today we saw the story of Abraham and Sarah and The Great Family in the desert. Abraham and Sarah did die but they were very old so it was sad but it was their time. We are part of the great family they started. Gwen shared that her Grandpa Harold is dying. That is sad for her.

We also liked just being at the meetinghouse, even though we had storms. Last night we danced and we ate watermelon.

Zara, Lorelei, Gwen, Mackenna, Signe, Heidi, Prya, Hollis, Jasmine, Anya, and Faith

**Illinois Yearly Meeting - Monthly Meeting Contributions
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bloomington-Normal	1,740		1,740
Clear Creek	6,480	325	6,805
Columbia	2,900		2,900
Downers Grove	5,200		5,200
Duneland	1,920		1,920
Evanston	15,760	500	16,260
57th Street	2,100		2,100
Lake Forest	15,840		15,840
Milwaukee	1,800		1,800
Northside	1,467		1,467
Oak Park	3,840		3,840
Oshkosh	100		100
Rock Valley	960		960
Rolla	200		200
South Bend	6,480		6,480
Southern Illinois	1,149		1,149
Spoon River	1,150		1,150
St. Louis	15,130		15,130
Upper Fox Valley	1,500		1,500
Urbana-Champaign	7,260		7,260
Total	\$92,976	\$825	\$93,801

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.	

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet
June 30, 2010

	To Date	Opening Balance
	6/30/2010	7/1/2009
Assets		
Cash		
Checking Account	19,438.50	68,440.54
Certificates of Deposit	29,241.38	28,697.82
Friends Meetinghouse Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00
Money Market Fund	65,335.17	35,165.81
Total Cash	124,015.05	142,304.17
Total Assets	<u>124,015.05</u>	<u>142,304.17</u>
 Liabilities		
Loans from Individuals	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Liabilities	1,000.00	1,000.00
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted Undesignated	39,531.21	34,681.54
Unrestricted Designated	83,483.84	77,084.01
Restricted	0.00	29,538.62
Total Net Assets	123,015.05	141,304.17
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>124,015.05</u>	<u>142,304.17</u>

Note: Because it is difficult to appraise, the value of the McNabb site (land and buildings) is omitted from the Assets section of this report. An additional tract including six acres with a house and outbuildings was purchased June 2009.

<p>RECOMMENDED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION</p> <p>PER ADULT RESIDENT MEMBER</p> <p>IS <u>\$240.</u></p>
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Illinois Yearly Meeting - Net Assets By Fund / Income-Expense Statement

For the period 7/1/2009 - 6/30/2010

	UNRESTRICTED by Donors or Business Meeting	DESIGNATED by ILYM Business Meeting					RESTRICTED by Donors	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Not Designated	Special Gifts	Payroll Reserves	FWCC WorldMtgs	Deferred Maint.	Property Improvement		
Beginning Balance	34,681.54	21,170.29	36,000.00	2,400.00	17,513.72	29,538.62	141,304.17	
Net Assets 6/30/2009								
Income								
Contributions-IND	3,460.00	5,000.00				50,075.42	58,535.42	
Contributions-MTG	92,976.00					825.00	93,801.00	
AM 10 Income	13,350.00						13,350.00	
Other Registrations							-	
Interest	1,579.65					236.14	1,815.79	
Other	517.94					232.00	749.94	
Total Income	111,883.59	5,000.00	-	-	-	51,368.56	168,252.15	
Expenses								
Operating								
Salaries & Payroll	(38,495.98)						(38,495.98)	
Travel (Staff)	(4,217.43)						(4,217.43)	
YM Travel Support	(4,743.77)						(4,743.77)	
AM 10 Expenses	(14,903.19)						(14,903.19)	
Other Programs	(520.96)						(520.96)	
Insurance	(3,698.00)						(3,698.00)	
Office	(984.84)						(984.84)	
Committees (Detail 1)	(10,201.01)						(10,201.01)	
Facilities (Detail 2)	(6,648.74)				(1,101.85)		(7,750.59)	
Support to Others (Detail 3)	(8,700.00)						(8,700.00)	
"Mills" property expenses						(89,170.00)	(89,170.00)	
Legal/Professional		(3,155.50)					(3,155.50)	
Total Expenses	(93,113.92)	(3,155.50)	-	-	(1,101.85)	(89,170.00)	(186,541.27)	
Net income (loss)								
before transfers	18,769.67	1,844.50	-	-	(1,101.85)	(37,801.44)	(18,289.12)	
Transfers								
For Special Gifts (#2)	(6,420.00)	6,420.00					-	
For Payroll Reserves (#3)			-				-	
For FWCC World Mtgs (#4)	(1,500.00)			1,500.00			-	
For Deferred Maint (#5)	(6,000.00)				6,000.00		-	
For Property Impr. (#6)		(8,262.82)				8,262.82	-	
Total Transfers	(13,920.00)	(1,842.82)	-	1,500.00	6,000.00	8,262.82	-	
Ending Balance								
Net assets	39,531.21	21,171.97	36,000.00	3,900.00	22,411.87	-	123,015.05	

<u>Column</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Oversight</u>
1 Unrestricted	Our general operating fund, where we organize our annual budget.	Finance
2 Special Gifts	A reserve fund to receive larger unrestricted contributions, used for special projects.	Finance
3 Payroll Reserves	A reserve fund that would be used to pay staff only in a fiscal emergency.	Finance
4 FWCC World Meetings	A reserve fund to provide travel assistance to ILYM's reps to FWCC world gatherings.	Finance
5 Deferred Maintenance	Used to save for and pay for irregular site maintenance projects.	Maint & Planning
6 Property Improvement	Restricted by donors to be used for new building projects.	Site Envisioning

**Illinois Yearly Meeting
Operating Budget 2010-2011
Approved – see Minute 79**

	10-11 <u>Anticipated</u>	09-10 <u>Actual</u>	09-10 <u>Budget</u>
Income			
Contributions from Meetings	95,000	92,976	78,500
Contributions from Individuals	4,500	3,460	4,600
Gatherings & Retreats	16,000	13,350	16,100
Fundraisers	0	518	0
Interest	1,500	1,580	1,800
Total Income	<u>117,000</u>	<u>111,884</u>	<u>101,000</u>
Expenses			
Operating			
Personnel (Payroll, Staff Travel, Office) ¹	(45,000)	(43,698)	(44,700)
YM Travel Support ²	(7,500)	(6,244)	(6,500)
Gatherings & Retreats	(15,000)	(15,424)	(15,300)
Site (Facilities & Deferred Maint) ³	(26,900)	(16,347)	(15,600)
Committees ⁴	(12,500)	(10,201)	(9,700)
Support to Others ⁵	(10,100)	(8,700)	(9,200)
Total Expenses	<u>(117,000)</u>	<u>(100,614)</u>	<u>(101,000)</u>
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	<u>0</u>	<u>11,270</u>	<u>0</u>

Operating Budget: Expense Line Item Details p.1

(1) Personnel			
Salaries & Payroll	(39,500)	(38,496)	(39,300)
Staff Travel	(4,500)	(4,217)	(4,500)
Office	(1,000)	(985)	(900)
Total	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>(43,698)</u>	<u>(44,700)</u>
(2) YM Travel Support			
ILYM Committee Travel	(2,000)	(1,729)	
ILYM Reps Travel	(3,500)	(3,015)	(5,000)
Transfer to <i>FWCC World Meetings</i> Travel	(2,000)	(1,500)	(1,500)
Total	<u>(7,500)</u>	<u>(6,244)</u>	<u>(6,500)</u>
(3) Site			
<u>Annual Facilities Expenses (Oversight: Stewards)</u>			
Insurance	(4,800)	(3,698)	(3,500)
Repairs	(1,200)	(674)	(700)
Mowing & tree trimming	(3,300)	(3,766)	(2,700)
Annual services (inspections, winterizing)	(1,200)	(1,096)	(1,100)
Utilities	(1,900)	(1,113)	(1,600)
Facilities Total	<u>(12,400)</u>	<u>(10,347)</u>	<u>(9,600)</u>
<u>Deferred Maintenance (Oversight: M&P)</u>			
Transfer to <i>Deferred Maintenance Fund</i>	(14,500)	(6,000)	(6,000)
Total	<u>(26,900)</u>	<u>(16,347)</u>	<u>(15,600)</u>

ILYM 2010-2011 Operating Budget - Expense Line Item Details p.2

	10-11 Anticipated	09-10 Actual	09-10 Budget
(4) Committees			
Ad hoc	(50)	(55)	(100)
Environmental Concerns	(450)	(38)	(200)
Faith & Practice	(200)	(147)	(200)
Finance	(100)	(44)	(50)
Handbook	(100)	(49)	(100)
Maintenance & Planning	(200)	(10)	(100)
Ministry & Advancement	(1,450)	(1,237)	(250)
Nominating	(400)	(349)	(50)
Peace Resources	(850)	(256)	(1,100)
Peace Tax Fund	(50)	0	0
Personnel	(300)	(21)	0
Publications	(4,800)	(5,186)	(4,500)
QVSTWC	(50)	0	(50)
Religious Education	(500)	(506)	(500)
Site Envisioning / Development	(500)		
Youth Oversight	(2,500)	(2,304)	(2,500)
Total	(12,500)	(10,201)	(9,700)

(5) Support to Others

<u>Pastoral Aid</u>			
Ken Ives Fund (Oversight: QVSTWC)	0	0	(500)
Sufferings (Oversight: M&A)	0	0	0
ILYM Quaker Youth Pilgrims (1-time Summer 2010)	(800)	0	0
<u>Quaker organizations to which ILYM assigns representatives</u>			
Friends General Conference (FGC)	(4,000)	(3,200)	(3,200)
1-time FGC Campaign "Spiritual Fire"	0	(500)	(500)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)	(2,000)	(1,200)	(1,200)
American Friends Service Cmte. (AFSC)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friends Cmte. on Natl Legislation Edu. Fund (FCNL)	(400)	(400)	(400)
Friends Peace Teams (FPT)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Assoc. Cmte./Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA)	(250)	(250)	(250)
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)	(250)	(250)	(250)
Friends for Lesbian & Gay Concerns (FLGBTQC)	(50)	(50)	(50)
<u>Regional Quaker educational institutions</u>			
Chicago Friends School (CFS)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Scattergood School	(200)	(200)	(200)
Earlham College	(200)	(200)	(200)
1-time Earlham Campaign "Purpose and Passion"	0	(500)	(500)
Earlham School of Religion (ESR)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Olney Friends School	(100)	(100)	(100)
Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)	(300)	(300)	(300)
Project Lakota	(200)	(200)	(200)
Friends Journal	(200)	(200)	(200)
Quaker United Nations Office (QUONO)	(50)	(50)	(50)
Total	(10,100)	(8,700)	(9,200)

TREASURERS' NARRATIVE FOR FINANCIAL REPORTS

The activity and organization of ILYM's net assets are shown in the *Net Assets by Fund / Income-Expense Statement*. We organize our net assets into six categories (columns). The best way to read this statement is down the columns; each has an opening balance, income, expenses, transfers, and ending balance. At the bottom of the statement is a legend indicating the purpose of each category, and which committees have primary oversight of the funds in each column.

Property Improvement fund

Reading down column 6, the *Property Improvement* fund, we started July 1, 2009, with a balance of \$29,583.62. Contributions and income during the year came to \$51,368.56. This means that there was \$80,907.18 available during the year.

The amount for closing the sale, repairing and maintaining the Clear Creek House during the year after purchase was estimated in June, 2009, to be about \$25,000. The actual amount spent by June 30, 2010, was \$89,170. Of this, \$77,691.27 was for repairs and renovation, while \$11,478.73 was for closing costs, mowing, utilities, and insurance.

PIF expenses exceeded the available funds by \$8,262.82. At the June, 2010, sessions, Finance committee reported that once the negative balance in the *Property Improvement* fund was finalized, we would transfer an amount from the *Special Gifts* fund to return the PIF to zero, to make the financial picture clearer and to start fiscal year 10-11 with a clean slate. The transfer to eliminate the negative balance in the PIF was \$8,262.82.

Final fiscal year 2009-2010 results

Since our report at the June, 2010, business sessions, our FY10 budget difference (of fiscal year income over expenses) estimated at \$6,894 was finalized as a difference of \$11,270. This is easiest to see on the first page of the *Operating Budget* in the middle column "09-10 Actual." You can also calculate it from the *Net Assets by Fund / Income-Expense Statement* in column 1: rounded income was \$111,884, minus expenses of \$93,114, minus two budgeted transfers of \$1,500 and \$6,000, resulting in a net increase of \$11,270.

Since overall expenses came in as budgeted, the difference is entirely due to increased income, namely Monthly Meeting contributions. This occurred because, a year earlier, we united to ask Monthly Meetings for a 20% increase in support so that ILYM could manage our new property. Monthly Meetings responded to this request generously.

You may also note the transfer of \$6,420 from column 1 to column 2, *Special Gifts*. This was where we saved away the prior year's net income from FY 08-09.

Change in budget structure

Careful inspection of the financial reports will reveal that there is a slight restructuring of budget line details in the coming year. FY10 reports show 3 detail groupings (Committees, Facilities/Site, and Support to Others). FY11 reports show 5 detail groupings (Personnel, YM Travel Support, Site, Committees, and Support to Others). We hope that this will simplify the high level budget summary, while at the same time making the budget detail lines available for those Friends involved in specific activities of the yearly meeting.

- Dawn Amos & Roger Laughlin

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yearly Meeting Committees

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE MILLS PROPERTY (See Minute 25)

At the 2009 annual sessions, the Finance Committee recommended the appointment of an ad hoc committee to “get to know” the new property. The committee was to include members from Clear Creek, Environmental Concerns, Finance, Maintenance and Planning, Site Envisioning and Development, and the Stewards. (See Minute 55 of the 2009 Minutebook) Membership of the committee includes: Dick Ashdown (Stewards), Carol Bartles (Stewards), David Finke (ILYM Clerk, ex officio), Chris Goode (Environmental Concerns), Margie Haworth Davis (Finance), Pam Kuhn (Finance), Neil Mesner (Maintenance and Planning), Tim Narkiewicz (Stewards), Chip Rorem (Site Envisioning and Development), and Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek).

The committee met three times during the past year – twice in person and once by conference call. The first thing we accomplished was to change our name to the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property. We also created a more formal charge that was presented in our report to the 2009 fall Continuing Committee:

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property serves as a forum among and between The Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, the Illinois Yearly Meeting Stewards, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, gathering and sharing information as an aid to increasing transparency as we more fully integrate the Mills property into the yearly meeting.

Over the course of the past year, we have helped to determine and prioritize the work to be done at the new property in order to make the buildings and grounds safe and usable for Clear Creek Friends and for the 2010 yearly meeting gathering. The details of that work will be presented by Environmental Concerns, Maintenance and Planning and the Stewards. And true to our charge, we have served as a forum for sharing information among and between the various committees and groups who are working toward the goal of readying the property for use. We have found the latter exchanges extremely helpful, and believe we have made better decisions because of the regular interactions our representative committees have had.

At the January Visioning Workshop, Friends sensed the new property as an opportunity to build a year-round program of retreats and workshops. We recommended to spring Continuing Committee that Ministry and Advancement Committee develop such a program, and Continuing Committee concurred. Retreats and workshops can be created for a relatively small expense, with a large payoff in growing the Society of Friends in our region. In anticipation of the work of Ministry and Advancement Committee, our committee continues its efforts to refurbish the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting to serve as a future retreat center. Looking beyond the immediate need of readying the house for such use, we look forward to working with SE&D and others in ILYM to develop the ILYM campus for retreats & workshops.

At the March Continuing Committee, we were asked to bring to annual sessions a recommendation for a name for the house on the new property. This request was precipitated by a request from Clear Creek Friends in search of an “official” name for

the house to be used in describing their winter meeting space for their budding web site. After much consideration, **we recommend that the house be known as the Clear Creek House of Illinois Yearly Meeting to honor the generations of stewardship provided by the local meeting.**

Also at the 2010 spring Continuing Committee, we were asked “to bring to the yearly meeting recommendations for a policy for the use of the Mills house by yearly meeting committees and groups during the year from the 2010 annual sessions to the 2011 annual sessions.” While we have made significant progress in identifying issues for this policy, that work is not yet complete. We recognize that usage guidelines are an essential part of managing the new property and are intent on developing those as well as shepherding other remaining tasks necessary for the yearly meeting to make the best use of that purchase. To that end, **we recommend that our committee be continued for one additional year.** If the yearly meeting approves extending the service of the ad hoc committee, we suggest that the revised charge be:

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property focuses on finalizing preparations for readying the Clear Creek House for day use by yearly meeting committees and groups and ultimately for overnight use, while we continue to serve as a forum for sharing information among our representative committees and Clear Creek.

If the yearly meeting approves the extension of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property, the current representatives will work with their constituent groups to discern either the continuation of those representatives or replacement members.

- Beth Schobernd, Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (See Minute 33)

The Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) met five times since the 2009 Annual Session at the yearly meeting grounds during work-retreats in September and April, prairie burns in November and March, and the Memorial Day Work Weekend in May. During our times together, we have focused almost exclusively on environmental activities on the yearly meeting grounds, primarily the Mills addition, and have prepared guidelines for landscaping the Mills addition. Over the year, we have been involved in the following activities.

1. At the request of the Stewards, the Environmental Concerns Committee has completed the document, “Landscaping Guidelines for the Mills Property.” This was compiled by Adrian Fisher with input from committee members. The report is available on the ILYM website.
2. For over a year, the committee has been exploring procedures and materials to cover or “green” the Meetinghouse kitchen roof with plants – mostly sedum – to keep it cool in the summer and attractive. If we bought already prepared materials, it would cost \$7,000-\$8,000. Thus, the committee applied for a \$250 mini-grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness to experiment on a 48-square-foot trial area. Chris Goode, Adrian Fisher, and Noel Pavlovic are investigating possible ways of doing this. With a matching \$250 from ILYM, QEW awarded the grant to ECC. We hope to demonstrate some possible approaches during the June annual session.
3. After a failed attempt during a warm and wet November 2009, ECC with the help of many others was able to burn the ILYM Prairie and “Old Field” in March and April (along with the two large wood piles). In April we re-seeded the prairie

with Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, and Indian grasses. The burn should clean out and rejuvenate these areas.

4. During our times together, we worked on the yearly meeting grounds, primarily the Mills addition, cutting or trimming several trees and bushes, transplanting nine oak, redbud, and maple trees, cleaning trash piles, removing unwanted plants around the long shed and Clear Creek House, trimming grass around small trees, and in general beautifying the property. A major project was to cut down all the trees and to remove 20 or 30 large stumps in the Old Field, in preparation for plowing it to remove weed seeds prior to readying it for long term use.
5. Between the Annual Sessions in June 2009 and late September 2009, ECC collected 230 postcards for the Countdown to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change and sent them to the Church World Service to be given to the Obama Administration and Senate leaders on November 5, 2009.
6. We continued to work on and possibly finish several projects:
 - a. making recommendations for the use of green products at yearly meeting;
 - b. mapping of the trees, including the memorial trees on the ILYM campus with a short description of each person memorialized by a tree;
 - c. developing a description of the recycling coordinator at the annual session; and
 - d. reviewing the use of the composting bin at the annual session.
7. We are exploring for the future:
 - a. being involved with the Site Envisioning Committee in taking the work from the visioning workshop along with that of several committees to develop a site plan of the yearly meeting grounds and buildings to be presented for approval at the 2011 annual sessions;
 - b. developing the use of the yearly meeting campus for local gardening, such as community gardens and education on agriculture;
 - c. working with Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of Americas, on their Global Change Clusters Project; and
 - d. taking our message about earthcare and climate change, including Climate Change Legislation, to monthly meetings, raising issues about what local meetings are doing.

At the yearly sessions in 2010, the Environmental Concerns Committee planned for our activities in the coming year. To honor Bob Wixom, ECC's former clerk and inspiration, ECC would like to plant a memorial tree on the ILYM grounds. We are working with David Wixom and Bob's family to decide the best location and time for planting Bob's tree. Thanks to Paul Schobernd's amazing collection, we are planning to erect a purple martin house near the barn along with a bat house donated by Mark McGinnis. With the addition of the six acres to the west, ECC is aware that ILYM's property is an oasis for wildlife – such as owls, redwing blackbirds, and redheaded woodpeckers – among the surrounding corn and bean monoculture. We urge that ILYM be sensitive to this wildlife as we make plans for the use of our entire campus.

– Roy C. Treadway, Clerk

FAITH AND PRACTICE (See Minute 16)

The Faith and Practice Committee has met five times since our last yearly meeting, and conducted six workshops with eight local and regional meetings. Most of our attention during this time has been focused on a section dealing with monthly meeting structure and organization, which we would now like to propose that the

yearly meeting adopt for a 5-year provisional period. We have also completed an initial draft of a section dealing with preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups; we ask that Friends read this carefully and send us their comments and suggestions for improvement. We especially solicit comments from preparative meetings and worship groups, and from monthly meetings that have preparative meetings or worship groups under their care. Our plan is to revise this text over the coming year and propose 5-year provisional adoption in 2011. We have also printed a new set of booklets containing those sections of Faith and Practice which have been approved so far; these are available for Friends to take.

The entire section on meeting structure and organization is planned as consisting of several subsections, including an introduction entitled "Communities of Friends"; a section on monthly meetings; one on preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups; one on quarterly and other regional meetings; one on the yearly meeting; and one on broader Friends organizations. The text we are proposing for adoption this year includes only the first two of these subsections.

We presented an initial version of this text in our report to the yearly meeting last year, posted it on the ILYM website, and solicited comments and suggestions through the ILYM email list. We held workshops to discuss this text with Lake Forest, Bloomington-Normal, Spoon River, Clear Creek, Oak Park, Upper Fox Valley and Evanston Monthly Meetings, and with Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. We also received comments from Southern Illinois Monthly Meeting, and from numerous individuals. We made a series of revisions to the text to incorporate suggestions we received, and posted the revised version on the ILYM website so that Friends could familiarize themselves with it before the yearly meeting; it is also included in this minutebook (see page 53).

Friends who provided comments may notice that we did not make all the changes that were suggested to us. In some cases, we received conflicting recommendations from different sources; in others, we simply felt after careful consideration that the text was better left as it was. In many cases, additions to the text were suggested to us which we felt might better belong in a different section of the book. We hope that Friends whose suggestions were not all incorporated into the revised text will recognize that we took all comments very seriously.

As we consider this text for adoption, the committee would like to remind Friends that this is not a self-contained document, but part of what will be a much larger, book-length text. This section includes discussion of the responsibilities of committees and positions in a monthly meeting, but many of these responsibilities pertain to topics which will be covered in more detail in other sections. More particularly:

- The text we are proposing this year includes a passage outlining responsibilities of the clerk and recording clerk of a business meeting. Additional discussion of these responsibilities and advice on good clerking practice is included in the section "Friends' Manner of Decision Making," which was approved in 2009.
- The current text also includes a passage on the responsibilities of a care and counsel committee. We plan a longer, separate section on pastoral care.
- The text includes a passage on responsibilities of a worship and ministry committee. We plan a longer, separate section on meeting for worship and related topics such as support for travels and other work in the ministry.

- The text includes a passage on responsibilities of a religious education committee. We plan a longer, separate section on religious education and incorporating children into the life of the meeting.
- The text includes passages on the responsibilities of a property committee and trustees or corporation officers. We plan a longer, separate section on general issues pertaining to meeting space, property, and legal incorporation.

With these plans in place we urge Friends not to focus too heavily on what information is missing from this section, and concentrate instead on whether the text accurately and appropriately captures the understanding of this meeting on the topics it deals with.

A large proportion of the comments we received were suggestions for improved clarity and style. The committee very much welcomes additional suggestions of this nature, but urges Friends to communicate them to us off the floor of the business meeting. We are requesting approval for a 5-year provisional period only; there will be ample opportunity for further copy-editing during those five years and even afterwards.

As always, the Faith and Practice Committee welcomes comments on all approved, draft and planned sections, as well as suggestions for quotes, queries, or other material for inclusion.

- Peter Lasersohn, clerk

FINANCE (See Minute 63)

The Finance Committee had an emotional year. In November, we celebrated the life and mourned the loss of Nancee Miller, who is always in our hearts. And now, we rejoice in the birth of Sam, Margie's baby who was born last Saturday. We have always felt very close as a committee and as Friends.

1. Finance Committee is pleased to announce that two-click electronic donations can now be made to ILYM using a new PayPal button on our web site at ilym.org. ILYM keeps only 97% of PayPal donation amounts, so we hope that regular contributors will continue to send checks or use their online banking Bill Pay service, which lets ILYM put 100% of the donation to work. But we hope that the added convenience of a web site button will encourage new or infrequent donors to support the yearly meeting.
2. Finance Committee thanks committees for providing budgets in a timely manner this year.
3. With the Stewards and other committees Finance Committee developed a master list of what is in our safety deposit box at the bank in McNabb, and a guide for the types of documents to be put there in future years, as well as who maintains copies. The guide will also serve as a renewal timeline for items like insurance policies.
4. The committee has asked two Friends to do an informal audit of our books. This is planned for October, 2010.
5. This past year Finance Committee realized that as a yearly meeting, we have not fully used the Review Committee that was approved at 2007 sessions. As often happens, three committees went more than 10% over their budgets during this fiscal year. Finance Committee reminds Friends that when a committee expects to go over

budget, it must be seasoned by the Review Committee or the Finance Committee before the expenditure is made.

Additionally, the Finance Committee is asking the Review Committee to add two queries when considering unbudgeted expenses pertaining to the buildings and grounds. The new complete description, if approved, will be as follows:

Review Committee.

Under the care of the Finance Committee, a Review Committee will be appointed each year to enable ILYM to make immediate and sound fiscal decisions between annual sessions. Friends may approach the Review Committee when a committee or individual with specific responsibilities finds opportunities that will require expenditures that will exceed the budgeted amount by 10% or \$5,000 which ever is lower. The committee will consist of three members—two who are very familiar with ILYM finances, like the Clerk of Finance Committee and Treasurer; and one who is very familiar with all committee charges and ILYM initiatives, like the Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk or perhaps the Recording Clerk of ILYM. The members of the committee should be generally accessible—able to meet via conference call because some decisions will need to be made quickly. They may use these queries: Can the yearly meeting afford the additional expense? Is this in keeping with the charge given to the requesting committee or individual at annual sessions? Is there other relevant information that should be considered? If an unexpected opportunity or expense has become apparent related to the yearly meeting's real property (land, buildings, equipment), the committee may also consider the following additional queries. Is this work fulfilling a part of our vision toward the future of our site or is it maintenance (repair or replacement) to our existing buildings and grounds? If this expense is part of the new vision, does it fit within the restrictions and expectations of the donors to the Property Improvement Fund?

6. The 2010-11 members of the Review Committee are: Dawn Amos, David Finke, Sandy Huntley. You may contact any one of these Friends by phone, email or any other means. They are available and prepared to act quickly.

7. This year was an extraordinary year. We purchased the new property and with great enthusiasm the Stewards jumped into restoring the house and cleaning up the property. There was much to be done in the building and on the property. The amount of work that was done has been described in other reports and it should be noted that our costs in the restoration were considerably lower because of all the volunteer work done by the Stewards, Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Maintenance and Planning, and Environmental Concerns Committee.

The Finance Committee has been reviewing the year and considering what happened financially. Our entire Property Improvement Fund—and more—was consumed by the restoration and clean up work. The Finance Committee recognizes that this was an unusual year but still has concern about the process as it unfolded. We reviewed what we can take forward from this experience. There are two actions for which we ask approval.

The Property Improvement Fund was set up several years ago as a restricted fund for improvements on the campus starting with the restoration of the meetinghouse after termite damage. Most of the contributions to this fund have come from individuals.

At this point, there is a negative balance in this account. If at the end of the fiscal year (June 30), the balance is still negative the Finance Committee has approved transferring money from our Special Gifts Fund to bring the Property Improvement Fund to zero. The future development of our campus will come from this fund, as it is replenished.

In order to complete the work, the Maintenance and Planning Committee used funds from the Property Improvement Fund to restore the building and clean up the grounds. However, starting in FY2011, the Site Envisioning Committee will again have oversight of the Property Improvement Fund and will carefully review its use as a fund restricted by the donors for development of a building plan for our joint future here in McNabb.

The role of the Maintenance and Planning Committee is to repair, replace and maintain our entire site. The Yearly Meeting has designated the Deferred Maintenance Fund for this use. In order to be proactive in FY2011, Finance Committee recommends that Maintenance and Planning Committee identify a list of projects that is prioritized and includes anticipated costs the total of which if exceeded would need review. The list of projects needs to be approved by the yearly meeting at annual sessions. The Finance Committee recommends that Continuing Committee be authorized to approve some projects that the Maintenance and Planning Committee hasn't identified during these sessions for this fiscal year. The priority list would not include emergency repairs and repairs related to safety that cannot always be identified ahead of time.

When Maintenance and Planning Committee (or Site Envisioning or the Stewards) ask the Treasurers if funds can be made available for items that are not part of the prioritized spending plans, or are over the approved maximum, the Treasurers will refer them to the Review Committee for discernment.

The Finance Committee is ever mindful that our role is to manage and educate the meeting about our fiscal practices. We are not charged with making decisions about what expenditures are to be made. We are looking for a guide our Treasurers can follow when approving bills and making payments.

8. The Finance Committee thanks Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Stewards for their work with a consultant this year to generate a Capital Asset Management Plan referred to in other committee reports. This plan is very critical to our budgeting, saving and fund-raising processes. We have long had a serious concern that committees are forced to be reactive in their spending, rather than pro-actively planning for the long-term and short-term needs of our entire campus. Finance Committee looks forward to FY2012 and being able to present to the yearly meeting a coordinated and integrated budget for our buildings and grounds based on the CAMP report alongside all of our other yearly meeting operating expenditures.

- Judy Jager, Clerk

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING/STEWARDS (See Minute 29)

During the 2009 summer session of ILYM, the yearly meeting united to purchase a six-acre property with a farmhouse and outbuildings adjacent to the yearly meeting site. The Stewards and the Maintenance and Planning Committee were charged with repairing the farmhouse, now called the Clear Creek House, and clean-

ing up the six-acre property. To help guide our work, we engaged in a visioning day at Bloomington, Illinois, on a cold January day in 2010. To read more about our process and outcomes, please visit the homepage at www.ilym.org.

Mainly this report will be about the accomplishments of the past year in preparing the Mills Property for use in expanded programming for the yearly meeting and monthly meetings. The following is a description of the work we have already done, upcoming projects for the next year and our dreams for the future.

Work Completed in 2009-2010:

Clear Creek House: We have replaced old electrical wiring, and added safety features including exit lighting and a fire alarm system. The house floor joists were repaired. We removed the wood paneling and ceiling tiles in nearly every room in the house, including three rooms downstairs, the main foyer, both staircases, the upstairs hall and all 5 bedrooms upstairs. We have repaired the plaster inside all rooms of the house but the kitchen. We have put drywall on all the ceilings where ceiling tiles were removed. These rooms have been painted. When necessary, new wood trim has been installed and stained. We have completely redone two bathrooms including re-plumbing, upstairs and downstairs. The wooden floors and steps are refinished with three coats of polyurethane. The 3 rooms downstairs had been refinished by the previous owner so these floors were thoroughly cleaned and one coat of finish applied.

Upcoming repairs: A water treatment system specifically designed for the well water will remove the sulfur and iron from the water. This system will be installed before Annual Session.

The outbuildings: We hired a crew from the eco-community Dancing Rabbit to clean out all the outbuildings. This clean up produced 3 dumpsters of recyclable metals and 7 dumpsters of non-recyclable garbage, which we had hauled to the landfill. An unsafe lean-to shed on the barn was deconstructed and the side of the barn exposed by this deconstruction was sided with the metal roof of the deconstructed building.

The grounds: The Environmental Concerns Committee has been managing the trees and grounds. Please see their report for details.

The total cost of renovation of the property effective June, 2010, is \$79,199. There were additional costs for insurance, utilities, mowing and the property purchase bringing the grand total to \$85,207.

The following projects are proposed for consideration at Annual Session:

As a result of the visioning process, the yearly meeting identified a need to offer year-round programs to enrich the lives of our monthly meetings. To achieve that goal we must consider making Clear Creek House fully accessible. The following suggested priorities relate directly to both of those needs.

- A. Using Clear Creek House as an accessible retreat center:
 - 1. Upgrade the garage to create handicap accessible sleeping facilities.
 - 2. Make exterior and interior ramps to allow access to the kitchen.
 - 3. Re-grade around the house to conduct water away from foundation.
 - 4. Repair the patio and basement access to house.
 - 5. Renovate the attic to provide additional sleeping space. Note: The insulation in the attic will damage the shingles over time. It would be best to move forward with this when a decision is made how to proceed with the entire attic.

- B. Additional projects identified by M&P Committee
6. Exterior siding of the house: repair, restore original or replace with new.
 7. Front Porch: To move forward a decision is needed to determine how to USE the front porch to determine how to RESTORE the front porch.
 8. The energy audit will inform ILYM of additional issues to address.
 9. Remove hazardous materials from the property.
 10. Improve the safety of the outbuildings.
 11. Outbuildings: How do we want to have the outbuildings electrically wired?
A decision needs to be made. At this time, all electricity has been turned off to all the outbuildings.
 12. Re-roof the bathroom in the old meetinghouse.
(A full summary of costs is available for review as requested.)

Other concerns and actions:

- Clear Creek agreed to apply for an energy audit grant from Friends Meeting House Fund at FGC. M & P will provide ½ the local funds. Clear Creek will arrange this grant application. We need a plan about sharing cost of utilities between Clear Creek Meeting and ILYM.
- Agreement for joint use of the Mills House: Clear Creek will keep one or two rooms as their own space. ILYM and Clear Creek will keep looking into how each will share the property.
- The Furnishing Committee will discern decisions regarding selection of furniture: Beth Schobernd, Sandy Bales and Nancy Finke. They will meet at annual session and are open to receiving ideas.
- Currently, ILYM has Property Tax Exemption on the 6-acre farmstead and the Meetinghouse property. We do not have property tax exemption on the 1-acre parcel or the campgrounds. We will apply for Tax Exemption on these two parcels as well. We pay very little in Property Taxes on these two parcels each year (<\$100).
- ILYM Insurance Policy - The Stewards, with advice and guidance from the Finance Committee, reviewed and revised the ILYM insurance policy as it was renewed this year.
- Animal Control: A licensed animal control specialist has trapped 3 raccoons, two opossums, and one skunk on the Meetinghouse property. Only the skunk was accessing the crawl space of the Meetinghouse. We are grateful the skunk did not trip its scent glands. The specialist is filling, with screen and soil, the access to the crawl space. He assures us he has captured the “residents” in the area. We will retain his services again in the future as needed.

Work Weekend:

We had a good turnout for the 2010 Memorial Day work weekend, including a dozen teens and two dozen adults. Some of the things we accomplished this work weekend include:

Yearly Meeting House: We were able to scrape, prime, and paint the benches on the front porch; clean and stain/paint the steps and risers; tighten the telephone wire; fix the pass-through window from the kitchen to the dining room; replace the microwave; weed the grounds around the building; put new chains on the wood play set; put up a second play set for smaller children; and put up the Teepee for the FUN program. We still need to tighten the air cables (Tim Narkiewicz will do this) and

after annual session take down the Teepee (Mike Dennis will do this). The furnace room piers, bathroom and cistern also still need to be looked at by professionals.

Junior Meeting House: We were able to repair the broken window sill; put longer screws in several door hinges; move the ramp and several chairs over to CCFM house; scrape, prime and paint the east wall; and scrape and prime the south wall (it still needs the final coat of paint). We purchased more blue jean insulation and glass to repair 7 cracked windows, but did not get to install them. After annual session we will still need to remove AC units and heater.

Campground: We were able to prune several trees, weed around the campground and junior meeting house; repair screen molding in cabins R & E; Fix hole in soffit of Cabin R; fix door latch on Penn House; put up tire swing; paint the women's bath house interior; and check the bathhouse roof (which looked good). Cabin Q still needs a piece of modeling for screen.

Clear Creek Friends Meeting (CCFM) House: We were able to remove the front porch dropped ceiling and paint the whole porch; replace the old pond with a smaller lower maintenance pond; clean out the garage at the end of the chicken coop (where materials will be stored after annual sessions) and garage on the house – sorting the materials into recycling, burning or hazardous waste; weed around the CCFM house; remove several stumps; and burn some of the garbage. We still need to fence off the Blue Barn, East Row Building and other outbuildings (Carol Bartles will take care of this), have professionals look at cleaning gutters, improving drainage, inspecting the east row building ridge vents/trusses, and removing the gasoline tank near the well head.

The teens were commended several times for doing so much of the above work, as well as pitching in to help with the dishes and other smaller chores. With the additional work from adding six acres and multiple buildings we hope that more people will come in future years even if they can only help for a day.

- Neil Mesner & Maurine Pyle, Co-Clerks

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT (See Minute 51)

A number of new initiatives have taken shape in Ministry and Advancement Committee during the last year; These are:

- facilitating a web presence for every meeting to be an electronic signboard,
- providing advice and information on death and dying, and
- dreaming of year-round retreats and workshops, hopefully on a regional basis, to make it easier for more Friends to become involved and to grow in the Spirit.

I'll report on each of these initiatives.

Subcommittee on a Web Presence for Every Meeting and Worship Group

We held a Web Workshop in late October, 2009. After the workshop, the planners re-convened via conference call. It seemed clear that our first priority was to create a web presence for the eight meetings that did not have one already. We also understood that some of those meetings don't have adequate technical expertise. Following the workshop, Spoon River, Oak Park, and South Bend Friends each created websites on their own initiative. In addition, Clear Creek now has a website and Duneland's is in process, thanks to the volunteer efforts of Rick Robey of St. Louis Meeting. We're waiting for Oshkosh Friends to send us the "homework" we ask for (such information as when and where Sunday worship is held), so that Rick has what

he needs to create an appropriate website. Bloomington-Normal Friends' website is also under construction thanks to Kevin Suess's efforts.

The new websites are beautiful! If your meeting doesn't yet have a website, we encourage you to do the "homework" and send it to Mariellen Gilpin – if you've forgotten what is needed, let her know and we'll send you the email again. In addition, check out the helpful article on do's and don'ts for Quaker websites, which appears in the newest *Among Friends*.

Subcommittee on Death, Dying, Grief and Transitions

We wish to continue in the tradition of Friend Ernest Morgan, who recognized that our prevailing culture of denial about death and dying leaves many Friends ill-prepared when we, or our loved ones, sicken and die. Our meetings are also unprepared to support and help one another. We have agreed to the following statement of our purpose and goals:

To provide materials and advice to meetings and committees on Ministry and Oversight (or Ministry and Counsel) that help Friends and friends deal with death as an integral part of our spiritual lives, and practice loving community in the face of a death.

The tasks we have chosen to focus on are:

- Taking death back from the medical and funeral home industries by preparing for end of life issues with such things as a Power of Attorney, advance directives, and preplanning of burials and memorials.
- Making possible more soulful transitions by providing support for the person who is dying, support for the family during the dying, and support for the family after death.
- Providing a practical guide for meetings and mourners who, at an intense time, must take care of a variety of necessary tasks following a death, including the memorial service.
- Helping to break down our culture of denial by collecting Friends' stories about being present at a death.
- In addition, we are finalizing a Checklist for Preparation of Memorial Meetings, which we hope to publish shortly after annual session.

Our basic premise is that every death is a spiritual experience. If Friends can be helped to go into that experience with that expectation, we help make possible spiritual growth through choosing to be fully present in all stages of the death, dying, grief, and transitions process.

Thinking about the future

Thanks to the strong expression of a hunger for year-round retreats and workshops we heard at the Visioning Workshop in January, which was forwarded to Continuing Committee by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property, Ministry and Advancement Committee has begun discerning how we might begin to meet the need. One of our ideas is to have what David Finke calls "traveling road shows," where the same content and format can be made available on a more regional basis in our four-state area. Among other things in the works, Chuck Hutchcraft has volunteered to lead a program at Blue River Quarterly in the fall, at Camp DuBois. Chuck is not only a Quaker, he is also a Zen priest, and has offered to share what Buddhism has to say about dealing with our own "Stuff" before heading out to save the world.

Planning is in the early stages at this point, but when the announcement goes out via Sharon's e-list, all are welcome to participate. Y'all come!

Ministry and Advancement committee is working with FWCC to bring a series of events on how Friends deal with conflict on the international, national, meeting and personal levels in the fall. Tentatively, there will be several in the Missouri and Southern Illinois area in mid-October and several in the Chicago-Central Illinois area in late October. These will be mini-regional events in what we hope will be an ongoing series.

Also, Saturday afternoon during annual session, Ministry and Advancement Committee is offering a workshop at the (air conditioned!!) Clear Creek House in order to find out exactly what sort of workshops and retreats you would enjoy. Again, y'all come! The more the merrier! We'll have a good time and have a festival of ideas together.

In preparation for this workshop, we held a few "dress rehearsals". Our concern was that many Friends in our meetings don't come to annual session, and we wanted their ideas too. So, instead of asking the mountain to come to Mohammed, Mohammed decided to hop the train and go to the mountain. We enjoyed ourselves, and Friends suggested they'd especially enjoy hands-on learning through the arts, and through lots of interacting and sharing with other Friends. What did they want to learn more about? They wanted spiritual deepening, and they also wanted to learn to walk our talk better. They had lots of creative suggestions along those lines.

In addition to these Meetings for Brainstorming, we conducted a brief survey, gathering information in response to three questions: 1) What practical arrangements do I need to come to an ILYM retreat? 2) What would help me decide to come to a retreat within 125 miles of my home? And 3) If cost would be a limiting factor, what would be my upper limit to attend a retreat? We will continue to collect responses to this survey at the Saturday workshop.

We want to highlight one clear preliminary result of this survey, for Friends to ponder in the coming year: Our respondents clearly were excited about having more retreats and workshops, especially if these were closer to home, but more than half reported having very little discretionary income. Many of these Friends are generously giving of their time and talents to their meetings, but simply don't have the treasure that many of us tend to assume is available for attending retreats and workshops. We need to find ways to make it easier financially for these dear Friends to attend our gatherings. Simply waving our hands and saying, "Ask your meeting," is leaving it up to the individual Friend to come forward and say, "I have limited income. Can you help?" This feels icky. We should be more sensitive. The initiative needs to shift to the meetings, and the quarterly and yearly meeting, to volunteer financial assistance, carpooling, babysitting and pet-sitting, so the opportunity to grow in the Spirit is more readily available. When we look around, we see few younger faces at annual session; here is an important way to make ourselves more welcoming to new faces and new energies.

Finally, Ministry and Advancement Committee is facing the loss of four of our beloved elders at once this year, as they all cycle off Ministry and Advancement. We warmly express our deep appreciation for the loving work, over many decades, of these four Friends. David Shiner has been our able committee clerk, as have Janet Means Underhill and Margaret Katranides. Margaret and Nancy Duncan have also served as clerk of the yearly meeting. Janet took the Ministry and Advancement

committee from a state of near-exhaustion and made it a living force for Spirit in the late nineties. This Yearly Meeting, and the Ministry and Advancement committee, would not be what they are today without these four dedicated Friends. We thank them with all our hearts, and wish them well in the next stage of their journeys in God.

- Mariellen Gilpin, Clerk

FIELD SECRETARY (See Minute 56)

In the last year, I visited seventeen Illinois Yearly Meeting meetings and worship groups, attended too many memorial services, helped Ministry & Advancement with two activities (a workshop on websites and a subcommittee working on end of life issues), participated in three workshops and a Quaker workers' retreat, and facilitated a silent retreat for Friends in the Chicago area. In the course of my visits, I made presentations on outreach, deepening worship, the peace testimony, Quaker business process, seeking and finding spiritual unity, discerning our personal calls to ministry, and what it means to live as and in a covenant community.

Looking back, I feel that strengthening our small, scattered communities and increasing outreach have been at the heart of my work.

Early in the year, I began to carry a box of books that I felt were of value to our meetings. At first, I described this as a traveling library, but it soon became clear that lending out and getting back materials was, at best, difficult. After consulting with the Ministry & Advancement Committee, it was decided that I should treat the collection as a bookstore. This has been very successful – getting valuable resources into the hands of individuals and meetings. On occasion, when it was obvious that a meeting or an individual needed a particular resource, but could not pay for it, I have freely given copies of materials to further encourage their use.

This traveling bookstore has been of particular value in promoting outreach. Of the various materials, the ones I most prominently display were those on how to be present and welcoming in our communities. I have found it especially helpful to pass the materials around for people to look at while giving a brief description of each – holding a book or pamphlet in your hand and paging through it is much better than just hearing a description.

Although I have now been to most of our meetings and worship groups more than once, I still try to imagine how we are seen by newcomers. At this point, I have little to add to the comments I made at last year's annual sessions – essentially, we need to be more proactive. Do we open our doors to the strangers who seek spiritual comfort among us? Do we welcome them to our portion of God's holy mountain and make them joyful in our house of prayer?

There has been improvement in the past year – particularly in our meetings' presence on the internet – but most of our meetings still need better physical signage and more concern for making our meeting spaces neat, attractive, and welcoming. We need to have more and better information immediately available for visitors. We need to re-learn how to speak plainly – to put aside quaint phrases and ritualistic language that builds barriers. For example, everyone who is new to meeting should be offered a single-page handout that tells what to expect in silent worship in a few simple, straight-forward words. Likewise, if we are serious about outreach to minority communities, we need to consider ahead of time what needs to be done so that they

feel welcome. Having materials in Spanish might be one step. If there are pictures displayed, do any of them show people of color?

If we wait until someone is standing in our doorway before preparing a place for them in our meeting, it is too late.

The silent retreat I mentioned above was of particular significance to me this year and may point the way for my work in the coming year. In January, I had a free Saturday in Chicago, and decided to use it as an opportunity to offer a retreat in the 57th St. meetinghouse. The retreat focused on the differences between Quaker uses of silence and two similar forms – contemplation and meditation. Rather than thinking about God or seeking to withdraw into solitude, in Quaker silence we seek to experience God – to gain knowledge *of*, rather than knowledge *about* God – and in doing so, to come into communion with a worshiping community. The retreat consisted of a series of exercises that sought to increase awareness of our surroundings and of those quietly sitting with us. The retreat participants found the day to be spiritually valuable.

In the last two years, most of my work for the yearly meeting has been reacting to your requests, but the experience of this retreat has led me to think about how I might anticipate and offer useful retreats, workshops, or other activities. I am working with Ministry & Advancement on how best to implement this in the coming year.

Outside of my work for the yearly meeting, I taught one semester-long course (on modern Quaker life and thought), two week-long courses (one on William Penn and one on Elias Hicks), and made a number of presentations to other Quaker bodies. Finally, the new edition of *The Journal of Elias Hicks* that I have been working on for the past several years was published and I am delighted with it. It has been a busy and productive year for me – I hope it was of value to the yearly meeting.

- Paul Buckley, Field Secretary

NOMINATING (See Minute 10)

DECISIONS

1. The position of ILYM Representative to Friends Association on Higher Education was laid down. (Approved at Fall Continuing Committee)
2. Clarification of Nominating Committee's role with regard to clerks of committees:
"Clerks of ILYM standing committees should be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee has followed the practice of recommending the clerks of those committees and submitting these in writing to the body in annual session or, as needed, to Continuing Committee. When there is an urgent need to replace a committee clerk, the Nominating Committee may ask the committee to discern one from among its members. The committee should then ask Nominating Committee to bring his/her name to the next session (Continuing Committee or annual sessions) for confirmation. Outgoing clerks or standing committee members may also make recommendations to Nominating Committee regarding a committee clerk, based on their sense of the current needs of the committee and their acquaintance with the gifts and commitment to serve of the committee's members. Nominating Committee should prayerfully consider all such recommendations from committee members and should bring forward these names only when Nominating Committee has achieved a sense of clearness." (Approved; see minute 11.)

3. Proposal to create a position of ILYM liaison to Chicago Friends School: Nominating Committee submitted a proposal that Illinois Yearly Meeting create a position of liaison to the newly formed Chicago Friends School. The liaison to the Chicago Friends School would be expected to become informed about the progress and activities of the School, and to report to the Yearly Meeting at annual session. The CFS liaison would be nominated by ILYM's Nominating Committee for a three-year term. [Mark Robinson, Presiding Clerk of the Board of Directors for Chicago Friends School approved this language.]. (Nominating Committee accepted the Meeting's sense that it was not Nominating Committee's responsibility to propose this position. See Minute 57.)
4. Process to select delegates to FWCC's World Conference of Friends 2012: With the approval of the Yearly Meeting, Nominating Committee will name 4 delegates to the FWCC World Conference of Friends in Kenya in 2012. Nominating Committee will work with ILYM's FWCC delegates and others familiar with FWCC to seek out individuals who fit the guidelines of FWCC. It is not mandatory, but recommended, that the delegates also serve as ILYM representatives to FWCC Section of the Americas. The nominees will be brought to Fall Continuing Committee for final approval, in order to submit the names to FWCC by December 31, 2010. (Approved; see Minute 13.)

- Sarah Pavlovic, Clerk

PEACE RESOURCES (See Minute 76)

This past year the Peace Resources Committee found renewed vigor and purpose – or, rather, renewed vigor in purpose. Its purpose, as it has evolved for PRC, is this: explore how to work for peace beyond simply opposing war, and how to speak this truth to power grounded in the Light.

The exploration led PRC to create the Peace Testimony Workshop and offer it to ILYM Meetings with the hope that it would entice Friends to rekindle their relationship to the Peace Testimony. PRC continues to offer the workshop. In April, portions of it were presented at the Blue River Quarterly Meeting as part of an overall program entitled “A Quaker Testimony: Peace.” However, several Meetings that have expressed interest in taking up PRC's offer indicated that the time commitment for the advance preparation is too burdensome. With that in mind, PRC has decided to develop a do-it-yourself version of the workshop, whereby Meetings can facilitate their own workshops. Continuing in the vein of engaging Meetings, PRC has decided to develop more workshop ideas that will move Friends to explore further the dynamics of peacemaking.

A few years ago, PRC initiated the blog “How Do You See Peace?” to stimulate discussion around that very question. A year ago, the blog went on hiatus while PRC gave much prayerful thought and discussion to the question of how to ensure, to the extent possible with online discourse, that exchanges generated embody Quaker spirituality and principles. PRC is pleased to announce that the blog is again taking contributions addressing the question of *how do you see peace*. One footnote: Breeze Richardson pointed out to us that posts made to the blog prior to when it was put on hold continued to generate responses, which could well be interpreted as a sincere interest folks have in pondering and delving into how each of us sees peace.

Another issue that has occupied PRC this past year is the effort to stop state-sponsored torture. At the annual gathering PRC will ask ILYM to adopt a minute endorsing efforts to end the practice of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

At a retreat at Evanston Friends Meeting in October, PRC resumed its own exploration of how to work for peace. PRC would like to share a sense of this exploration at this point.

PRC concluded some time ago that working for peace, whether at the international, national, community or personal level, is more than opposing war or conflict. It must be a process that leads to deep, fundamental change at all these levels, beginning with the individual. Working for peace must become a way of being. It is further our sense that to effect this way of being it is important not only to be firmly rooted in the Light, it also requires the skilled knowledge and use of peacemaking tools, some of which already exist, some of which have yet to be developed. It is also our sense that to become adept with these peacemaking tools entails more than attending one or two workshops. Rather it would well entail training that lasts for years. Finally, all this effort – the learning and training, the developing of new peacemaking tools – does not point to a final destination, but is an ongoing, never-ending process. The skills learned and developed are passed on from one generation to the next. Peace is not something that is reached once and for all. The tendency to conflict is part of the human condition. This tendency must be forever tended to as one tends a garden. It requires continual study, testing and reexamination.

Further, it is incumbent upon Quakers, one of the historic peace churches, to take on this job. It is our heritage and we should honor it. It is our job to learn, explore, develop and teach peacemaking to every extent and as broadly as possible.

Finally, it is the hope of PRC members that this commitment to learning, exploration and development of peacemaking tools be incorporated into the vision being developed for what PRC further hopes will become known as the Peace House on the Prairie.

- Chuck Hutchcraft, Clerk

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This past October Friends traveled far and wide to Urbana-Champaign Meeting to attend a Godly Play workshop. Michael Gibson—from Friends General Conference's Religious Education Committee—led the intensive workshop, which energized attenders. Godly Play is a Montessori-based method of teaching Hebrew stories. It can be enjoyed by young and old and works well for Meetings with a range of ages in First Day School. We also learned many Faith & Play stories. These were developed by Michael Gibson to teach Quaker Faith & Practice. One of the aspects of the Godly Play approach to teaching is that the process of storytelling and exploring the story afterwards helps children—and adults—to begin to express their own spiritual experience in words. This is a great introduction to vocal ministry and speaking of one's own experience.

Many Meetings are now using Godly Play/ Faith & Play as a part of their First Day School curriculum. Joy Duncan, a Friend at 57th Street Meeting, took the initiative to receive earlier training in Godly Play and has completely reinvented their First Day School by using this approach to teaching.

Religious Education Committee continues to serve ILYM Friends with online resources. REconnections is the name of our yahoo group (search

“iymreconnections”), which has links to curricula, resources, and ideas for Religious Education for all ages. REconnections is also a forum for Friends to talk, share, ask questions, and to support one another. Friends are encouraged to sign up and join our online community.

- Elke Narkiewicz, Clerk

SITE ENVISIONING AND DEVELOPMENT (See Minute 41)

We ended our last annual session in the exuberance of the acquisition of the Mills property. The Yearly Meeting formed an ad hoc committee “to get to know the Mills property”. Maintenance and Planning scheduled and held a visioning workshop, and Carol Bartles led the work of repairing the Mills House. Consequently, the work of the Site Envisioning and Development committee was taken up through these other groups. Consequently, we had an opportunity to assess our position.

In review, we offered to Spring Continuing Committee that our committee be returned to two committees. Sample language describing the charges of these committees follows.

The Charge of the Development Committee

The (Site Envisioning and) Development Committee is charged with maintaining contact with the members of the Yearly Meeting as it relates to giving of funds to the work of the meeting. Recently, this work has been overshadowed by a sense of urgency relating to the building of the proposed new buildings on our meetinghouse grounds. This urgency has subsided with the acquisition and refinishing of the Mills Farm house.

One difficulty that influenced the (Site Envisioning and) Development Committee has been the narrow focus of the requests for funds. This focus was applied to buildings, and, as we all know, buildings are but servants of visions. These visions are more fully based in the spirituality of our membership and include the work embraced by all the testimonies. Now that we have achieved some of our building goals, it is time to return to addressing fundraising in a fuller manner.

One way of looking at the subject of Development is as an opportunity. One generation has an opportunity to pass on and invigorate the next generation with careful giving. In that light, hearing the hopes of the giving generation will shape the gifts to the following generation. Each generation has its gifts and challenges. Listening is a large part of Development.

We have just been released from our recent urgency. It is time for Development to return to the model of Love. Out of love, we give to the next generation. In Love, we must listen to the givers.

This process is slow. Some of us will die before we give. Others will give sooner. The time of giving is (and should be) chosen by the giver. Our tie-in with Site Envisioning and Development components clouds the topics. By separating the two, we can freely envision our future and freely devote ourselves to funding it.

So, the charge of the Development Committee is to listen in Love. The details of that charge come to documenting how and when Friends intend to give and to pass that information discreetly onto the Site Envisioning Committee. In addition, this discreet information needs to be shared with all committees needing funds to address the charges given them by the yearly meeting. This information should be shared with the Stewards and the Finance Committee. This information is a guide to our growth (our development).

The details of addressing this charge should be discerned and presented by the formed committee. The committee may want to add "interpretation" to its responsibilities or it may solicit cooperation from the Site Envisioning Committee.

The committee may be called to assist in raising funds for an upcoming project where funds are required quickly. The committee might seek professional or formal training relating to soliciting donations. This has been done in the past through Henry Freeman. As new Friends are involved the committee may be led to empower them with this type of information.

The Charge of the Site Envisioning Committee

The Site Envisioning Committee is charged with gathering the dreams and goals of the Yearly Meeting and its committees. This charge pertains to the entire campus (new and old buildings and outdoor spaces). The committee might hold periodic Visioning Retreats or workshops with the other committees (M&A, ECC, PRC, & M&P), to develop and consolidate the collective vision. The committee is required to consolidate and reconcile these dreams and goals into an overall plan. This work will become the basis for a presentation to the Meeting at large made during the annual sessions. This presentation will include plans, budgets, and timelines. The committee will take the guidance of the Yearly Meeting and refine the vision as directed.

Some of the work of this committee may require the hiring of outside consultants. The committee will identify these needs and present them to the Yearly Meeting for approval prior to proceeding.

We look to the next year as a planning year. We need to acknowledge the information conveyed to us through the Capital Asset Management Plan and process the consequences of its findings as it influences Site Envisioning. We look to gather with the other committees to prepare an integrated plan for the meeting house grounds. We look to present this plan at the 2011 annual sessions for review and comment.

- Chip Rorem, Clerk

STEWARDS (See Minute 36)

****ILYM purchased the 6-acre farmstead west of the Meetinghouse June 30, 2009.**

Purchase price

\$140,527.50	Purchase Price
<u>+ 7,762.12</u>	Closing Cost & Property Taxes
\$148,289.62	Total purchase price.

This purchase price included **\$2,095.25** - closing costs (included Boyle & Bolin attorney fees of \$495.25 and \$1,600 to Clear Creek for advance money) AND **\$5,666.87** - property taxes. Since property taxes are always paid 18 months in arrears, ILYM agreed to pay the previous owner's property tax for the 18 months prior to the sales transaction. The purchase price of the property was reduced to reflect the seller's estimated property taxes.

ILYM has received approval to not pay Property Tax on the newly purchased property. Illinois Department of Revenue reviewed and approved our application to be exempt from paying property taxes. Their letter stated that starting with our purchase on 6/30/2009 "... is hereby ordered that Putnam County Parcel, P.I.N. 04-07-232-000 be granted a property tax exemption beginning June 30, 2009, representing 50% of the 2009 assessment year."

****Lawn care and upkeep.**

Dick Ashdown has made arrangements for lawn upkeep. The ILYM property we have owned for several years is being mowed by the same people who have mowed the lawn for the last 2 years.

The newly purchased property is being mowed in three different ways.

1. Sid Glover who is currently mowing the campground, has added the eastern section of the newly purchased property at a cost of \$25 more each time he mows the property.
2. The person using the machine shed on the west end of the property is mowing the western most part of the property for us.
3. Billy Paton, a Clear Creek young Friend, is donating the rest of the mowing. Clear Creek purchased a used lawn mower Billy uses.

****CAMP: Capital Assets Management Plan.**

A preliminary Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP), prepared by Gary Anderson, Rockford, Illinois, has been prepared for ILYM. A Capital Asset Management Plan outlines major maintenance and replacement schedules with the accompanying estimated costs for these actions. The report addresses buildings, improvements and major appliances on the entire ILYM property.

This is a preliminary report to be reviewed by the Maintenance & Planning Committee. M & P will add items and remove items from the preliminary report and send these comments to Gary Anderson. Gary Anderson will revise, update and present to M & P a final CAMP report for ILYM.

With the final report in hand, M & P will again review, season and determine how to implement recommendations. Finance Committee will work with M & P to ensure expected costs identified in the CAMP are included in budgets in the future.

****Church Mutual insurance policy renewal**

The insurance policy is reviewed and renewed every three years. Stewards and members of the Finance Committee reviewed the policy with Church Mutual. The insurance policy was renewed with an increase in insurance costs. Annual Premium increases are due to the following: changed type of policy ILYM is qualified to carry (Policy Type E to Type A), changes within the policy, rates went up (across the board 10% increase with Church Mutual) and the purchase of the 6-acre farmstead. ILYM has an increase to its annual premium of \$1,094.

- ILYM Stewards: Richard Ashdown, Carol Bartles, and Tim Narkiewicz

YOUTH OVERSIGHT

We had a November quake at the Evanston Meeting house (moved from the new Downers Grove meetinghouse). Attending teens were Sara Raffensperger (Clear Creek), Mason George (Evanston), Rosalie Albright (Upper Fox Valley), Liz Anderson (Downers Grove) and Jonathon Gaff (Downers Grove).

We hosted the Quake That Rocked the Midwest on Martin Luther King weekend. A group of teens enjoyed local organic foods provided by Dave French and Donna K. with the assistance of the teens in cooking and clean up. Attending teens were Sara Raffensperger (Clear Creek), Mason George (Evanston), Rosalie Albright (Upper Fox Valley), Liz Anderson (Downers Grove), Jonathon Gaff (Downers Grove), Christina Timme (Oak Park), Quinn Laird (South Bend), Marguerite Daw (St. Louis), Delia Amos (Southern Illinois), Orianna Reilly, Zach Baer (Evanston),

Sam Boyd, Jessie Dalrymple, Peter Webb, Cynthia Watta and Emily Wills (Lake Forrest). Jon Watts performed his Quaker rap and other songs and led a workshop based on his Quaker experience. The teens traveled to the Circus Esteem for juggling, tight rope walking, plate spinning and big wheel tumbling.

The Memorial Day work weekend and quake was well attended. Attending teens were Sara Raffensperger (Clear Creek), Mason George (Evanston), Helen Albright (Upper Fox Valley), Liz Anderson (Downers Grove), Jonathon Gaff (Downers Grove), Emily Wills, Quinn Laird (South Bend), Julianna Estall, and Delia Amos (Southern Illinois). These teens helped on many projects and their energy and contributions were very significant in reducing the to-do list and making the work weekend a success. Teens painted the bunkhouse, and helped with many smaller projects as well. The teens went to Starved Rock stables for horseback riding as their Sunday out trip activity. Teens planned workshops and activities for ILYM during their HS business meeting.

At ILYM we currently have 15 teens. During the summer, Youth Oversight will help four teens attend FGC and two teens attend the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Teens will be selling T-shirts and other items to help raise money to support these 6 teens going to Quaker events this summer.

Officers for HSF meeting in the coming year are:

- Teen Clerks: Mason George (2011), Quinn Laird (2012)
- Treasurer: Delia Amos (2012)
- Recording Clerk: Sara Raffensperger (2011)

High school quakes during the coming year are tentatively planned for:

- 9/17-19/2010 at Camp Dubois at the same time as Blue River Quarterly
- 1/14-17/2011 at Evanston Meeting House for Quake that Rocks the Midwest
- 5/28-30 at ILYM for Memorial Day Work Weekend
- 6/16-20 at ILYM for Yearly Meeting

- Peter Albright, Clerk

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Our yearly meeting is represented by three persons who are members of the General Committee. This group provides guidance on priority issues focusing on the historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity and truth. Recent accomplishments have been to block the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons and a one-year moratorium on cluster bomb exports.

A big thank you for all the Meetings that participated in the recent issue priority-setting process for the next two years. At our annual sessions, we will be presenting a workshop on how we can provide our witness to our congresspersons. There will also be a display table and War Is Not the Answer signs and bumper stickers will again be available. Please go to www.FCNL.org for more in-depth information.

In the Light, Your General Committee Members

Kevin Brubaker, Wil Rutt and Debra Penna-Fredericks

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

Communion. A word that rises in my spirit often in worship and thought. It signifies a process of becoming connected, of becoming intimate, of embodying love. Communion is our presence, our being, the shape we take among the world's various groupings. Friends General Conference is the name of our communion. Illinois Yearly Meeting was absolutely pivotal in the formation of this body in 1900. We continue year after year to give to it of our substance and our labor.

This past year has been one of transitions in our communion, new connections being born, old ones laid down. FGC has felt it necessary to re-evaluate its work thoroughly. One primary motivator has been the threat of financial stress due to the economic situation.

The good news is that FGC has not seen massive shortfalls in its finances. Prior to the economic crisis, FGC had already become deliberate in managing its finances and resources in a responsible manner. This served us well when donations began to decline.

As we know, crisis is also opportunity. FGC discerned an opportunity to examine its practices and institutions. We did what every Quaker body in our day would do when facing a crisis, we formed a committee!! (You may giggle politely!)

The newly-minted Ad Hoc Priorities Committee was composed of several of our experienced and weighty members. A survey was sent throughout the many limbs of our body to seek and know our condition. Changes began as way opened.

FGC has sought to cut expenses, even to the point of cutting staff hours and even whole positions. These have been among the most painful of all our decisions, yet all agree that our long-term health as an organization requires serious resolve. To date, the actual job losses are not large considering what has happened to other Quaker organizations. Yet no decision to terminate a person's employment—especially of those whose work has been so worthy—can be made without a sense of loss.

This has meant a renewed focus on the many representatives and volunteers to carry the essential weight of our shared ministry and work. This seems to be in the spirit in which early Friends understood ministry, as a labor of love, not for financial remuneration. We ask your support as we continue moving forward in these matters.

As to our work, I'd like to draw your attention especially to the Quaker Quest program. This program has been in existence in London and other parts of England for several years. It is a labor-intensive effort to mobilize local meetings for the work of testimony and outreach to our communities.

I, for one, see Quaker Quest as a welcome opportunity to renew and enrich our common life. Quakers often focus on our internal doings or on social concerns, but rarely on actively inviting others into our midst to share our light. While not exactly evangelism, Quaker Quest asks all of us—whether we implement its program or not—to share our good news.

There are many other ministries of FGC to mention here; our bookstore and publications (which are undergoing the same prioritizing and refocusing), the annual Gathering (which has now been reduced to 6 days for the indefinite future), our ecumenical work (which is being re-evaluated and enhanced), and much more.

I wish to thank the ILYM nominating committee for offering me this opportunity. I do not always feel gifted or disciplined enough for this work, but I also know that I am far from alone as I undertake it.

Friends General Conference is our communion, our far-flung family across this continent. FGC is our hands, eyes, ears, and voice beyond the yearly meeting. Its life is directly connected to our life.

I want to close with a few lines from the “Minute of Purpose” and “Statement of Major Goals” which the Central Committee adopted last October. The full text can be found at www.FGCQuaker.org on the “About FGC” page.

“Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.” FGC works “to grow and sustain a vital, diverse, and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.”

Peace!

- Charley Earp

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Global Change Initiative and Local FWCC Gatherings

Quaker Responses to Global Change is an initiative that grew out of the 2007 FWCC Triennial. The topic is not specifically about climate change, but also related changes such as natural resource depletion, human migration, economics and life-style. FWCC wants to hear Quaker voices globally, not just from the global North and developed areas. What are Quaker experiences with these aspects of global change? What is the faith basis of our response to global change? Is there a Quaker-distinctive response? We are open to the possibility that there is none, but either answer affects how we move forward.

FWCC has set up an international steering committee for this initiative. It meets using tools other than physical travel. They have sent information to yearly meetings about holding local “clusters” of respondents. The thought is to have 10-15 clusters worldwide, as a sample of local voices. Many Friends want to share their experience, so smaller local clusters are welcome.

Guidelines will be provided for organizing local clusters, the size of a monthly meeting or larger. There will be six queries for each cluster. The queries are meant to be addressed by a group, with deeper faith-based discernment.

Responses will be channeled to the FWCC World office, in writing OR using videos on the Initiative web site.

A Listening committee will gather responses together. This will be input into a consultation in late 2011, by invitation. The consultation will encourage deep discernment, with a mix of Friends skilled in Global Change issues, from various clusters, and from a range of theological points of view. The consultation will generate a report for the 2012 World Conference of Friends in Nakuru, Kenya.

The initiative will involve new Friends in FWCC, and tap into an excitement that already exists about the topic. The outcomes are unclear!

Yearly meetings should watch for mailings of documents, and are invited to coordinate with the International Steering Committee to plan local clusters. See <http://www.fwccglobalchange.org>.

Implications for Illinois Yearly Meeting

Several exciting changes are coalescing in the next two years. The August 2012 World Conference of Friends will be held in Nakuru, Kenya. A World Conference is about three times the size of a Triennial, and only occurs once in a generation. The

theme is *Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world*. See the separate report for additional information.

The theme of the World Conference, in turn, will be the subject of a new mode of operating in 2010-2012 by FWCC Section of the Americas. Instead of a traditional annual meeting in March, FWCC is coming to where Friends are, in a series of local gatherings on the *Salt and Light* theme. In our area, we are likely to see gatherings in St. Louis and Chicago. These gatherings are intended to bring together Friends from other Quaker branches in the region. So in our case, we hope ILYM Friends can gather with Western YM Friends to bring the Salt and Light theme into our hearts. You may notice that the full *Salt and Light* theme has an intersection with the *Global Change Initiative: living the Kingdom of God in a broken world*. It is not yet clear how these two themes might be addressed in local gatherings. Can they overlap, or are they distinct? How does this inform the planning of local clusters and gatherings?

We learned one more interesting tidbit when all this was being discussed at the March 2010 FWCC Section of the Americas annual meeting. In some parts of the Midwest, the “global change” concept is identified restrictively with “climate change,” which in turn is perceived as a politicized and polarized issue. We were told that some Midwestern Quaker groups would not be interested in the Global Change theme. This surprised us, because it seemed very clear to us that ILYM Quakers would be quite interested in it. So what does this mean for planning both the local Salt and Light gatherings and the local Global Change Initiative clusters? Coordination and cooperation among ILYM parties, such as the FWCC representatives and the Environmental Concerns committee, along with outside planners from other yearly meetings and the FWCC office, will be needed to consider how best to engage regional Friends in these exciting opportunities.

- Dawn Amos, Mark Amos & David Shiner

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

World Conference

An FWCC World Conference happens once in a generation. The last one was held in 1991 in three global locations. This World Conference, with 1,000 delegates, will be about three times larger than a Triennial. It offers a profoundly deep spiritual experience that changes lives, keeps delegates involved in FWCC long term, and has a ripple effect on the worldwide body of Friends.

This World Conference will be held August 21-28, 2012 in Nakuru, Kenya (about a 3 hour motor-coach ride from Nairobi). The theme is *Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world*. Information will continually be added at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org>.

Because it is a single-location conference, it is hoped that a diversity of global Friends will be assured. Of the 1,000 delegates, 100 will be interpreters and translators, local and international planning personnel, and the FWCC Central Executive Committee. 600 are invited as named delegates from global yearly meetings – ILYM is invited to send four delegates. And 300 spaces will be available for observers, open by application.

A World Conference is more like a family reunion; not much business is conducted. Delegates will explore theological aspects of the full theme, and practical (mending) aspects will tie in with the simultaneous work of the Global Change Initiative, a project initiated at the 2007 FWCC Triennial and managed by the FWCC

World Office – see <http://www.fwccglobalchange.org>. At the World Conference, there will be a special effort to involve yearly meetings currently unaffiliated with FWCC.

ILYM is asked to respond to the FWCC World Office by September 30, 2010 indicating whether we will name delegates to all four positions. We are asked to send to the FWCC World Office by December 31, 2010 the names and addresses of ILYM's delegates.

In the fall of 2010, the number of additional observers will be evaluated, and the application process will be opened for the 300+ observer positions. These positions will be assigned with the goal of assuring global diversity.

In January 2011, delegates and accepted observers will receive registration forms and bills. The registration fee is on a global sliding scale, with global Northerners likely to pay \$800 to \$900 for the 9-day conference. Air fare costs are difficult to predict at this time, but could range from \$1,300 to \$2,000. ILYM has been saving up a travel fund for our representatives, but it won't cover the full cost. Furthermore, all Friends' groups and individual Friends are asked to contribute to the FWCC World Office travel assistance fund, to help extend meaningful invitations to Friends from the global patchwork of Quakerism. North, south, east, west, rich, poor, liberal, conservative, evangelical – we all have gifts to offer and stories to take in. After the World Conference, but not necessarily on a triennial basis, there will be a 300-person International Representatives Meeting. The World Office is soliciting ideas for sites, bearing in mind that visa restrictions into the global North impede the inclusiveness and diversity goals, making it a problematic destination.

- Dawn Amos, Mark Amos & David Shiner

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

At this time two Friends represent ILYM to QEW: Alice Howenstine and John Hackman. Alice has been involved with QEW since its founding in 1987 and John since 2000. Other ILYM Friends who have been involved in making spiritual and action decisions of QEW over the past twenty-three years includes Bob Wixom, Bill Howenstine, Roy Treadway, Noel and Sarah Pavlovic. All of them have also served on the Illinois Yearly Meeting Environmental Concerns Committee.

QEW continues to follow the vision and witness that has developed over the years. We would like to share it with you:

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

True to our resolve to promote these truths, we increased our efforts to be ambassadors to other Friends Yearly Meetings through QEW's Outreach Committee. Last year Hollister Knowlton, who was at that time Clerk of QEW, served ILYM through her address to our entire gathering, but also by staying through our entire gathering and helping out at many other places. Bill and Alice served as ambassa-

dors to Ohio YM-Conservative and John Hackman did the same when he attended Iowa YM-Conservative. John as well as Alice and Bill attended FGC in Bloomington -Normal, and also River Falls, Wisconsin. QEW sponsors and organizes the daily early morning outdoor worship at FGC.

Sensitive to the need for all of us to lighten our carbon footprints, QEW made the decision to hold only one national gathering per year. It will be held at the centrally located Cenacle Retreat Center Chicago where we have been holding our spring meetings for a number of years. The Sisters and staff at the Cenacle follow our ecological work and in the past couple of years have converted to energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs and low flow shower heads throughout their Retreat Center. Now that we will be meeting just once a year, we on QEW Committees will be conducting more meetings through teleconference calls.

Where are we headed in our local/global concerns? Further integration occurred with Friends Committee on National Legislation and now also with the cluster groups that are forming for the next Friends World Committee on Consultation Meeting in Kenya in 2012. We also attempt to apply the QEW goals and principles in our local work with the ILYM Environmental Concerns Committee. We try to apply ecological integrity in our building and our site development efforts as well. We think it is important to be involved with FCNL, FWCC, and to seek harmony with other Global Declarations. QEW was one of the sponsors of the Earth Charter back in 2002. Now we are considering actions to the statement of principles in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth. These principles were prepared by a working group at the Global Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Cochabamba, Bolivia in April, 2010. They sound very much akin to our QEW Vision Statement.

A final word to our ILYM Nominating Committee: Last fall Pacific Yearly Meeting sent a young Friend as their representative to QEW. What a joy it was to have that young energy in our midst! We were encouraged by our steering committee this spring in Chicago to send younger Friends. They are invited to serve on both standing committees like the finance, nominating, spiritual nurturance as well as the working committees which are, Sustainability: Faith and Action, Publication, and Outreach Committees. A few younger Friends would create more balance as well as offer more peer company to each other. This would also increase the years that we still have left to work on restoring our beautiful mother earth.

- John Hackman and Alice Howenstine

OTHER DOCUMENTS FROM BUSINESS SESSION

FAITH & PRACTICE SECTION ON ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF MEETINGS (as approved) (See Minutes 16 & 45)

Communities of Friends

The Quaker way of life is one of community: Friends gather together for worship, for service, to support each other spiritually and in other ways, and to reach collective decisions on the issues which arise in community life. For Friends, religion is not just a matter of individual experience, but something we enter into together, acting as a body in our worship, our witness, and our business; holding each other in mutual care, love and attention.

This is not to discount the experience of those Friends who live at too great a distance from their meetings to participate regularly, nor to deny that each of us must come individually to a sense of what is right and true and essential in spiritual matters. But time and experience have proven the value of a close, responsive community in fostering individual spiritual growth, in testing and tempering individual leadings and individual understanding, and in supporting individuals as they are called to act or to suffer for religious principle. Worship in a gathered community is different in valuable ways from private devotion, and a coordinated group can accomplish far more in service and advocacy than individuals acting alone.

Effective functioning as a community requires some organizational structure, and Friends have developed a variety of modes of organization, at both the local and the regional levels.

The local (or “particular”) meeting may be organized as a *worship group*, *recognized meeting*, *preparative meeting*, or *monthly meeting*. (The differences among these are explained on pp. xx–xx.) Whatever its organizational pattern, the local meeting is where Friends typically find their primary spiritual home. The local meeting is where Friends gather most often for worship, where they have the most regular contact with one another, where they can most easily provide individual care and support for one another. Indeed, some Friends find that their entire involvement in the Religious Society of Friends is with their local meeting.

There is a strong tradition of local autonomy in Illinois Yearly Meeting, and local meetings order their own affairs as they feel led. But Friends community is not purely local, any more than spiritual life is purely individual. No local meeting is a denomination unto itself; we are gathered into larger, regional bodies and into the worldwide Religious Society of Friends just as we are gathered locally: for worship, mutual care, fellowship, and above all for service to God and to humankind. Larger gatherings provide support for local meetings, and make coordination possible across meetings; they allow the pursuit of larger-scale projects than local meetings could accomplish on their own; they broaden the spiritual perspectives both of meetings and of individuals; and they provide an important unifying influence among Friends.

Regional meetings may be organized in various ways and for regions of various sizes. In some cases a monthly meeting may function as a small regional body, with more than one local meeting in its care (see pp. xx–xx below). Several monthly meetings may be organized into a *quarterly meeting*, or may hold other kinds of regional gatherings. *Yearly meetings* encompass a still wider area; Illinois Yearly Meeting includes local meetings throughout Illinois and neighboring areas of several other states. Various “umbrella” organizations promote communication, services, and cooperation among yearly meetings, and represent the Religious Society of Friends at the national and international levels.

The purpose and organization of these various kinds of local meetings, regional meetings and organizations will be described in turn.

The Monthly Meeting

The *monthly meeting* is our primary level of business meeting, conducting the business of a single local meeting, or in some cases, of a small number of meetings across a limited region. By extension, the body of Friends whose business is conducted in

such a meeting is also known as a monthly meeting. Membership in the Religious Society of Friends is through and in a monthly meeting, which may admit new members and make other membership decisions.

Functions of monthly meetings

Each monthly meeting organizes, maintains and oversees one or more regular meetings for worship. This includes arranging the time and location of meetings, publicizing their existence, and seeing that those who come to meeting are warmly welcomed. Beyond these practical matters, the monthly meeting promotes the spiritual vitality of its meetings for worship, encouraging worship and ministry in which the presence of God is deeply felt, and which tenderly addresses the spiritual needs of meeting participants, individually and as a community.

The monthly meeting also develops the meeting community and cares for its members outside of meeting for worship. Often, the meeting has meals together after worship, or holds other events which cultivate a sense of intimacy and fellowship among meeting participants. It educates both children and adults in the principles of Friends, and supports them in their spiritual development. It is responsible for holding meetings for marriage, funerals and memorials. The meeting should see to it that Friends in difficult or trying circumstances receive the support they need, whether in the form of practical assistance, counsel, or simple companionship and acknowledgment.

Monthly meetings also witness publicly as led by God, and interpret the Quaker message to the wider community. Much of this witness may take the form of advocacy for peace, justice, environmental stewardship, and equality; or of direct service and relief to those in need.

All these functions require resources and organization, and the monthly meeting therefore also serves an administrative purpose. It receives, maintains and disburses funds. It may own and maintain a meetinghouse, burial ground, or other property. It must keep accurate records of its business proceedings, membership, and finances.

Positions and committees of the monthly meeting

In fulfilling these functions, meetings usually find that certain responsibilities are best delegated to particular individuals or groups. The extent of this delegation will vary with the size, activity, and needs of the meeting. Normally, all monthly meetings will appoint someone to the position of *clerk*, and a different person as *treasurer*. A very small meeting might make no other appointments than these, working together as a committee of the whole in cases where other meetings might delegate, or might appoint individuals to handle responsibilities which in a larger meeting might be the work of committees. A very large meeting may have an elaborate system of committees and individual positions, into whose care the practical work of the meeting has been placed, and in which business is prepared before presentation to the monthly meeting itself.

The kinds of committees and individual positions which a meeting sets up are a matter for careful discernment. Just as organizational structure varies from meeting to meeting, it may vary across time within a single meeting. The size, energy, and concerns of a meeting community may change over the course of its history, and Friends sometimes find that a pattern of organization which formerly served them well be-

comes an impediment to effective work. Meetings do well to reconsider their structure from time to time. When major changes are made, community members may need to alter their habits and expectations: A meeting which has recently established a system of committees must guard against redoing committee work in its monthly meeting for business. A meeting which has recently laid down major committees must find new ways of making sure that vital work gets done.

Not all meetings will always use all the committees and positions listed here. But they have all proven to be useful in the right circumstances, and some of them have deep roots in Quaker tradition:

Clerk. The position of clerk is motivated by two unusual features of Friends business process: We do not vote, and decisions may be made which do not reflect proposals whose wording is prepared in advance of the meeting. These features present a challenge: How can we be sure when a decision has actually been made, and precisely what has been decided? To prevent confusion over such questions, meetings appoint an individual, the clerk, whose charge is to discern when the meeting has reached a decision in its business sessions, and articulate this decision back to the meeting for its approval.

In principle, our meetings are presided over by the Divine Spirit, by which we wait to be guided in our business meetings no less than in our meetings for worship. The clerk is not so much the pilot on whom Friends rely to steer the ship, as the mirror into which they look to see what decisions they have reached; accurately reflecting the sense of the meeting is the first responsibility of good “clerking.” The position of clerk in a Friends meeting differs in important ways from that of president in some other organizations. In many institutions, the president has extensive executive decision-making power, and is expected to take the lead in developing new initiatives and new programs. The position of clerk is first and foremost one of discernment in business meeting, and requires a degree of impartiality which is easily undermined, in appearance or reality, if the clerk makes major meeting decisions or strenuously promotes specific choices on the issues which come before the meeting. Of course the clerk may make such administrative decisions as are necessary to carry out the instructions of the meeting, but the primary role of the clerk is discerning the sense of the meeting as guided by the Spirit.

The clerk prepares a tentative agenda before the meeting, recognizes speakers during the meeting, and is responsible for seeing that the decisions of the meeting are carried out afterwards. The clerk signs letters and other documents on behalf of the meeting as it directs. In many meetings the clerk is assigned additional responsibilities outside the meeting for business, such as dealing with incoming correspondence, or closing the meeting for worship and making announcements. In meetings which do not appoint a separate recorder or recording clerk, these functions also fall to the clerk.

Some meetings also appoint an *assistant clerk*, who aids the clerk in formulating a clear and accurate expression of meeting decisions, substitutes for the clerk when the clerk is absent, and assists in other ways as the meeting directs. In some meetings the assistant clerkship serves as training for future service as clerk.

For more on the functions of the clerk, see “On the role of the clerks in meeting for business,” Friends’ Manner of Decision Making pp. xx–xx.

Recording clerk. Originally, it was the responsibility of the clerk to record the minutes of the monthly meeting, and especially in smaller meetings this may still be the case. Most meetings have found it useful to appoint a separate *recording clerk*, so that the clerk may devote full attention to discerning the sense of the meeting on the questions which come before it.

The recording clerk is responsible for writing out the minutes as they are approved, and in most meetings shares responsibility with the clerk for composing the actual wording of the minutes. After the meeting, the recording clerk prepares an official copy of the minutes to be stored in a permanent file or minute book, and typically also prepares copies for distribution to meeting participants. See Friends' Manner of Decision Making p. xx.

Treasurer. The treasurer receives, invests, and disburses the funds of the meeting in accordance with its instructions, and regularly reports to the meeting on its receipts, expenditures, balance, and general financial state. Individual donors are not identified in such reports, and the treasurer should treat their identities as confidential. The treasurer provides donors with receipts for their donations as required for tax purposes.

Recorder. The recorder (not to be confused with the recording clerk) is responsible for maintaining the membership records of the meeting. These include an up-to-date list of members, their names and addresses, the dates when membership was initiated, whether it was initiated by birth/adoption, transfer from another meeting, or request. Records should be maintained for former members giving the date when membership was terminated, and whether it was terminated by death, transfer to another meeting, or release from membership. Many meetings keep additional information provided by members: dates and locations of births, marriages and deaths; names of parents, spouses and children, and other information which the meeting may find useful and which members are willing to share. The recorder should keep a record of marriages held under the care of the meeting, including dates, and a copy or transcript of the marriage certificate.

It is strongly advised that all records be kept in hard copy on acid-free paper. A computer database of members may also be useful, but does not eliminate the need for hard-copy records because computer media and file formats become obsolete.

The recorder should bear in mind that the approval of the monthly business meeting is required for all membership transfers, all initiations of membership by request, and all releases from membership, including releases of Friends who have been inactive for many years and with whom the meeting has lost touch; it is not the prerogative of the recorder to purge the membership book of inactive Friends, or to decide who should no longer be considered a member.

The recorder should provide the care and counsel committee (or its equivalent) with an up-to-date membership list, at least annually.

In most meetings, the recorder or another Friend also periodically publishes a meeting directory, giving such contact information as active members and attenders of the meeting are willing to share. This directory should not be confused with the formal membership list of the meeting.

[*Sample membership record to go in an appendix at the end of the book*]

Archivist. Many meetings appoint an archivist, who is responsible for maintaining the meeting's records, including a complete set of minutes, older membership records and financial documents, deeds and other property-related documents, newsletters, and other materials felt to be of permanent interest. It is useful to keep copies of such documents on hand for meeting use, but it is strongly recommended that the original copies of legal documents be kept in a safe-deposit box, and that the original copies of most other kinds of materials be deposited on loan in an external, publicly accessible repository. The archivist is responsible for seeing that materials are deposited in a timely manner. Many meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting archive their records at the Illinois Historical Survey, a department of the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign.

Librarian or library committee. Many meetings appoint an individual or committee to oversee the meeting library. It is helpful for the library to include material for new and experienced Friends, for children and adults, and to include both permanent holdings and materials to be given out to newcomers.

Religious education committee. This committee, sometimes known as the First Day School Committee or by other names, coordinates the meeting's efforts to educate the meeting's children in the principles and values of Friends. In small and growing meetings, this may be the first committee formed, because of the need to nurture the children of the meeting. This committee may also coordinate religious education for adults; but more commonly this is handled by a separate committee, or by a self-organizing study group.

The committee is responsible for finding appropriate teachers, and for supporting and overseeing their work. In most meetings, teachers are chosen from among the members and attenders of the meeting. Care should be taken not to leave the job of teaching exclusively to parents. In any case, teachers should be well known to the meeting, or carefully interviewed and investigated to ensure the safety of the children and the appropriateness of the teacher's instructional style.

The committee bears responsibility for the curriculum, subject to the guidance and approval of the monthly meeting. Some useful resources are the Illinois Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee, the Friends General Conference Religious Education Committee, and QuakerBooks of FGC. The practical work of developing the curriculum and assembling instructional materials may be performed by the committee, the teachers, or both in consultation. Whatever the arrangement, parents should be carefully consulted. See [our yet to be written section on religious education], pp. xx-xx.

Care and counsel committee. This committee coordinates the meeting's care over its members and other active participants in the meeting community, working to make sure that they are adequately supported in times of trial or decision, and addressing cases of conflict or disaffection in the meeting. In many meetings it is also given specific responsibilities in the meeting's handling of membership, marriages, and funerals and memorial meetings. Such a committee is recommended even for relatively small meetings.

The committee continues, in some sense, the responsibilities formerly assigned to meeting “overseers,” and may be known in some meetings as the Oversight Committee, the Pastoral Care Committee, or by other names. Continued use of the term *overseers* is not recommended, because of the potential for offensive connotations from historical uses of this term associated with slavery. Frequently, this committee is combined with the worship and ministry committee to form a single committee known as Ministry and Counsel, or something similar.

The care and counsel committee should make regular contact with all members of the meeting, whether local or distant, and inquire after their spiritual and practical needs, and their relation with the meeting. It should keep alert to new situations as they arise, offering its help to meeting participants experiencing difficulty, and inquiring after those who have recently dropped their involvement in the meeting. When cases of conflict arise in the meeting, it works toward reconciliation. When appropriate, the committee may refer individuals to organizations in the wider community which provide practical or material assistance, counseling, or other services; it is strongly urged that the committee keep itself informed about the availability of such services, and keep an up-to-date directory with contact information. Strict confidentiality must be maintained both in the committee’s own contacts and in its referrals to outside organizations. For more on care for the meeting community, see [our yet-to-be-written section on pastoral care], pp. xx–xx.

In many meetings, requests for membership or marriage under the care of the meeting are referred to this committee, as are requests for a funeral or memorial meetings. See “Applying for Membership,” pp. xx–xx; “Marriage Procedure,” pp. xx–xx; [and our yet-to-be written section on funerals and memorial meetings], pp. xx–xx.

Proposals to drop a Friend from membership, or to alter the membership policy of the meeting, are also normally considered in this committee before presentation to the monthly meeting.

Worship and ministry committee. This committee fosters the spiritual life of the meeting, especially the meeting for worship; promoting its vitality, depth, and fidelity to the life of the Spirit. This function is a continuation, to some extent, of responsibilities which in an earlier era belonged to the “preparative meeting of ministers and elders,” and the committee may still in some meetings be known as the Elders Committee, or by other names. In many meetings, it is combined with the care and counsel committee to form a single committee known as Ministry and Counsel, or something similar.

The worship and ministry committee may include Friends of any age or experience with a concern for the spiritual life of the community and its meetings for worship; but ideally will include several experienced and knowledgeable Friends, some Friends who speak frequently in meeting, and some Friends who speak less frequently.

The committee meets regularly to consider the spiritual state of the meeting, and the quality and conduct of its meetings for worship, including those for business. The queries on pp. 63-66 may help guide the committee in its consideration of these matters.

Members of the worship and ministry committee pay special attention to those Friends who have recently begun to speak more frequently in meeting, offering them counsel and guidance, and encouraging whatever in their ministry appears a free and faithful expression of the Light Within. In many meetings, this committee also provides support and advice to the clerk.

The worship and ministry committee is also responsible for dealing with disruptions in meeting for worship, and with participants who make a habit of inappropriate ministry. A light touch is strongly urged in approaching such cases. It should be carefully considered whether the meeting might be damaged more by the bitterness and ill feeling which may result if a participant feels silenced than it would by forbearance. Nor should ministry be considered inappropriate simply because it is disturbing or upsetting to the meeting. But when inappropriate speech or other behavior interferes with the meeting's ability to hold meaningful meetings for worship, it is appropriate to take steps to correct the situation. On rare occasions, members of the committee must act individually to deal with disruptions as they arise; but it is strongly recommended that responses be developed by the committee as a whole whenever possible.

The worship and ministry committee may also work to promote the spiritual life of the meeting outside its regular meeting for worship, for example by arranging for retreats, workshops, or other events, by formulating queries for the meeting's consideration, or by making spiritually beneficial literature or other materials available to the meeting.

Nominating committee. On an annual basis, this committee proposes Friends to fill the positions and committees of the meeting, checking to make sure they are willing and available for service and aware of the terms and responsibilities before submitting their names to the monthly meeting for final approval.

Selecting Friends for service is a matter for careful discernment. While it is useful to ask meeting members and attenders which positions they feel most drawn to, care should be taken to consider who is best suited to a position, and not base decisions on the mere fact that someone has volunteered. Young people and those new to the meeting should be considered, not only "old hands." The committee is cautioned against rotating Friends through important positions of the meeting out of a sense that everyone deserves a "turn." At the same time, it should recognize opportunities for nurturing the growth of individuals in their ability to serve the meeting through participation in committee work. In many meetings certain positions, such as clerk, treasurer, members of worship and ministry and care and counsel committees may be limited to members of the Religious Society of Friends.

The nominating committee normally does not name its own members. This may be done by an *ad hoc* naming committee or through some other process developed by the monthly meeting. Members of the nominating committee should be knowledgeable about the responsibilities of the positions and committees of the meeting, and familiar with a wide range of participants in the meeting community.

Finance committee. This committee exercises a special care over the financial state of the meeting, working with the treasurer to ensure that the meeting remains in good financial condition and to clearly explain meeting finances. The finance committee

proposes the meeting's annual budget (which must then be approved by the monthly meeting before adoption). The finance committee addresses any applicable tax considerations. In some meetings, the committee also considers requests for unbudgeted expenses. It is recommended that the committee audit the treasurer's books at least annually. The finance committee may also issue fundraising appeals; or this may be handled by a separate fundraising committee.

Peace and social concerns committee. This committee, which may also be known as the Peace and Service Committee or by other names, coordinates the meeting's efforts to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, to establish justice and compassion in the wider society, and to provide service or relief to those in need. This witness may include petitioning the state; organizing events to educate and inform the public or the meeting on relevant issues; direct provision of food, shelter, or other necessities; or other work as the committee feels led and circumstances suggest.

Advancement and outreach committee. This committee (or, in some meetings, an advancement committee and a separate outreach committee) serves to advance the life of the meeting and the principles of Friends. It works to build the meeting community, both by fostering a sense of connection among meeting participants, and by promoting awareness of the meeting and of Friends in general among the wider public. The committee may arrange workshops, retreats, lectures, and social events, promoting these inside and outside the meeting as appropriate. Most meetings prefer a low-key approach to outreach, believing that the example of meeting service to the community will be more convincing to seekers than direct proselytization. But it is doubtful whether the Quaker movement would have survived if it had not been energetically promoted by early Friends; and even the example of community service will not be convincing to seekers who have no opportunity to hear of it. At the very least, the meeting must make sure it can be easily found by those who may already be looking for a Friends meeting.

Property committee. This committee, which may also be known as the House and Grounds Committee, Maintenance and Planning Committee or by other names, coordinates the maintenance of the meetinghouse and land, if any. In many meetings it also develops plans for future construction. If the meetinghouse is made available to outside groups, or if part of it is rented as an apartment, guesthouse, or for other purposes, this committee may also serve as the meeting contact with the guests or tenants, and administer any rental agreements; or this may be handled by a separate meetinghouse use committee or rental committee.

Trustees and Incorporation officers. Meetings which are organized as legal trusts or corporations may also have officers as required by state law, articles of incorporation, or corporation bylaws. Care should be taken to make full use of regular Quaker structure and decision making in fulfilling these roles. Monthly meetings are not covered by the yearly meeting incorporation.

Other positions and committees. A monthly meeting may establish such other positions and committees as seem useful and appropriate.

Responsibilities of monthly meetings to other meetings

Every monthly meeting is responsible to conduct its affairs in the manner of Friends, seek the Spirit's guidance in its worship and business, uphold Friends testimonies,

and exercise loving care over its members. Beyond this, monthly meetings fulfill a particular role in the organizational structure of the Religious Society of Friends, and therefore bear specific responsibilities both to the larger meetings of which they form a part, such as the yearly and quarterly meetings, and to any smaller meetings under their care.

Responsibilities to the yearly meeting, and to the quarterly or general meeting.

Monthly meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting are responsible to participate in the life and work of the yearly meeting. To the extent possible, Friends from each monthly meeting are encouraged to attend the yearly meeting's business sessions, and serve as called on yearly meeting committees. Each monthly meeting appoints a representative to the yearly meeting Continuing Committee. Monthly meetings are also expected to help in the planning of yearly meeting gatherings, and in the practical work of putting on such gatherings. Monthly meetings may also expect from time to time to host meetings of the Continuing Committee. See [the yet to be written section on the yearly meeting].

Monthly meetings are also responsible to contribute to the financial support of the yearly meeting. The amount to be contributed is determined by the monthly meeting; however, Illinois Yearly Meeting does recommend specific amounts, proportional to the number of "resident adult members" in the monthly meeting. "Resident" members are those who live close enough to the meeting to attend on a regular basis; the monthly meeting must judge how close this is. Some meetings contribute based only on the number of resident adult members who are active participants in the meeting.

Each monthly meeting sends two annual reports to the yearly meeting. The first is a statistical report, giving information such as a list of those individuals who have initiated, terminated or transferred membership during the preceding year; the total number of members, divided into adult members and Young Friends, resident and non-resident; average attendance during the year; names of the meeting clerk, treasurer, recorder, and representative to the Continuing Committee; or other information as the yearly meeting requests. The second report is a "State of Society" report, describing the spiritual state of the meeting. This may be similar or identical to the State of Society report read at the quarterly or general meeting; for more information on this report, see the next section.

A monthly meeting which forms part of a quarterly meeting bears similar responsibilities to the quarterly as it does to the yearly meeting. Friends from each monthly meeting in the quarterly are encouraged to attend its business sessions, and serve as called on its committees. Monthly meetings plan and host the quarterly gatherings. Monthly meetings are also responsible to support the quarterly, according to practices established by the quarterly, and to send a State of Society report and such other reports as the quarterly meeting requests.

Some monthly meetings may belong to Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. Monthly meetings are responsible to the general meeting according to practices worked out among the general meeting and its constituent monthly meetings.

State of Society reports. At least annually, each monthly meeting prepares a report on the spiritual state of Friends society in the meeting community. In essence this is to answer the question "How is the life of the Spirit faring in your meeting?" If the

meeting is part of a quarterly or general meeting this report is read there, with an opportunity for the gathered Friends to respond to it from silence. In addition, the report is sent to the yearly meeting for publication in the annual minute book.

Historically, quarterly and yearly meetings expected each constituent monthly meeting to report by minuting responses to a series of queries about its spiritual and practical condition. The traditional queries covered a variety of areas, including factual information about the regularity with which meetings were held, and the establishment or discontinuance of meetings; the lives and conduct of meeting members and the degree to which they upheld Friends testimonies; and the meeting's conformity to accepted Friends practice in its meetings for business and worship. Over time, the queries came to be regarded not as definite questions to which specific answers were expected, but as guides to the kinds of topics to be discussed in a free-form report. The following queries are offered for those meetings which may wish to return to the practice of composing reports in whole or in part as a series of query responses, or as a guide to the kinds of topics to be discussed in a free-form report, as the meeting feels led. If a free-form report is given, it is usually formulated by a committee or individual appointed by the meeting, with the final text being approved by the monthly meeting as a whole. If the report is given as a series of query responses, it is recommended that these not be formulated by a committee, but that the entire meeting be given an opportunity to respond to each query out of the silence, with the clerk discerning the sense of the meeting from the responses and distilling it into a minute. Queries 5, 11, and 12 are adapted from queries in the 1879 and 1892 disciplines of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

1. What is the quality of worship in recent meetings? Do Friends feel drawn into living silence? Do they meet in the hope and expectation of a transformative encounter with the Divine Spirit?
2. Does the meeting feel "gathered" in its worship, seeking and responding to God as a community? Are meetings more than simultaneous individual meditation?
3. Is the right balance between silence and speaking maintained? Do Friends speak when moved to do so? When spoken ministry is offered, is it under a clear sense of Divine leading?
4. Do Friends feel the opportunity to grow spiritually? Does the meeting community provide both the challenge and the sense of security needed for real spiritual progress? How does your meeting develop and nurture ministry and service?
5. Do Friends maintain love and fellowship towards one another and care for each other in times of need? Are conflicts handled in a timely and respectful manner?
6. How are you teaching your children? How are you teaching adults? How are you encouraging Friends, including teenagers, to participate in your programs?
7. How is your membership changing? Why has it changed? How do you help make the transitions from visitor to attender and from attender to member?
8. How visible is your meeting to the public, how welcoming is it? How do you reach out to invite newcomers?
9. How does your meeting connect with the wider Quaker world? Do you make use of the resources of Friends from outside the meeting? Do you encourage participation in quarterly or general meeting, yearly meeting, and other Quaker activities?
10. What is the witness of the meeting? Is this witness apparent to the general public?

2010 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 309-888-2704
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 Monthly Meeting,
P.O. Box 202, McNabb, IL 61335
Clerk: Rachel Mershon 815-339-2530
raya@ivnet.com
Business: 3rd First Day, 9:45 a.m.

COLUMBIA MONTHLY MEETING

6408 Locust Grove Dr. East, Columbia MO
10:00am 573-474-1827
<http://quakers.missouri.org>
Mail to Clerk Sherry Monroe, 6408 Locust Grove
Dr. East, Columbia MO 65203
sherrymonroe@centurytel.net 573-446-4787
Business: 2nd First Day, noon, 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](http://www.grammar9davis.homestead.com/meeting.html)
Mail to Clerk: Ruth Marquez, 1733 Whidden Ave.,
Downers Grove, IL 60516 630-964-4561
ruth.marquez@comcast.net
Business: 2nd First Day, 9am

DUNELAND FRIENDS MEETING

Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway,
Valparaiso IN 46385 10am
Clerk: Noel Pavlovic 219-926-7411
npavlo130@comcast.net
Mail to: c/o Marlou Carlson, 817 George St.
Valparaiso, IN 46385
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30 am

EVANSTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

1010 Greenleaf Street, Evanston IL 60202
10am 847-864-8511
<http://evanston.quaker.org>
Mail to: Meeting address above
Clerk: Phyllis Reynolds 847-864-5854
phymac4@comcast.net
Business: 3rd First Day, 11:30am

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: Owen Duncan 773-268-2965
jmsomd@sbcglobal.net
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:30pm

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: Cathy Garra 847-864-3218
garra1@ameritech.net
Business: 1st First Day, 9am

NORTHSIDE FRIENDS MEETING

4427 N. Clark, Chicago IL 60640
Worship: 10:00am First Days &
7pm Wednesdays (in homes)
Mail to: P.O. Box 408429, Chicago IL 60640
<http://www.quaker.org/northside> 773-784-2155
Clerk: Andrew Harrington 773-363-9806
aharrin@luc.edu
Business: 1st First Day at 12:30 pm

OAK PARK MONTHLY MEETING

Oak Park Art League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park
10am 708-445-8201
www.oakparkfriends.org
Mail to: Clerk, P.O. Box 3245, Oak Park, IL
60303-3245
Clerk: Wil Rutt 708-484-9513
willrutt@sbcglobal.net
Business: 2nd First Day 11:30am

2010 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS IN ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING (Cont.)

OSHKOSH MONTHLY MEETING

419 Boyd St., Oshkosh WI 54901
4:00 pm 920-232-1460
Mail to: Mary Ann Barlow, 419 Boyd St., Oshkosh
WI 54901
Clerk: Tom Barlow 920-233-5804
maryrolloff@yahoo.com
Business: 2nd First Day 5:00 pm

ROCK VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

201 Seventh St., Rockford, IL
Worship: 11am—first First Day of month only
Mail to Clerk: Ann Eckert, 310 Hill St.,
Rockford IL 61107 815-964-7416
Business: as needed

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
Clerk: Kurt Thoroughman 314-725-6941
thoroughman@wustl.edu
Business: 2nd First Day, 11:15 am

FRIENDS MEETING OF ROLLA

(Preparative—under the care of St. Louis
Mtg.)
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Rolla
house, 608 East 11th Street, Rolla, MO
10:00 am (June- Aug) - 1:00 pm (Sept -
May)
<http://www.friendsmeetingofrolla.org/>
Mail to Clerk: Chris Jocius, 29 Irene Lane,
Rolla, MO 65401 573-426-4848
jociusc@mst.edu
Business: 3rd First Day after worship

SOUTH BEND FRIENDS MEETING

Charles Martin Youth Center
914 Lincolnway West, South Bend, IN
10:30 a.m. 574-255-5781
<http://southbend.quaker.org>
Mail to Clerk: Elaine Meyer-Lee, 809 Forest Ave.,
South Bend, IN 46616 574-284-4059
meyerlee@saintmarys.edu
Business: 2nd First Day, 12:00 noon

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS QUAKER MEETING

Mail to: Interfaith Center, 913 S. Illinois Ave.,
Carbondale IL 62901 10am
<http://www.siquaker.org/>
Clerk: Jill Adams 618-549-1250
jeadams@siu.edu
Business: 4th First Days, 11:00 a.m.

SPOON RIVER QUAKER MEETING

(formerly Peoria-Galesburg)
215 S. 1st St., Monmouth, IL 61462
10 am 309-734-7759
Mail to Clerk: Tim Narkiewicz, 504 N. 2nd St.
Monmouth, IL 61462
tim@trilliumdell.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 a.m.
Mail to: Howenstines, 4614 Pioneer Rd., McHenry,
IL 60051 815-385-8512
Clerk: John Hackman 847-269-5418
johnhackman@att.net
Business: 1st First Day, noonish

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 217-367-5784
sbales@illinois.edu
Business: 3rd First Day, 12:15 pm

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

(under the care of Urbana-Champaign Mtg.)
First Day worship, 10:30am in homes
Mail to Contact: Peg Kruger,
28 Marion Lane, Springfield IL 62704
217-416-1305 skyhy28@sbcglobal.net

11. Are the circumstances of those in our neighborhoods who appear to need aid considered and addressed?
12. Do Friends bear testimony against oppression, oaths, war, and gambling, and in favor of simplicity, integrity, and stewardship of the earth?
13. What is the general level of vitality in the meeting? Are Friends encouraged or discouraged about the state of the meeting? If you are discouraged, have you sought help from within your own meeting, from the quarterly or yearly meeting, and/or from Friends General Conference?
14. What major events have occurred in the meeting since its last report, particularly as these affect the spiritual life of the meeting community?
15. How do you exercise stewardship of your physical, financial, and spiritual resources?
16. If the monthly meeting has any preparative meetings, recognized meetings or worship groups under its care, how do they fare?

Responsibilities of the monthly meeting to meetings under its care. In some cases, a monthly meeting may function as a regional body of Friends, with more than one local meeting under its care. This was, in fact, the original conception: a monthly meeting consisted of several local meetings, each normally organized as a preparative meeting (so-called because it prepared business for presentation at the monthly meeting). Friends from the various preparative meetings composing a monthly meeting gathered once a month to finalize business for all of them.

This mode of organization is still used in some parts of the world, and is available in principle in Illinois Yearly Meeting. However, it has become more common for monthly meetings to consist of a single local meeting; or sometimes, of one local meeting which, by reasons of size or history, is often informally identified with the monthly meeting itself, together with one or more smaller meetings organized as worship groups, recognized meetings, or preparative meetings, and held “under the care” of the monthly meeting. It should be emphasized that in the latter case, the monthly meeting is still in some sense a regional body, consisting of all of these local meetings.

A monthly meeting has the responsibility to nurture and support all the meetings in its care, to promote their spiritual life and practical growth, and to care for their participants in times of need or trial. The monthly meeting must also deal promptly with any business brought to it by a meeting under its care. It must keep itself informed as to the time and location of all the meetings in its care, and as to their general condition and level of vitality.

To help fulfill these responsibilities, it is recommended that the monthly meeting appoint one or more Friends to visit regularly with each worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting under its care, according to a schedule to be worked out with the meeting being visited.

Originally, final decisions on all business concerning the local meetings composing a monthly meeting were made by the monthly meeting. Such a system may still occasionally be appropriate, for example in the case of a recognized meeting organized directly by the monthly meeting and held nearby. But bringing all business to the monthly meeting for finalization is impractical if the meetings are geographically

distant from one another, as is often the case in Illinois Yearly Meeting; and experience has proven the value of local autonomy in meeting decision-making. In general, therefore, local meetings conduct their own affairs as they feel led.

However, decisions regarding the initiation, termination, or transfer of membership are the special province of the monthly meeting, as is the decision to hold a marriage under the care of the meeting, and the conduct of the wedding itself. Preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups bring such business to their monthly meeting, and may also bring other business as seems appropriate. Major events such as funerals or memorial services may be difficult for a small meeting to conduct on its own; the monthly meeting should stand ready to assist the meetings under its care with these or other large projects.

Setting up, laying down, and reaffiliation of monthly meetings

Setting up a monthly meeting. When a group has met regularly for Divine worship in the manner of Friends and is in agreement with Friends principles, the desire for a monthly meeting, with its additional responsibilities, expectations, and joys, may arise. To begin the process of establishing a monthly meeting, the group makes a request to the appropriate monthly or quarterly meeting or to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. The following guidelines may be used to determine which of these is the most appropriate body to receive the request:

1. If the group requesting the establishment of a monthly meeting is a part of (or held under the care of) an existing monthly meeting, it normally makes its initial request to this monthly meeting.
2. If the group is not part of an existing monthly meeting, the request is normally made to the surrounding quarterly meeting, if there is one.
3. If the group is not part of an existing monthly meeting and there is no appropriate quarterly meeting, the request is normally made to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting.

If the request is directed to a monthly or quarterly meeting, that meeting appoints a clearness committee to visit with the group making the request. If the request was made to the Continuing Committee, it may appoint a clearness committee directly, or may ask the yearly meeting Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint a committee.

The clearness committee and the group making the request together review the functions and responsibilities of a monthly meeting, and explore the group's readiness to undertake this step. The following queries may be helpful in this process:

- Is your meeting of sufficient strength that it is likely to survive for the foreseeable future?
- Are you prepared to exercise appropriate pastoral care for your members, to nurture their spiritual growth and to support them in times of trial?
- How familiar are the participants in your meeting with Friends business practices, and with the principles and testimonies of Friends more generally?
- Do you have enough business to require a regular business meeting?
- Are you of sufficient size and organization to hold major events such as weddings, funerals, and memorial meetings?
- Are your participants willing to contribute financially to your meeting?

- Do you have members prepared to take on the responsibility of serving as meeting clerk, and as meeting treasurer?
- Are you prepared to maintain and preserve records of your business proceedings, membership, and finances? Where will the records be kept?
- Will members of your meeting participate in sessions of the yearly meeting and quarterly or general meeting (if any), and be willing to serve on their committees, as they are able? Are you able to send these meetings regular reports on the state of your meeting, and to provide them with appropriate financial support?

The clearness committee reports to the body which appointed it, which in turn minutes its recommendation whether to establish the monthly meeting. If the recommendation is positive, and made by a monthly meeting, and the proposed new monthly meeting is to be part of a quarterly meeting, the recommendation is then forwarded to the quarterly meeting, and if the quarterly meeting concurs, to the yearly meeting. Otherwise, a positive recommendation is forwarded directly to the yearly meeting. The monthly meeting is established when the yearly meeting minutes its concurrence with the recommendation.

On establishing a new monthly meeting, the yearly meeting (typically through its Ministry and Advancement Committee) appoints a committee of welcome to visit the new meeting and provide assistance or advice as needed at its opening business session.

Establishing a new monthly meeting does not confer membership on its participants. After establishment, the meeting may receive new members and transfers of membership in the usual way; see “Membership,” pp. xx–xx.

Laying down a monthly meeting. “Laying down” a monthly meeting means formally discontinuing its meeting for business as a monthly meeting. Depending on the circumstances, the meeting for worship may be discontinued at the same time and the meeting community effectively disbanded; or the meeting may continue in some other form, such as a worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting under the care of another monthly meeting.

It is appropriate to lay down a monthly meeting when it is unable, over an extended period, to fulfill the functions and meet the responsibilities normally expected of a monthly meeting. Typically, this happens because the meeting has grown too weak in numbers, but may occasionally happen for other reasons as well.

The decision to lay down a meeting may be difficult: Friends may feel a strong attachment for the meeting, and wish for its revival, even when the prospects are very dim. But if a plain and honest assessment of the meeting’s condition makes clear that it cannot function as a monthly meeting, it should not be continued simply for sentimental reasons. Particularly if the meeting is completely inactive, neglecting to properly lay it down may result in obscurity as to the ownership of its property, difficulties for Friends desiring to transfer their memberships or record their children as members, and other problems.

Normally, a monthly meeting is laid down by minute of the yearly meeting on recommendation by the quarterly meeting, if any. A monthly meeting may also lay itself down. However, the involvement of the quarterly and yearly meeting is helpful in arranging for transfers of membership after the monthly meeting has been laid

down; in working out what form, if any, the meeting will take afterwards; in assisting the meeting in the disposal of its property and archiving of its records; and in the various other details which come with the discontinuation of a meeting. In most cases, therefore, it is advisable for a monthly meeting which desires to be laid down to make a request to the quarterly meeting, or yearly meeting if there is no quarterly, rather than laying itself down directly and in isolation. The quarterly or general meeting (if any) and yearly meeting should in any case be promptly notified whenever a monthly meeting is laid down.

The minute laying down a monthly meeting should make clear whether its meeting for worship, and any preparative meetings, recognized meetings or worship groups under its care are also laid down; and if not, note any arrangements that have been made for their continuation.

The quarterly meeting (or yearly if there is no quarterly) normally appoints a committee to assist with the necessary arrangements. This committee meets with the participants of the meeting to be laid down and renders whatever assistance seems called for. The committee arranges for transfer for the meeting's members, usually to the nearest appropriate meeting, but possibly to other meetings if individual members express a preference. Finalization of the transfers should not take place until the yearly meeting minutes that the meeting is laid down. Members who cannot be contacted may also be transferred, or the committee may recommend their release from membership to the quarterly or yearly meeting. In no case should membership be left in a discontinued meeting. The committee should arrange for the meeting's records to be archived in a manner and location which keeps them accessible to the yearly meeting.

If the meeting desires to continue under the care of another meeting as a worship group, recognized meeting or preparative meeting after it has been laid down, the committee should assist it in identifying a suitable meeting, approaching it with the request, and working out the practical details of the new relationship between the two meetings. Similar arrangements should be made for the continuation of any worship groups, recognized meetings or preparative meetings which had been under the care of the meeting to be laid down.

If the laid down meeting will continue in some form, it may continue to maintain a treasury, though it should carefully consider whether it is advisable to do so. If the meeting is being taken under the care of another monthly meeting, it may be appropriate to merge treasuries. If the meeting owns a meeting house or other real property it is strongly recommended that the property be transferred and the deed recorded.

If the laid down meeting will not continue in any form, arrangements must be made to dispose of its treasury and other property and to discharge any debt or liabilities. These may be transferred to the quarterly or yearly meeting; or to some other Friends or charitable organization. In no case should meeting property be divided among its members. Burial grounds are generally best placed into the care of a cemetery association.

Reaffiliation of a monthly meeting. An existing monthly meeting not currently affiliated with Illinois Yearly Meeting may request affiliation. If the meeting is in the area

of a quarterly meeting forming part of Illinois Yearly Meeting, the initial request is normally directed to the quarterly meeting; otherwise, it is directed to the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Whichever body receives the request normally appoints a committee to visit the meeting making the request and explore with them their reasons for desiring reaffiliation; or if the Continuing Committee receives the request, it may ask the Ministry and Advancement Committee to appoint a committee. The committee reports to the body which appointed it, which then makes a recommendation to the yearly meeting. Affiliation is established by minute of the yearly meeting.

A monthly meeting may affiliate both with Illinois Yearly Meeting and another yearly meeting. However, Friends should consider carefully the problems which may arise from dual affiliation. Dual affiliation requires substantial time and effort beyond what is involved in single affiliation, and many dually affiliated meetings find that they are unable to fully participate in either yearly meeting. In addition, yearly meetings may have conflicting expectations for how monthly meetings operate and how they relate to other levels of organization. Still, some meetings have found that dual affiliation is useful and rewarding.

A monthly meeting which withdraws from Illinois Yearly Meeting to affiliate with another yearly meeting or comparable Friends organization is not considered to be laid down; it retains its members and records as its affiliation changes.

An existing monthly meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting may join a quarterly or general meeting with that meeting's approval. A monthly meeting which withdraws from a quarterly or general meeting need not withdraw from Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Sources of Quoted Passages

pp. 63 & 66, queries 5, 11 and 12: adapted from *Rules of Discipline and Advices of Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends* (1878) pp. 25–27

FAITH & PRACTICE SECTION ON WORSHIP GROUPS, RECOGNIZED MEETINGS AND PREPARATIVE MEETINGS

(Presented for comments and suggestions only.)

A local meeting need not be organized as a monthly meeting. Especially if a meeting is very small, or includes few experienced Friends, it may not feel prepared to fulfill all the functions and responsibilities normally expected of a monthly meeting. A small meeting may also find that it does not have enough business to require a regular business meeting. Depending on the circumstances, it may be appropriate to organize such a meeting as a *worship group*, *recognized meeting*, or *preparative meeting*.

In Illinois Yearly Meeting, worship groups, recognized meetings and preparative meetings are normally held under the care of a monthly meeting; but are acknowledged to have a high degree of local autonomy, making their own decisions about internal matters. However, membership in the Religious Society of Friends resides in a monthly meeting; decisions to admit a Friend to membership, transfer a Friend's membership from one meeting to another, or remove a Friend from membership are made in the monthly meeting, not the preparative meeting, recognized meeting or

worship group. Likewise, only a monthly meeting may conduct a wedding; requests for marriage under the care of a meeting should be directed to the monthly meeting.

Even if autonomous in its decision-making, a preparative meeting, recognized meeting or worship group held under the care of a monthly meeting forms a part of that monthly meeting, which in these circumstances serves as a kind of regional body rather than a strictly local meeting. It is this regional body under whose care the meeting is held, and all the meetings involved — even a large, old and established meeting — are under this same care. The care which these meetings exercise is mutual; they hold each other in love, supporting each other spiritually and practically, offering assistance as circumstances require and abilities permit.

Distance may prevent Friends belonging to the smaller meeting from frequent participation in the monthly meeting; but they form part of the monthly meeting community, and should feel welcome as full participants whenever they have the opportunity to attend its business sessions, meetings for worship, and other functions. The smaller meeting should not hesitate to request the assistance of the monthly meeting with large projects, or any other matters where the participation of the monthly meeting as a whole would be useful. Smaller meetings under the care of a monthly meeting may also expect periodic visitors from the monthly meeting, who should provide support as needed and keep the monthly meeting informed about the state of the smaller meeting. For more information on the relation between monthly meetings and the meetings under their care, see “Responsibilities of the monthly meeting to meetings under its care,” pp. 66-67.

Preparative meetings, recognized meetings and worship groups do not share the same level of responsibility to the yearly meeting and quarterly or general meeting (if any) as a monthly meeting: there is no general expectation that such meetings will send representatives to the yearly meeting Continuing Committee or host its sessions, that they will send State of Society reports, or that they will provide direct financial support to the yearly and quarterly or general meetings. However, they may do any of these things at their option. Smaller meetings are tenderly urged to assist their monthly meetings as needed in fulfilling these responsibilities.

The chart on the following page summarizes the differences among different types of local meetings. More detailed explanation follows.

Worship groups

A worship group is simply a group of individuals, meeting together on a regular basis for worship in the manner of Friends. Such groups are often organized on a completely informal and unofficial basis. Over time, a worship group may gradually come to function more and more as an established Friends meeting; many of the meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting began in just this way.

The formation of new worship groups is encouraged in all areas where an existing meeting is not available. Individuals organizing a new worship group often find it beneficial to seek the advice and support of an existing meeting (typically the nearest monthly meeting), even if it is some distance away. A monthly meeting may lend informal assistance to a worship group without formally taking the worship group under its care.

	Informal, Independent Worship Group	Recognized Meeting or Worship Group under the minutes of a meeting	Preparative Meeting	Monthly Meeting
Holds regular meeting for worship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Has official affiliation with Illinois Yearly Meeting & the Religious Society of Friends	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holds an official meeting for business	No	No	Yes	Yes
May receive, release or transfer members	No	No	No	Yes
May conduct a wedding	No	No	No	Yes
May have more than one local meeting under its care	No	No	No	Yes
Reports to Illinois Yearly Meeting, and supports it financially	Optional	Optional	Optional	Expected
Is established and laid down by	Itself	Monthly Meeting	Quarterly Meeting (or yearly meeting if no available quarterly) on recommendation of the monthly meeting	Yearly Meeting on recommendation of the quarterly meeting, if any

An informally organized worship group which has not affiliated with a yearly meeting or analogous Quaker organization should avoid representing itself as an official body of the Religious Society of Friends.

To affiliate with Illinois Yearly Meeting, a worship group normally makes a request to one of its monthly meetings. The monthly meeting appoints a clearness committee to visit the worship group and explore with it the practical and spiritual issues involved in affiliation under the monthly meeting's care. Appropriate topics for discussion include the nature and basis of meeting for worship in the manner of Friends, the familiarity and consonance of the worship group with Friends testimonies and practices, expectations regarding the relation between the worship group and the monthly meeting after affiliation, and any other pertinent matters. The following sample queries may be used in exploring these areas:

- What experience do you have with the Religious Society of Friends?
- How do you understand worship in the manner of Friends? Do you approach worship as both individual meditation and communal seeking? Do you experience it as uniting?
- How do you understand Friends' testimonies and their role in your daily lives?
- Describe the expected relationship between the worship group and the Monthly meeting after affiliation.
- What are you doing as a group to know each other better? Are you aware and respectful of the individual differences within your worship group? What is the quality of your potlucks?
- Are you prepared to support each other spiritually and in times of need?
- If there are families with children, have you considered how to provide for their religious education?
- How will you participate in the Yearly and Quarterly (if any) meeting?

The clearness committee reports back to the monthly meeting, which minutes a decision whether to take the worship group under its care. A decision to take the worship group under the monthly meeting's care establishes the worship group as a part of the monthly meeting, the quarterly meeting (if any) to which the monthly meeting belongs, and Illinois Yearly Meeting. The monthly meeting should report such decisions to the quarterly and yearly meetings.

Affiliating a worship group with a monthly meeting does not confer membership on the worship group's participants. Participants in a worship group may become members of a monthly meeting in the usual ways, before or after affiliation; see *Membership*, pp. xx–xx.

Occasionally, it may be appropriate for a worship group to affiliate under the direct care of a quarterly meeting or Illinois Yearly Meeting, rather than a monthly meeting. A quarterly meeting may take worship groups under its care using the same procedure as a monthly meeting. Requests for affiliation under the direct care of Illinois Yearly Meeting should be addressed to the yearly meeting's Continuing Committee, which may appoint a clearness committee directly, or ask the Ministry and Advancement Committee to do so. The clearness committee reports to the body that appointed it, which in turn makes a recommendation to the yearly meeting. Affiliation is established by minute of the yearly meeting in its annual business sessions.

A worship group held under the minuted care of another meeting is equivalent to a recognized meeting.

Recognized meetings

A recognized meeting (or, in older terminology, an *allowed* or *indulged* meeting) is a meeting for worship established by a monthly meeting at a separate location. Recognized meetings are for worship only, with no regular business meeting. Traditionally, all business pertaining to a recognized meeting is handled by the monthly meeting; and such an arrangement may occasionally still be appropriate, particularly if the recognized meeting is located close enough for its participants regularly to attend the monthly meeting for business. But in many circumstances, it is appropriate for a recognized meeting to hold its own occasional informal decision-making sessions, to decide such practical matters as the time and location of meetings. Such decisions should be promptly reported to the monthly meeting. If the recognized meeting finds that it has sufficient business to hold such sessions on a regular basis, it should consider whether the time has come to request the establishment of a preparative or monthly meeting.

A monthly meeting may establish a recognized meeting at its own initiative, or at the request of a more-or-less distant group desiring to organize itself as a Friends meeting. In either case, the monthly meeting is advised to appoint a clearness committee to meet with the likely participants in the recognized meeting, as in the procedure for establishing affiliation of worship group outlined in the preceding section. The recognized meeting is established by a minute of the monthly meeting.

A recognized meeting may lay itself down; or it may be laid down by the meeting under whose care it is held. A monthly meeting should not neglect to lay down formally a recognized meeting which has become completely inactive, with no expectation of revival; but it is strongly advised to meet with the former participants before undertaking such a decision. Whether a recognized meeting lays itself down, or is laid down by its monthly meeting, the monthly meeting should record the decision in its minutes, and report it to the quarterly or general meeting (if any) and yearly meeting.

Preparative meetings

A preparative meeting is the business meeting of a single local meeting, forming part of a larger monthly meeting. By extension, the body of Friends whose business is conducted in such a meeting is also known as a preparative meeting.

Preparative meetings were originally so called because they prepared business for presentation at the monthly meeting, much as a committee might do. Decisions were finalized in the monthly meeting, not in the preparative meeting itself. In more recent times, because a local meeting seeking establishment as a monthly meeting is often expected to pass some time first as a preparative meeting, the name has sometimes been understood as implying preparation to become a monthly meeting. However, in Illinois Yearly Meeting today, there is no official expectation that a preparative meeting will send business (other than matters pertaining to membership or marriage) to its monthly meeting for finalization, or that it will eventually seek establishment as a separate monthly meeting.

A preparative meeting appoints a clerk. If it maintains a treasury, it should appoint a different person as treasurer. The meeting may also appoint a recording clerk, religious education committee, or such other positions and committees as seem useful. However, a preparative meeting which finds that a large number of positions and committees are called for would do well to consider whether the time has come to request the establishment of a monthly meeting. Likewise, a preparative meeting may own a building or other property; but a meeting which is in a position to function as a property-owning institution will also often find that it is prepared to function as a monthly meeting.

A preparative meeting should keep minutes of its business proceedings, and make sure that these and any other records are properly archived. (See “Archivist,” p. 57.)

To set up a preparative meeting, a group (typically an existing worship group or recognized meeting) makes a request to the monthly meeting under whose care the preparative meeting is to be held. The monthly meeting appoints a clearness committee to visit the group and explore with it its readiness for this step. If the group has not previously had formal affiliation with a yearly meeting or analogous Friends organization, this exploration may include a consideration of many of the same topics as in the case of a worship group seeking affiliation; see the queries on p. 73.

Whether the group has had previous affiliation or not, the discussion should include a consideration of the nature and basis of Friends business practices, the group’s reasons for seeking the establishment of a business meeting, and the practical details of the preparative meeting’s relation with the monthly meeting. The following sample queries may be useful in this process:

- What is your experience of Friends’ business practice?
- Have you read the section of this *Faith and Practice* on Decision making among Friends.
- Do you have enough business to require a regular business meeting?
- Are you prepared to keep records of your business meetings? Where will the records be kept?
- Are you familiar with ILYM’s approved sections of Faith and Practice?
- What other Quaker sources do you consult?
- Do you anticipate having a treasury? How will it be administered?
- Do you have individuals willing and able to serve as clerk and treasurer?

The clearness committee reports back to the monthly meeting, which minutes a recommendation whether to establish the preparative meeting. If the recommendation is positive and the monthly meeting is part of a quarterly meeting, this recommendation is forwarded to the quarterly meeting. The preparative meeting is established when the quarterly meeting minutes its concurrence with the recommendation. The quarterly meeting should report the decision to the yearly meeting. If there is no appropriate quarterly meeting, a positive recommendation is forwarded directly to the yearly meeting, and the preparative meeting is established when the yearly meeting minutes its concurrence. After the establishment of the preparative meeting has been approved, the monthly meeting appoints a committee of welcome to visit it and provide advice or assistance as needed at its opening business session.

“Laying down” a preparative meeting means officially discontinuing its business meeting. The meeting for worship may be laid down at the same time; or the meeting may continue as a recognized meeting or worship group. A preparative meeting may lay itself down; or it may be laid down by the quarterly meeting, on recommendation of the monthly meeting of which the preparative meeting is a part. In any case, the monthly meeting, the quarterly or general meeting (if any), and the yearly meeting should be promptly informed. When the meeting is laid down, care should be taken to see that its records are properly archived, and appropriate arrangements made for its treasury and other property.

CONSIDERATION OF QUAKER VOLUNTEER SERVICE

(brought by the Presiding Clerk) (See Minute 68)

We have had a standing committee on Quaker Volunteer Service, Training & Witness (“QVSTWC”) since 1995, preceded by an ad hoc committee on relations with AFSC. As reported in our MinuteBooks, the committee has had reduced activity and diminished numbers in recent years, although administering the Ken Ives Scholarship Fund. The remaining members, mostly unable to attend these sessions, have asked that they be relieved and the committee laid down. Having been established by yearly meeting action, it is now up to yearly meeting to decide what are the next steps conceptually and organizationally.

Much has changed around these concerns since 1995, with many of the committee’s original goals met. Two hopeful new developments, regionally and nationally, were reported to us last year (pp. 37-39.) A unit supporting Quaker Volunteer Service, several years in the planning, has now begun in Chicago with housing, stipend, and spiritual care provided by 57th St. Meeting and an oversight committee comprised of Friends from a number of Monthly Meetings. (We will have 2 sessions of a Workshop interpreting this.) Also, a new “Quaker Voluntary Service Network” has arisen following a consultation at Pendle Hill, February 2009, attended by 3 of our members. And, we note ongoing workcamp activity among the Lakota people (reported in *Among Friends*) in a project under care of St. Louis Meeting.

But our yearly meeting still has unfinished business, other than simply noting the demise of a committee. In 2007 QVSTWC, uncertain about its way forward, posed a series of probing queries (pp. 52-3, MinuteBook.) These never have been addressed by us — in workshops, Continuing Committee, or annual sessions. I believe, however, that they still form a valid framework for our searching a way forward. Therefore, I ask that we see what Truth may be revealed to us in about a half-hour of business meeting time. I’ve asked our Assistant Clerk to preside on this matter, and will sit with you in our corporate discernment to see how we are led.

These are the 2007 queries:

1. *Does the Yearly Meeting as a total community wish to have an organized presence in the field of Quaker Volunteer Service?*
2. *At whatever level of activity emerges, can the Yearly Meeting affirm that it wants a committee for this purpose?*
3. *Is there a part of IYM’s witness to the world and internal experience that can be represented to the world through volunteer service?*
4. *Can the Yearly Meeting add to the experience of Friends pursuing volunteer service? How?*

And in discussion leading up to our 2010 sessions, a member of my Clerk's Committee adds these queries:

5. *Is our concern for liaison, stimulation, oversight, providing resources — people and finances?*
6. *What purpose would we seek to fulfill?*
7. *And then, what YM structure and money would we provide to meet those purposes?*

Thank you, - David H. Finke (founding member of QVSTWC)

TAMMS SUPERMAX PRISON CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATE

Pursuant to action in Minute 38 of 2009 sessions, pp. 10-11, and Fall 2009 Continuing Committee, Minute 57, printed on p. 117 of this book.

Last year, Tamms Year Ten attempted, for the second time, to pass legislation in the Illinois General Assembly. The legislation would have: established clear criteria for prisoners being sent to Tamms, granted them due process rights, limited terms of solitary confinement at Tamms to one year, and prevented anyone with a serious mental illness from being transferred there. In the last days of the spring legislative session, Governor Quinn took up the problem himself, appointing a new reform-minded director of corrections with the top priority of reviewing the supermax. Director Michael Randle met with Tamms Year Ten representatives on the day of his appointment, and spent the first day on the job touring the supermax. By September, he unveiled a 10-Point Plan for reforming Tamms. As a result of that plan, there will be limited improvements in mental health reviews, and due process procedures. Some prisoners at Tamms will get phone calls, GED testing, communal religious activity, and the opportunity to live in settings with some communal activities. Most importantly, about 45 of the prisoners were identified for transfer out of Tamms to other prisons. So far, 35 have been transferred. Unfortunately, the new privileges will not be available to those men at the lowest behavioral levels, and those are the ones who need them the most. For some, nothing about isolation at Tamms will change.

As a result of these reforms, the campaign has shifted its focus. We are now attempting to use our leverage to pressure the administration to memorialize the 10-Point Plan into law, and to push for changes that will “evolve” the institution into something else. Fortunately, we do think Director Randle is far-sighted and responsive. In fact, he is bringing in outside evaluators to make recommendations for improving the Illinois Department of Corrections. This June, the Vera Institute of Justice will be evaluating policies at Tamms supermax, and the use of long-term segregation in other prisons.

Unfortunately, over the past year, there has been a great deal of negative press about an accelerated early-release program initiated by Gov. Quinn and Director Randle. Quinn blamed Randle and has been threatening to fire him. As a result, Tamms Year Ten actually waged a campaign to the governor to stop fear-mongering and to support Randle in making reforms.

Here are some other highlights from the past year:

- Organized three separate call-in campaigns to the office of Governor Pat Quinn. They were: “Gov. Quinn: Reform Your Supermax,” “Reform Tamms or Cut the Funding,” and “Gov. Quinn: Stand Up to Fear Mongering.” (May and June, 2009, March, 2010)

- Worked with Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International who wrote to Governor Quinn, Director Walker, and Director Randle outlining their objections to human rights violations at Tamms and demanding reform. And, dozens of community leaders and legislators signed a letter to Governor Quinn asking for specific reform at Tamms. All of these actions were reported in the press. (May and August, 2009)
- Worked with ten groups of artists and other citizens to launch an “ecological messaging” campaign about Tamms. We put up mud stencils all around the city, including downtown tourist spots, with a star marking the location of Tamms, and the words “End Torture in Illinois.” The goal was to get press, and we had photos and editorials in many papers, including national magazines. (June, 2009)
- Picketed the editorial board of the *Chicago Tribune* offices, to set the record straight about the *Tribune*’s misleading editorial against the Tamms legislation. At the event, we floated helium balloons up to the 4th floor of the *Tribune* building with messages for the editorial board staff. Protesters dressed as prophets also delivered our “Ten Corrections” to the *Tribune*’s misleading editorial on giant stone tablets. Though security stopped us from delivering the stone tablets, we were able to get a meeting with the editorial board as a result of this protest. (July, 2009)
- Coordinated a statewide Prayer for a New Direction at Tamms Supermax. Inter-faith vigils were held in Chicago, Champaign-Urbana, Quincy, Carbondale, Plainfield, Decatur, and Tamms. The Chicago event was held at the State of Illinois building with Jewish, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant faith leaders, as well as representatives from the Governor’s office, the Mayor’s office, and the Illinois Department of Corrections. (July, 2009)
- Organized a fundraiser called the “Party on the Right Side of History,” where we awarded 10 legislators with “Right Side of History” awards, and several of our long-time allies with “You Led the Way” awards. Finally, we honored ourselves. The artist Nicole Garneau took the microphone and requested that everyone in the room line up and place their hands gently on the back of the person in front of them. She thanked us for our work in the struggle and reminded us that we are not alone. Everyone who attended received a certificate that said, “I am not a bystander to torture in Illinois. (September, 2009)
- Hired a database/web programmer to repair our database of contact information. (February, 2010)
- Worked in coalition with other prison reform groups in Chicago, to produce a press conference to reframe the misinformation about the early release program for prisoners in Illinois. (January, 2010)
- Helped found Alliance 1-11, named after Article 1, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution, “*All penalties shall be determined both according to the seriousness of the offense and with the objective of restoring the offender to useful citizenship.*” The goal is to bring together groups to work together on prisoner rehabilitation, reentry, and human rights. (December, 2009)
- Supported activists in the state of Maine, who have introduced legislation to severely curtail the use of long-term isolation at their supermax. (February, 2010)
- Helped to persuade NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) to add to their mission to work to end torture in U.S. prisons, including the use of long term isolation and devices of torture. (November, 2009)

- Worked to push the media to cover the issue of long-term solitary confinement at Tamms. As a result of those efforts, there have been ~ 100 articles written in the past year, including the investigative series by George Pawlaczyk and Beth Hundsdorfer in the *Belleville News Democrat* which brought national attention to Illinois for its notorious supermax. They have since won several prestigious awards, including the George Polk Award for Local Journalism. (August, 2009—present)
- In our work with Alliance 1-11, we organized joint committee hearings for “A New Direction in Corrections” to which we invited over 40 groups and individuals to give testimony about how to lower recidivism and cut costs in the IDOC. (April, 2010)
 - Laurie Jo Reynolds, Tamms Ten & Barbara Kessel, U-C Friends Meeting

THE THREE R’S PROJECT: READING REDUCES RECIDIVISM

Posted in Advance Documents; any action deferred to Fall 2010 Continuing Committee. Brought by Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting (May, 2010).

Whereas at least one quarter of the 27 state prison libraries are closed altogether for lack of a librarian and the remaining libraries are in a state of deterioration with no budget for books and magazines,

Whereas research has shown a strong connection between any kind of educational program in penal institutions and reduction in recidivism;

The Three R’s project seeks to create political pressure on the State of Illinois to provide the means to keep prison libraries open and supplied with current materials.

We seek also to improve the situation by means of chapters of community volunteers near the state prisons that can facilitate the access to reading materials and other educational tools/programs.

Currently, the organizations in this young project are Urbana-Champaign Books to Prisoners, the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign-Urbana, First Mennonite Church, McKinley Social Action Committee, the Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting, the Volunteer Illini Project, *Stateville Speaks* (the prison newspaper), and Youth Advocate Programs, Adult Division, Chicago, and the Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice.

Requests of Illinois Yearly Meeting:

1. Request for ILYM endorsement of the Three R’s. This would entail distribution of materials to membership and communication with your Meetings’ own State Representatives and Illinois State Senators to achieve funding to maintain circulation libraries at every state prison.
2. Encouragement of Meetings to explore the possibilities of working with your nearest prison, or even a county jail, to channel donations for needed materials - books/dictionaries, magazine subscriptions, seeds for community gardens, videos for Story Book Project - to that one institution. This lets inmates know that they are not forgotten, but are still part of the community. U-C Books to Prisoners can serve as a resource to help you get a small group started and to involve support from Illinois Department of Corrections where needed.

- Barbara Kessel, U-C Friends Meeting Peace & Service Committee

MEMORIALS

CLEMENT MILLER BIDDLE III

In Memory of Clement Miller Biddle III, 74, who died on July 27th, 2009, after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on June 21st, 1935. His family moved to Winnetka a year later, where he attended Hubbard Woods Elementary School and New Trier High School. He later went to George School and Swarthmore College. One of his ancestors had been part of the founding of both of those schools, and many members of his extended family had attended them over the years. At Swarthmore Meeting on January 9th, 1965, he married Katherine Nicholson, whose family had been involved in the founding of Westtown School and Haverford College. They joined 2 Quaker heritages.

For most of his working life, he was involved in the institutional food business, supplying food to restaurants, hospitals, and cafeterias. After marriage, he and Katherine lived in Chicago for a few years, and then moved to Brooklyn. Their first daughter, Jennifer, was born in Evanston, their second, Margaret, in Brooklyn. Both girls attended Brooklyn Friends School, and the family attended Brooklyn Friends Meeting. In 1979 they moved to Knowlton Township in New Jersey, near the Delaware Water Gap. They built a passive solar house on a hilltop with a wind generator, and dabbled in organic farming. Clem worked for a refrigerated foods wholesaler, eventually becoming general manager. Later, he threw over the food business when he and Katherine opened a vinyl sign shop called Everyone Needs SIGNS in Newton, NJ, which they ran for 9 years.

In his late 50s, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He had the operation, but his PSA started rising 18 months later. Therefore, Clem and Katherine decided to fulfill a long-held dream of traveling. They sold the house and business, bought a motorhome, and took up fulltime RVing. They went all over the United States, and into Mexico and Canada. They worked on more than 13 Habitat for Humanity builds, were campground hosts, made a lot of friends, and saw almost all the places they dreamed of.

After he retired, Clem took up the trumpet again. He had a band in college that played for dances. He loved jazz, and the bebop era. Whenever he could, wherever they were, he looked for people to play with. Tritone Fantasy Jazz Camp was the high point of the year for him. In addition, he was a teacher for College Guild, an educational program for prisoners which was founded by his sister, Julie Biddle Zimmerman. His field was 20th century history.

He was such a good person, loving and caring to all he met. Always optimistic, ready to overcome every obstacle. He didn't let cancer get in the way of life and other people. He was a natural storyteller, especially in song. He had a wonderful sense of humor, always ready with a funny comment. He was totally honest in his relations with all, in business and personally.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine N. Biddle; daughters, Jennifer Biddle LaFleur and Margaret Biddle; and granddaughter, Julie LaFleur.

THOMAS DIX

Thomas Aquinas Matthew Dix was born to Marti Matthews (member Oak Park Friends Meeting) and the late Thomas Dix in Chicago on December 5, 1969. He lived a beautiful and generous life, and left a rich legacy of love and service.

Tom's childhood was filled with music. In addition to playing piano, trumpet and guitar, he developed a beautiful bass voice. He sang in the Community Renewal Chorus and the Heritage Chorale. Tom enjoyed scouting, nature, and camping. Although raised Catholic, while in high school Tom requested membership at Evanston Monthly Meeting. He graduated from Maine East High School as a National Merit Scholar and a member of Mensa.

Majoring in anthropology and sociology, Tom earned a B.A. at Earlham College. His joyful years at Earlham led to a clear understanding of Quaker beliefs and love for his Quaker identity. He counseled at Camp Woodbrooke in Wisconsin. After college he taught for a year at Scattergood Friends School. He studied massage therapy and practiced this for four years, including pro bono work at the Marjorie Kovler Center for victims of torture and at FGC Gatherings.

After Earlham, Tom attended Chicago's Northside Meeting. Through his love of contra dancing Tom met Kimberly Kurrus and in 1999 they were married under the care of Northside Meeting. Tom served as Clerk of Northside Meeting's Sabbath Year Committee.

While assisting Kim in her daycare center and helping raise her two children, Tom earned an M.Ed. at DePaul University. He became a physics instructor and science department chair at a public high school. He was shocked and disappointed at the administrative politics there, but he eventually found the job of his dreams as instructor of physics, engineering and design at Proviso Math and Science Academy (PMSA) in Forest Park.

Tom and Kim moved to Oak Park. Tom transferred his membership to Oak Park Friends Meeting, where he worked with teens, served as Coordinator of Adult Religious Education, and was Co-Clerk. Feeling a need for more spiritual discipline, he joined a Blackfoot Medicine Lodge where he learned and practiced Native American traditions.

At PMSA Tom began a Robotics Club and another called Destination Imagination, both clubs being branches of national programs that stimulate creative thinking and cooperative action in friendly competition. He also trained in Outdoor Adventure Education, taught a summer course on "young people and war" to middle school students, and began to take flying lessons toward his dream of becoming a pilot. In Spring 2008 Tom and Kim separated, and eventually they divorced.

In Summer 2008 Tom's spirit was lifted high when he was honored to be a leader for the 2008 FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Great Britain. It is hard to put into words what happiness this trip and those beautiful young people gave him!

As he returned to PMSA in Fall 2008 his spirit was at peace. He loved his students and enjoyed his work, and his students loved and enjoyed him. He defined his mission in life: "To help teenagers grow up in a good way. I get paid, however, to teach Physics and Engineering."

Tom had had health problems for a couple of years, and in February, 2009, was diagnosed with stage four Melanoma. For six months he struggled valiantly to regain his health. He carried with him everywhere the words of Tecumseh, which begin "So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart." In September he chose surgery as a last hope to turn the tide, but this failed, and on September 17, 2009, Tom gave over his earthly life.

His memorial service was attended by many Friends, students, and family. PMSA held several memorial events, and the science lab used by the robotics club

was given his name. Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting cosponsored Tom's team in the March, 2010, robotics competition.

We deeply feel his loss: his respect for everyone, his gentle and wise ministries, and especially his resonant bass voice when he would stand in worship and sing what was in his heart. In one of his last ministries he sang "I have friends in high places." We hope and trust that those who went before him, including his father, welcomed his spirit and that he is flying and free, as his beautiful spirit deserves.

CONSTANCE ELENA KELLAM

Constance Elena Kellam was born on July 23, 1914, in Center, Indiana, to Quaker parents Clyde and Lena Kellam. Her Quaker roots were both deep and rich in traditions, love, and a no-nonsense approach to living that was part of the culture of early, rural Indiana Friends.

In later years Connie would relate stories telling of the experiences of her family and other Quakers in that area of Indiana. Though sounding quaint and often humorous, these anecdotes clearly illustrated that Quaker Meetings in the early- to mid-years of the 20th Century had problems that in many ways would be familiar to Friends of today.

In due course, Connie received degrees from University of Chicago and, later, Indiana University. She transferred her membership to 57th Street Meeting of Friends in Chicago where one Meeting Friend recalled that "She was a stalwart member of our Ministry and Counsel, bringing wise, experienced life-long Quakerism into the mix that often included those like myself who thought we were inventing Quakerism for the first time in the 1960s."

For twenty years, Connie worked as a social worker in Gary, Indiana, and surrounding communities. This period was followed by twenty years as an Associate Professor at Loyola University in Chicago. Here she was presented the Siedenberg Award for Outstanding Teaching in recognition of her acumen and service. Always interested and informed on issues, Connie was also an active member of the League of Women Voters. She loved to travel and often invited her beloved niece or nephew to accompany her.

Upon retirement, Connie moved to Pines Village, a retirement community in Valparaiso, Indiana. She began attending Duneland Friends Meeting in Valparaiso which had been a preparatory meeting under the care of 57th Street Friends. Connie served on the first Ministry and Counsel Committee for Duneland Friends and this early service helped establish a tone of loving, disciplined, good order for that Meeting. This was the foundation on which Duneland and 57th Street Meeting collaborated to address a changing and at times difficult situation that both Meetings were laboring over separately. Connie served on Duneland's Ministry and Counsel Committee several times in the following years.

Connie suffered with allergies and other physical ailments that kept her away from Meeting in her later years. During this period she generously hosted visitors in her apartment and served homemade scones. Like Connie, her apartment was warm and welcoming – partially furnished with family antiques, some that were beautifully hand-crafted by an ancestor. There were also many books on a variety of subjects. Connie also arranged for use of a private dining room a few steps from her apartment where she hosted Duneland Friends twice monthly for Bible Study. She enjoyed

these occasions though her progressive hearing loss often made discussion difficult for her.

Connie died on October 25, 2009, at Whispering Pines of Pines Village in Valparaiso. She was 95 years old. Survivors include her niece and nephew, Judith (Lou) Graves O'Leary of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Alan "Pete" (Carolyn) Graves of Knoxville, Tennessee. A Memorial Meeting for Connie was held October 30, 2009, at Pines Village Retirement Communities.

Connie was loved and is deeply missed by those who knew her. We are comforted by the knowledge that her years of social work and inspired teaching as well as her love and service in the Religious Society of Friends continue to work in our hurting world.

ROBERT W MACGRUDER, JR

"Rob" was born November 8, 1955, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to Robert W and Marilyn (Leonard) MacGruder. He grew up primarily in Waukegan, Illinois, graduating from Waukegan High School in 1974. Rob was awarded a legislators' scholarship and completed his Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from Western University in Macomb, Illinois.

Rob is survived by his wife, Angela; his son, Oliver; his daughters Melissa, Emily and Colleen; his father, Robert; his sister, Valerie Nystrom; and numerous relatives and friends. Preceding him in death were his mother, Marilyn (1973); his stepmother, Lea; brother-in-law, Dave (2004); and aunt, Ann Ratcliffe (2009).

Prior to his death, Rob had been a part-time instructor at The College of Lake County and provided support for Mary's Mission in Waukegan, Illinois.

Rob passed away suddenly on September 1, 2009, in Chicago. At that time, Rob was living in Chicago. He had recently moved there from Zion, Illinois. Rob was a member of Lake Forest Friends Monthly Meeting since 2008. He was actively involved in the life of Lake Forest Meeting, including developing a weekly electronic calendar to keep the Meeting updated on various activities.

A Memorial Meeting for Worship was held to celebrate Rob's life at the Lake Forest Friends Meeting House on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Many of Rob's family, friends and members and attenders of Lake Forest Meeting were in attendance. A burial is planned for this summer in Sterling, Kansas, next to Rob's mother. We miss Rob.

NANCEE LEE MILLER

1957 –2009

Nancee Lee Miller, a long time resident of Evanston, Illinois, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 19, 1957, to David Miller and Sandra Huntley. On November 3, 2009, Nancee, surrounded by loved ones, died peacefully in Evanston Hospital after a valiant struggle with breast cancer. Nancee was the loving mother of Ashlee Diane Miller-Berry who survives. In addition to both parents and her sisters, Susan and Deborah Miller, Nancee is survived by stepmothers Mary Ellen McNish and Patricia Lucas, who, along with their numerous children and grandchildren loved Nancee as their own.

Nancee graduated from Evanston Township High School in 1975 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, majoring in therapeutic recreation, from Indiana University in 1980. Her professional career was focused on working

with people with disabilities. Where possible, Nan offered her clients healthful types of recreation as well as other activities she specially adapted to meet their disabilities and interests. In Nancee's latter years she worked for the State of Illinois in the mental health system where, after earning the necessary certifications, she trained clients to work in the food service industry.

Nancee gave freely from her knowledge and experience. At one time, her unit was directed to input patient records directly to the computer rather than first writing them out longhand and then keying in the same information. Nan realized that some of the staff were resistant to making the change because they were not experienced in working with computers. Nan became an advocate for the conversion and an unofficial "help desk" for her colleagues who completed the project after Nan was no longer able to work. There are many examples of her desire to help others. On her first admission to Evanston Hospital, Nan heard a patient screaming and was informed that the patient was autistic. Drawing on her experience as an activity therapist in a deaf unit, Nan suggested that the patient might be comforted by some music in her room. It worked and both staff and other patients were grateful. One of Nancee's co-workers related another instance of Nan's love of sharing her experience to help others. She told how Nan had often helped her solve difficult problems related to child rearing.

Nancee was a caretaker. When her grandmother Lillian Miller came to live in Evanston, Nan visited her faithfully and helped as opportunities arose. One of Nan's many acts of kindness was to serve as her grandmother's intermediary with the nursing home and the hospital. She also developed a very loving relationship with another family member, Ruth Milgrom, who had been like a grandmother to Nancee and Ashlee. Nancee assumed responsibility for her care, tending her and helping her to get the medical treatment that she needed. At age 95, Ruth set an example of gracious dying for Nancee.

Swimming was very important to Nancee. Starting as a teen-ager Nan assisted in training very young children to swim and in later years she led classes in adaptive aquatic exercises for persons of all ages with disabilities. She continued to teach swimming under the auspices of several local organizations, including Evanston Special Recreation, the Wildkit Swim Organization, and the High Ridge Y. In recent years, she was very proud and pleased to be teaching the children of some of her first students. She was also active in the programs of Special Olympics Illinois.

Nancee was very involved with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). She attended her own Evanston Meeting of Friends as well as Northside Friends Meeting when her mother was a member there. Nan also visited Duneland Friends Meeting after her mother relocated to Indiana following retirement. Most recently Nan attended Lake Forest Friends Meeting with Ashlee. Nan had many friends in wider Quaker circles as a result of having attended Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering. Just as she did in other areas of her life, Nan found work to do among Friends. At one time she served on the House and Grounds Committee of Evanston Friends Meeting. In 1998 she accepted a position on the Illinois Yearly Meeting Finance Committee, where she ably and faithfully served until her death. At IYM she also used her knowledge of food service to befriend the cooks and was a faithful participant at the craft tent.

Throughout her illness Nancee was amazed at the outpouring of love, attention and care she received from her family, religious community, friends and fellow

workers. Because she had always gone that extra mile for them, they were willing to do that for her. As the disease progressed she tried to find meaning in the experience. She felt that one purpose the illness served was to bring her family closer together. She never lost her sense of humor, giving her family a challenging standard to emulate. Nancee will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

JOAN E. MUELLER

Joan E. Mueller died at the age of 79 on December 21, 2008. She was born in 1929 in Wilmar, Minnesota, to Hildred Burgstaller Mueller and George Mueller. She attended Lake Forest Friends Meeting in the late 1950s and maintained contact with members of that meeting until recent years. After teaching English at Lake Forest College for a few years she became a professor of English at Hope College in Michigan from 1960 to 1977. Her specialty was Renaissance literature. She was a strong supporter of Hope's Black Coalition's drive for more professors of color and for courses inclusive of Black literature and history. She was known as a challenging and inspirational professor.

In 1977 she purchased a farm near the Mississippi River in Ferryville, Wisconsin, where she raised sheep, sheep dogs and horses. She was an intrepid environmentalist, loved the beauty of the "driftless" area of southwest Wisconsin, and made many friends among the local farmers in the area.

VERNA "MARTY" S. NEIDIGH

Verna "Marty" S. Neidigh was born on February 12, 1925, in Plymouth, Indiana, to the late Walter K. Schlosser, M.D., and Marion M. (Pike) Schlosser. She died February 20, 2009, in Bremen, Indiana. Marty became a member of the Religious Society of Friends, joining South Bend Monthly Meeting in 1993 after following the suggestion of a family member and the leading of the Holy Spirit to Friends. She also chose to use the name Marty by divine leading because it contained the name Mary and a cross. Marty was a faithful attender at Meeting for Worship, driving, or having her husband drive her, a long distance to be at Meeting almost every Sunday before her health prevented her in her last year of life. She sought to see the face of Christ, that of God, in everyone, reflecting and extending divine love.

Marty received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Education from Indiana University South Bend. On December 25, 1944, she married Robert J. "Bob" Neidigh and they had four children, Dale R. Neidigh, Florida; Sharon M. Neidigh, Ohio; Roberta J. Neidigh-Anthonisen, California; and John L. Neidigh, Mississippi. She is survived by her spouse and children and three grandchildren, Marion K., Colleen E. and Haley C., all of California. Verna "Marty" Schlosser Neidigh will be remembered as a loving, inspiring wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, leader and friend. She was profoundly hard of hearing her whole life, but developed the ability to speak clearly and read lips with the help of her mother. Marty helped lead the way at the local, state and national level to improve accessibility for people with disabilities by serving as a National Board Member for the Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly known as Self Help for Hard of Hearing), helping the foundation and acting as State Coordinator for HLA of Indiana, being actively involved in Fifth Freedom statewide advocacy network, and helping form the Methodist Handicapped Ministries Committee. In 2006 she received the Indiana Governor's Council Distinguished Leadership Award, symbolizing the

culmination of her life's advocacy work. In Friends Meeting, she was experienced by many of us as a profound listener in one on one and group conversations. Having to use her assisted listening device, "the talking stick," enabled our Meeting to pace ourselves better and listen more deeply. Marty was often radiant with a lovely smile. She was willing to labor lovingly through concerns and differences until way opened.

Marty was a poet and wrote a column, "The Kitchen Window," in the Bremen Enquirer for many years. She was healed of two bouts of stage-four lymphoma in 1974 and 2008. Marty lived on a farm and was a special friend to her Amish neighbors, many of whom attended her Memorial Meeting, held on July 26, 2009. Marty sought spiritual growth through reading and traveling. She resonated with the message of forgiveness and reconciliation in Phillip Gulley and James Mulholland's *If Grace be True* and recommended it to Friends. She had a ministry of encouragement, of overcoming obstacles, to her children and grandchildren and young Friends in the meeting. Marty loved to share her blessings and joys and rejoiced at the happiness of others. She died peacefully, succumbing to pneumonia. Her message of love and forgiveness will be her legacy.

ANNETTE JONES REYNOLDS

Annette Jones Reynolds, 90, died September 26, 2009, in Evanston, Illinois. Annette was born in Highland Park, Illinois on February 25, 1919, the daughter of George R. and Jessie Orton Jones. Her father was a Harvard-educated business executive, a highly accomplished violinist and photographer, and a member of the Chicago Symphony Board of Governors. Her mother was a woman of wide-ranging interests, a piano player, educator, and author of both children's books with religious themes and books for parents and educators about the religious education of children. Her older sister, Elizabeth, was an award-winning illustrator of children's books, including the very popular Golden Book version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, the Caldecott-medal *Prayer for a Child*, and the series of books authored by her mother *Small Rain*, *Secrets*, and *This is the Way*. Annette's older brother Tom was a gifted performer of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas from high school into his 70s, and a long-time high-level staffer at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

She attended Elm Place School in Highland Park, North Shore Country Day School and Bradford Junior College in Haverhill, Massachusetts, from which she transferred to Wellesley College. At Wellesley she was student organist and studied music theory and composition with Nadia Boulanger, the great French composer and influential teacher who had emigrated to Wellesley during the war years. She graduated in 1941 with a lasting circle of friends and a major in Biblical History.

After Wellesley, she returned to the North Shore and spent two years at the Winnetka Teachers College of the University of Chicago. During this time, as the U.S. entered the war she lost her fiancé and first love early in the war in the Pacific. It was in 1943 that she was drawn to a conference sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee for the purpose of gathering together people who sought to work for peace after the war in the many countries devastated by the fighting. She was encouraged to consider attending a special Masters program being developed at Haverford College. The Relief and Reconstruction Unit was organized by philosophy professor and leading Quaker, Douglas Steere. The program was offering advanced training in politics, languages, engineering, business, and other courses relevant to

carrying out Quaker-organized relief programs with refugees and local communities rebuilding their lives around the world.

Annette decided to go. She studied Polish, studied under Douglas Steere and Rufus Jones, and took classes in world politics and economics from the German anti-war industrialist, Edmund Stinnes. After graduating from the Haverford program in 1945 she went directly to Mexico to work in a Polish refugee camp. Her first experiences, however, were with the water-borne diseases prevalent south of the border which laid her low with fever and nausea and she reluctantly decided to return to Chicago to recover.

At that point in her life she began to attend Evanston Meeting where she met Welden Reynolds. Welden was the oldest son of two founding members of the meeting, Wilfred and Nora Reynolds. They were married by Evanston Meeting on June 14, 1946. Their son, Hadley, was born in September of the following year and their daughter, Christine, in 1955. The great challenge of Annette's life began in 1960 when Welden was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Facing the challenges of Welden's eventual inability to work full time, Annette looked again to teaching. She gained training in remedial education and worked in Evanston for many years. In 1962, Welden transitioned from his editorial work into the position of pastoral secretary of the meeting and later they both worked in the role as a team.

During this time Annette's life in faith and her spiritual journey took a new turn. She combined the difficult task of supporting Welden through his increasing physical incapacity with opportunities for spiritual growth. After Welden's passing in 1981 she built another phase of life for herself, actively engaged with the life of the meeting, with her many friends and with the lives of her four grandchildren. She became the primary support and caregiver for her mother who died in 1993. She was also connected with her sister and brother who each passed away within a few months of each other in 2006. The last years of her life were spent in assisted living but she accepted this with grace and continued to attend meeting with the help of the supportive members and friends. She is survived by her two children, Hadley Reynolds and Christine Culbert and her four grandchildren.

PAUL L. SCHOBERND

Paul L. Schobernd was born January 9, 1951, in Carrollton, Illinois, the son of Paul and Cathryne Branham Schobernd. Shortly after his birth, Paul's family moved to Tacoma, Washington, where his father was stationed in the Air Force. Paul claimed his life-long love of mountains stemmed from these early years when his parents took him for long rides in the shadow of Mount Rainier in order to get him to sleep at night.

The family returned to Illinois where Paul attended Hardin Grade School and then Calhoun High School, and where he rode the school bus with the love of his life, Beth Hanks. Paul received his undergraduate education from Eastern Illinois University, and after his graduation from EIU he and Beth were married on August 19, 1972. Paul and Beth had three sons – Zachary, Zebulon and Zekiel. Ever a proponent of the underdog, Paul liked to say the boys' names advanced an underutilized letter of the alphabet.

Paul taught junior high and high school for several years before becoming an elementary and secondary school principal. He was at his best when working with students for whom school was a challenge and those who came from difficult homes.

It was during this time that “Welcome Back, Kotter” was a popular television series, and Paul’s students christened themselves his Sweathogs. His students thrived and succeeded in the atmosphere of mutual trust and respect that Paul created for them. This was the beginning of an on-going ministry for Paul in which he reached out to people in physical or emotional pain and offered them space in his heart.

Later in his professional career Paul was a Placement Officer at Illinois State University, working primarily with students in the College of Education. He frequently counseled students who, while in the process of student teaching, realized they had made a wrong vocational choice. Paul gave them professional options, helped them maintain self-respect, and offered them the chance to save face with their parents. When he was no longer able to work, Paul carried on an active email ministry with a number of people around the world who found in him a wise and empathetic listener.

Paul’s roots were in his native Calhoun County, Illinois, where his family has lived for many generations. He delighted in telling stories about the people, culture and geography of his home area, and could do so for hours. Paul possessed an insatiable curiosity for the quirky and unusual, and could spend long periods of time researching the use or purpose of unknown items picked up at antique stores and yard sales. He had a passion for books and antique woodworking tools, amassing considerable collections of both, and achieving recognition among other collectors as an expert in some areas. He also just enjoyed collecting stuff.

Music was a major influence in Paul’s life. He was, in his own words, a fair to middling guitar player and possessed a deep, resonant singing voice. His favorite music included gospel, blue grass, country, and children’s songs. When the boys were young family entertainment typically involved singing, whether that was at home or in the car on family trips. The kids developed extensive repertoires, including songs many of their peers didn’t know. Once while sitting around a beach campfire with college friends, one of the boys was embarrassed to admit he could supply the words to every John Denver song people suggested singing, thanks to these family songfests.

Paul loved his family passionately. He liked to extol the virtues of marrying one’s best friend, and was devoted to Beth. He was immensely proud of his three sons and delighted in his daughters-by-marriage - Kelly, Christina and KaDee. And he was absolutely besotted with his granddaughters, Kiva and Zara. Paul liked to stretch the definition of family to include anyone he cared about, anyone who needed a meal, or anyone who just needed a place to be. When Zach, Zeb and Zeke were young, the Schobernd dining table often expanded to include friends of the boys, a group that has come to refer to itself as “the strays,” and who always felt welcomed into Paul’s circle.

Paul and his family found Quakers in 1983, having gotten lost in downtown Philadelphia while on vacation. They ducked into Arch Street Meetinghouse, lured by a “free ice water” sign and the chance to escape the heat of a July day. Paul purchased a \$3 copy of the 1972 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, and proceeded to read it aloud to Beth all that night. He was hooked. Once back in Illinois, they located Friends Hill Meeting in Quincy and attended there for several years. After moving to Normal in 1987, Paul and his family attended Bloomington-Normal Meeting and Heartland Worship Group. At the time of his death, Paul was a member of Clear Creek Friends Meeting in McNabb. He participated in Illinois

Yearly Meeting and Blue River Quarterly activities as much as his health would allow. He served as the first in the current series of ILYM Field Secretaries from 1992-1994. Paul was drawn to the Religious Society of Friends by the opportunity to be in direct communion with God, with all the exhilaration and vulnerability that experience provides.

Paul was well acquainted with pain, and the grace that can arise from it. He suffered from debilitating migraine headaches and bouts of severe depression most of his adult life. In his 1999 Plummer Lecture, Paul referred to his illnesses as “my curse and my friend.” He believed that through times of suffering, one has no choice but to hold on to God as spiritual anchor. Paul also used his delightful sense of humor to help rise above, and sometimes mask, his pain. His warm and contagious laugh will live on in our hearts.

Paul died August 23, 2009, in Normal, Illinois, and a memorial service was held at the Illinois Yearly Meetinghouse on August 29. A large crowd of family and friends from all parts of Paul’s life shared stories, tears and laughter. Paul would have enjoyed it.

SCOTT VAN JACOB

(1956-2009)

Scott Van Jacob, for 14 years an attender at South Bend Meeting and a valued and beloved part of our meeting community, passed away in October.

Scott, who grew up on cattle ranches in Oregon, came to know Friends when he and his wife Elizabeth were living in Pennsylvania. But while Elizabeth became a member of their Meeting, Scott never did so, disliking the idea of organized religion. However, he was comfortable with Quakers and a regular attender at Meeting, active on committees and in the life of meeting, particularly caring in his relationships with the Meeting’s children and young people, warm and generous in offering hospitality for meeting events.

Scott was a tremendously grounded person, who could serve as a model for those seeking to lead a well-balanced life. Professionally, he was the Spanish- and Latin-American bibliographer at the library of the University of Notre Dame, a position in which he was highly respected both at his own institution and internationally. But he rarely brought work home with him, instead making sure that he had time and energy to give to his wife and daughters, Nina and Gemma. Intellectually, he was a voracious reader—particularly in the literature of South America—and a deep thinker. But he was also a keen amateur runner who had won the Harrisburg Mile at the age of 38 and was an enthusiastic fan of track and field.

Those of us fortunate enough to have known Scott are left with gratitude for a life lived well and with a sadness that it was not lived longer.

ROBERT LLEWELLYN WIXOM

Robert (“Bob”) L. Wixom, a founding member of Columbia Monthly Meeting and former clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting (1971-74), passed away at age 85 on July 8, 2009, of chronic lung illness. He had happily celebrated his birthday two days before, with his wife, sister, two sons, their spouses and his grandchildren.

Bob was born to Clinton and Beatrice Hunt Wixom in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 6, 1924, and grew up in a family with deep Quaker roots. Educated at Oakwood Friends School and Earlham College, he was a conscientious objector in

World War II, first in Civilian Public Service, where he worked as a fire-fighter in the Smoky Mountains and then volunteered in Boston, Massachusetts, for medical experiments on the effect of drugs on malaria. Later, after refusing to register for the draft, he spent a year in prison, for which he received a Presidential pardon exonerating him.

At Earlham he met Edith Ann Smith, and they married in 1949. Following graduate study in biochemistry at the University of Illinois, he received the Ph.D. degree in biochemistry in 1952 and joined the biochemistry faculty at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. They were active in establishing Little Rock Friends Meeting and in work camps and problems relating to school desegregation. Sons David and Richard were born. In 1964 the family moved to Columbia, Missouri, for Bob to serve on the biochemistry faculty of the University of Missouri, as he did until he retired in 1992 as professor emeritus. He continued to be active, co-authoring a book on environmental science and two books surveying the important technique of chromatography. He was active in the department, in environmental groups and in the MU Graduate Faculty Senate. He received three awards for excellence in teaching, the 1996 Educator of the Year Award of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and in 2003 the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Earlham College.

Bob was characteristically optimistic, enthusiastic and focused, but his life was not free of problems. Sadly, Edith died from cancer in 1967. After a briefer marriage to Sharon Belcher, he married Jeanne Forest in 1975, who joined him in various Friends activities, but she died in 1983, also from cancer. In 1986, he married Patricia M. Saxton in London Grove Meeting in Pennsylvania, and she has also been very active in both Columbia Monthly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Bob Wixom was very dedicated to the Religious Society of Friends and to his deep religious faith. He was quite active in Columbia Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting and Blue River Quarterly Meeting, faithful in his attendance and serving on numerous committees. He played a unique role in pulling the meeting together with various activities, such as wildflower and bird-watching expeditions, pancake breakfasts, camping and canoe trips, and arranging for going out to eat together. He was a long-serving member of the yearly meeting's Environmental Concerns, Faith and Practice, Peace Resources, Quaker Volunteer Service, Training & Witness, and other committees, in addition to being Columbia's representative on Continuing Committee for much of the time. He also served in Quaker Earthcare Witness (previously FCUN), Friends Association for Higher Education, and Friends General Conference. He traveled widely, including three trips to the Monteverde Quaker community in Costa Rica. He leaves big shoes to fill and his presence is greatly missed.

Bob loved his family. He is survived by his wife Patricia M. Wixom and two sons: David and his wife Yvonne Hill and their two children Jonathan and Caryn, and Richard and his wife Lois and their children David, Cristian, and Andrew. A memorial Meeting was held for Bob in Columbia on August 1, 2009, attended by over 100 people from the full breadth of Illinois Yearly Meeting and beyond.

STATES OF SOCIETY

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

We affirm good potlucks are an indication of good community. That said, we offer a gustatory summary of our Meeting.

- Multigrain corn chips
- Fresh-cut vegetables
- Smoky bean dip and hummus, made from scratch
- Beet/hazelnut/blue cheese salad
- Quinoa
- Saag Paneer (mild), Malai Kafta (medium spicy), Naan, and white rice from local Indian restaurant
- Fresh blueberries and raspberries
- Brownies with pecans and dried cherries
- To drink: Beer, wine, apple cider, iced tea

As Bob Broad observed, “There isn’t much else that is more spiritual than food.”

Other Bloomington-Normal Meeting News:

In addition to the Potluck Indicator, we assess the health of our Meeting by the quality of our activities. In the past year, we have enjoyed the following:

- Workshops on eldering and nurturing of our Meeting
- Workshop hosted by Paul Buckley with Friends from other Meetings in attendance
- Outreach with Spoon River, which has enriched our worship and Meeting experience
- M&A attention and visits from Mariellen Gilpin, a truly great person and resource
- Our fingerprints on ILYM activities and events
- Birth of a new Friend: Collin Sues
- Regularly-attending and returning attendees: Mary Cunningham and granddaughter Ashley, Julie Fraser and her fiancé John Lindsey, Keely Scott
- New attendee: David Thompson
- Three-tiered First Day School aimed at our newborn-infant Friend, 3-7 year-old Friends, and teen Friend; a strong First Day School community has emerged among the participating Young Friends
- Multi-generational worship and spiritual reflection as a result of having a teen Friend within our Meeting

“Simple gifts” best describes how Friends within our Meeting enrich and sustain our group. We are sharing what we are uniquely gifted at. In particular, we would like to affirm the following people and their offerings:

- Susie Burt who broadcasts Meeting dates, hosts, locations and other news or updates
- Bob Broad who hangs out with Collin, now 7 months old, during worship
- Julie Hile and Christina Schulz who have taken the lead in First Day School
- Bob Broad and Julie Hile who have led the reading of Queries on First Sundays, which has heartened Friends and built a consistent rhythm into our Meeting experience
- Rachel Hile Broad and Christina Schulz who offered vocal ministry for the first time in 2009

There is a varied pattern of community service within our Meeting. Some Friends are quite active, while others are less so. We would like to be more open about acknowledging a Quaker voice in our community and have begun a goal-setting process to become more clear about what that will look like in the coming year.

In the year ahead, we look forward to:

- Continued outreach with Spoon River
- Planning and launching a local B/N-Clear Creek women's fun gathering
- Participating on ILYM's Religious Education Committee, possibly
- Vocal ministry from more of our Meeting's younger members, attendees, and Members
- Community service that we can share as a Meeting, whether that be a distinct event or a recurring activity
- And, of course, more potlucks!

CLEAR CREEK

This year we said farewell to a dear Friend, consummate Seeker, with a beautiful voice, who was a beloved grandfather, father and husband. During Meeting, Paul Schobernd wrestled with his own beliefs and shared with us his search for truth. How we loved listening to his beautiful voice. It captured our attention and his thoughts laid out to us resonated in our hearts even during the drive home from Meeting. It is a comfort to us to be with his family and see his grandchildren in our First Day School. His determined exploration of spiritual truth was his gift to us.

Surprise, excitement and joy flourished in our hearts last June when ILYM very quickly purchased the Mills Homestead next door to the Meeting House. We were faced with another building which needed much work and clearing and yet between the sober planning, there was a rush of joy and gratitude. Yes, there were decades of stuff left behind by previous families. A history of farming and animal husbandry was in every corner of the silos and barn. Inside the house, wall paper was peeling and plaster was falling in large pieces. Dick Ashdown and Carol Bartles reassured us that the clearing and renovating would happen.

Before we knew it, we gathered at the Homestead to scrape off the several layers of peeling wallpaper. What a fascinating look at an interior decorative history it was! We pulled a million nails from walls and removed the paneling and ceiling tiles. Our Stewards appeared to be everywhere; interviewing plasterers, painters, plumbers. One minute Carol was spraying the wallpaper and the next moment she and Dick were outside planning the future removal of a deteriorated concrete slab. Their constant attention to detail and plans kept us from thinking too hard about the enormous amount of stuff remaining in the barns.

Members of the Dancing Rabbit community arrived and set up camp in the Homestead. We knew they were fast and efficient workers but it was a feat to behold. Trying to keep up with them was exhausting. We soon found other chores to do around the yard like pulling poles and shrubbery with Dick's 1959 John Deere tractor. Oh the fun in a day of hard dirty work. By week's end we stood looking into cleared, organized spaces that had once been a mess of metal, wood boards and farming equipment. So many feelings of gratitude towards this special community who swooped in and created space for a new beginning.

Throughout the early Autumn and Winter, there were so many people who dropped in at the Homestead, to volunteer to do some work, to sweat, breathe dust

and strain muscles during this renovation: The Paton family pioneered the peeling and scraping of old wall paper which blazed the way for the rest of us. Kay Drake, Grayce Mesner and Bill Butler used sheer grit and weary muscles to haul the debris from the attic to the garage. When she wasn't scraping wall paper, Betty Wolf applied shelving paper to cupboards and added a table cloth which created a lovely feeling of home. Tim Narkiewicz set the stage for removing the wall paneling and ceiling tiles. Sometimes you need someone to say "Let's see what is underneath here" and then begin. Before he left for Lebanon, Andrew Bartles shared his advantage of height and youthful enthusiasm to rip out wall paneling and ceiling tile. Neil Mesner patiently fixed stuck pocket doors and other wooden places that needed an application of quiet determination, which is his specialty. Beth Schobernd washed both bathrooms - both of them! Did I mention there are two? Ah, plumbing bliss! Rachel Mershon cleaned the kitchen and Becky Morris has continued to keep it clean throughout the renovations. All this hard work allowed us to use the downstairs for warm Winter meetings and kitchen potlucks.

Bob Bartles, Carol Bartles, Dick Ashdown, John Hackman, Alice Howenstine, and Jeannie Marvin joined ILYM's Environmental Concerns committee to burn the prairie field with the native prairie grass, to encourage new growth. The committee is often out here clearing and tending to trees.

To all of these individual and collective efforts, we say, "Thank you. Thank you for adding your personal, loving touch." The clearing lightened our hearts as we now looked forward to watching plasterers, painters, plumbers and electricians begin their work to rehabilitate the house. When the plastering downstairs was finished, we gathered to hold the first meeting within its now smooth, firm walls. We couldn't help noticing how much warmer it felt. No wind blew through cracks and the heat was steady. After we sat for a few minutes we became conscious of outdoor scenes framed by the large picture windows. There was some laughter as we made plans to switch seats next time to view our favorite scenes. Oh the comfort of being inside a warm, beautiful building with plumbing upstairs and downstairs! Oh the joy of so many trees and land to stretch our imaginations. The possibilities!

We added one more new growth into our First Day program. Diane Dennis and Jeannie Marvin are using the Godly Play curriculum for the first of the month. Efforts are being made to stretch First Day into the other weeks.

We celebrated Becky Morris' release from the Correctional Center and she has jumped in with both hands helping us to clean and maintain the new Clear Creek House.

Our sense of thankfulness continues to warm our hearts and we are more excited than ever for everyone in ILYM to see the results of their generous and Spirit-led purchase. Come, walk these beautiful wood floors, sit comfortably between these smooth simple walls, and wonder with us, the future.

COLUMBIA

Our Meeting met to consider several of the queries offered by Ministry and Advancement to "reflect on the health of the Meeting." This exercise, reviewing our calendar year 2009, helped us look at our deficiencies and needed growth points as well as our joys.

The overall sense of our life together as community and expressed in our worship is that we have been graced with Love. With each having the capacity to feel the Di-

vine Presence, we celebrate that we have been growing in our ability to learn and to respond to what Love may require of us.

As we have become more attuned to the needs of others, we have found concrete ways to reach out. However, we are aware that some hesitate to share their needs with us, which we want to encourage. We are an aging Meeting. Arranging rides for those no longer able to drive has become more systematized, from which we all benefit.

We've been able to help Friends in moving, and other changes in life circumstances including homelessness. However, we have been less successful in knowing Friends' spiritual needs, and want to develop more ability both to discern and to respond. This is leading to explorations of how we can have regular, ongoing sharing of our spiritual journeys.

Our structure for First Day School remains in place and the rotation of adult leaders worked well. The "Faith & Play" experience was well-received. However, half-way through the year the Watson family moved away, with their 3 children whom we all got to know and love; we deeply miss them.

"Meeting for Learning" is a regular Sunday event for adults and includes monthly "Friendly Bible Study." Programming has covered an interesting variety of topics, with leadership from Friends and non-Quakers alike—including two sessions with women from our Islamic community. However, we would like to see more feedback to our planning group indicating our range of interests. Generally, we consider Meeting for Learning to be a successful spin-off from an overworked Spiritual Life and Nurture committee.

Another dimension of our learning, reinforcing our sense of community, was an all-day retreat led by Illinois Yearly Meeting's Field Secretary Paul Buckley. He guided us into some productive exercises on "Deepening our Experience of Worship," which also had participation of Friends from several groups out of town. We delight in increasing contacts with Friends who are worshipping regularly in Fayette and LaPlata, Missouri.

A major event in our Meeting's life was the passing of Bob Wixom. His final months and weeks were ones of our all drawing more closely together, including worship with him in the hospital and connecting with his family. The memorial service was a tribute to his many significant contributions and his generosity of spirit, and was occasion for our hosting several dozen Friends from outside Columbia.

In examining how we relate to the larger community, we're glad to report a constant commitment to a peace vigil now approaching 3 decades of public witness. We have increased our participation in the Columbia Peace Coalition, and the multi-faceted Mid-Missouri PeaceWorks. Anti-death-penalty work continues to have Friends' support, and we contribute to 2 local hunger-relief efforts. Having tables annually at both Earth Day and the Sustainability Fair gives visibility for the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness and also outreach opportunities for the life of the Meeting. A new project we're happily supporting is the free clinic ("MedZou") initiated by a medical student attender, who has also made us aware of opportunities for international medical service. Our connection with Project Lakota remains one that we treasure.

A happy event toward year's end was reconnecting with many former attenders in a reunion of women studying "The Artist's Way" in the 1990s. We continue to seek how to strengthen our social connections even as we deepen our lives together

in The Spirit. As one Friend said in this present process of self-examination, "Love fares well in this Meeting." May God continue to guide us into new awareness and expressions of Truth.

DOWNERS GROVE

This year Downers Grove Friends Meeting underwent historical changes. The construction of our new meetinghouse began in October of 2008. All year we have adjusted to the changes that come with building a new meetinghouse. Since the construction made the parking lot uneven and difficult to negotiate in the dark, we did not have our annual carol sing. However on December 21, 2008, after meeting for worship, we gathered and shared memories of the old meetinghouse. Many from out of town were able to gather and worship together and share memories of our old meetinghouse.

All year we have not only watched trees being removed, earth being pushed around, we have also witnessed birth of our new building. Our beloved old building came down and the final grading and installation of our new landscape has begun. We hope to be in our new meetinghouse by the time this is read at the November Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting.

Many of us have spent long hours and worked hard packing up supplies and equipment in our old meetinghouse. Several families now have meeting chairs, tables, boxes of books stored patiently in their homes and garages. Still much moving lies ahead of us. An ad hoc moving committee made up of members of other committees culled our meeting of items that would not be used in the new meetinghouse. Many Friends have worked hard to bring us to this point.

Many hands carefully dug up daffodils, peonies, daylilies, and flame sumac to plant again once the new landscape is ready. Although the bulbs are waiting patiently in the refrigerator, the perennials are in holding areas or planted in the completed new memorial garden, which was installed by Scott Anderson and his troop as part of his Eagle Scout project. The lovely completed memorial garden is one of the few areas not disturbed by the excavation.

Five species of trees that were cut down were milled into lumber. The planks of spruce, ash, hickory, walnut, and red elm are "pegged" and air-drying. They may become part of our furniture or cabinetry in the new meetinghouse or may be sold to someone who works with wood. Bruce Wolfe, along with help from Andrea and Ted Anderson, took down the paneling in the meeting room to be used as wainscoting in the new meeting room.

As part of DuPage County's requirements our storm-water detention area must be planted with all native plants. Several members collected seeds from a variety of prairie plants to use in the storm-water detention area. Pam Wolfe stratified many seeds over the winter in her refrigerator. Many Friends helped fold newspaper pots and transplanted donated native plants and garden plants for use in the new meeting landscape. We will plant these before the ground freezes somewhere in the landscape.

Many details concerning the new meetinghouse were addressed during the year. We had a challenge grant to buy a new, more energy efficient refrigerator. Friends generously contributed the money within a six- or eight-week period for this addition to our new building. Barbara Boosted, a Friend who moved away nearly 25 years ago, donated a quilt that so far has raised an additional \$400 toward the new meeting-

house. Once again we participated in Downers Grove's community street festival in June, Heritage Fest. There we sold jam, sewn and knitted items, and more importantly talked with members of the community. And several Friends continued to meet weekly to quilt the third panel of the Peaceable Kingdom quilt copied from the mural in the high school room.

Many Friends have documented the changes our meetinghouse and grounds went through this year. Paul Uyttebrouck videotaped the old meetinghouse during demolition. In September, 2009, the old meetinghouse came down in order that the parking lot for the new meetinghouse could be installed and the landscaping for the new meetinghouse completed. During this period of time we will meet for worship at the home of Tom and Anne Jones in Lombard. Meeting in the former home of Tom's parents, Louis and Mary Ruth, founding members of Downers Grove Friends Meeting, as our transitional meeting place is another connection to our meeting's history.

We have forty-five adult resident members and fifty-two non-resident adult members. We have six resident junior members and three non-resident junior members. Our average attendance at meeting each week is thirty. Our spiritual life is enriched by the presence of new attenders. We are very fortunate that after many years Bobbi Sherman is renewing her ties to the meeting. Her gifts of music ministry are particularly noticed. In addition to having regular visitors to meeting, several new attenders have joined in the life of the meeting through Young Friends Religious Education, Peace and Social Concerns, small spiritual discussion groups, and a number of other committees.

Several in our meeting family faced health challenges during the year. We continue to hold Lorraine Bartnik, Norman Bourdage, James Grisson, Forrest Johnson, Holli Studhouse, and Jill Lockhart in the Light as they continue to recover from their illnesses and operations. Mike Ero visits Jan Weeks regularly in her assisted-living apartment in Evanston. Regardless of the constraints of her disability, Jan continues to bless us with her energetic spirit across the miles. A small group enjoyed visiting with Betty Winker at her nursing home several times during the year. As we sang hymns together her true Light shined.

This year saw the deaths of two former members, Bob Lillebridge, age 94, and Caroline O'Brien, age 82. With regret we received a request for membership withdrawal from Diana Malon. Her spiritual and musical gifts are missed. We had a request for a transfer of membership from Don and Barbara MacCrimmon who moved to Madison nearly nine years ago. Ladd McClurg and Brad Oglivie requested the removal of their marriage from under the care of Downers Grove Friends meeting.

Mike Ero welcomed his grandson, Thomas Percival Osagiobare Ero, born to his son, Michael, and his wife, Charlotte, who live in California. With delight we received Jan Mullen as a new member in December. Her spiritual gifts are welcome to us all. We also welcomed Josh Davison as a member in August, 2009. He is the son of Sue and Joe Davison who after many years as very active members of the meeting are moving to Pennsylvania. Josh grew up in the meeting and we welcome him very much as an adult member. In September, 2009, we welcomed Bob Spryszak as a member. As an attender for many years, Bob's contributions to the planning and completion of the new meetinghouse have been invaluable and very much appreciated.

A number of small groups continue to meet weekly and remain one of the strongest anchors Friends have to the Spirit of Jesus among us. On the first and third

First Day the adult religious education group gathers at 9 am to read aloud and discuss various selected books. On the second and fourth First Day after meeting the group gathers to read and discuss some scriptural work or passage. On the second First Day the spirituality of aging group meets. This fall, winter, and spring we had a series of spiritual-journey-sharing workshops in which Friends discussed their different spiritual paths. We had a series of potluck dinners in each other's homes—Quaker 8 dinners, where we enjoyed food, fellowship, and got to know each other a bit better. We hope to continue with these forms of spiritual growth even as we continue to labor with the demands of settling into a new meetinghouse.

In the larger Quaker community we saw many challenges within Western Yearly Meeting and for Illinois Yearly Meeting. Western Yearly Meeting continues to struggle accepting religious diversity and to labor with what we understand as Quaker Process. The purchase of the additional land and building proposal for the site of Illinois Yearly Meeting are greeted with joy for the wonderful opportunity for growth and concern as our own financial commitments are now directed toward primarily paying our own new mortgage.

Whatever the next year brings to our beloved community, we will never again experience the struggles, joys, and physical hard work that 2008 – 2009 has brought us. Often we feel we are building and strengthening our spiritual lives. But rarely have we had an opportunity to combine our spiritual growth with the physical and mental energy needed by all of us to build a new building. If some of our meetings for worship have been quieter than in past years, we are gathering in God's strength for all that we hope and try to do in our lives, in our meeting, and in the world.

DUNELAND

Though we continue to be small in number, our meeting is a fixed point in our lives, steadfast and strong. We have explored new ways to become more visible in our community and continued to support the local homeless shelter with frequent donations. We benefited from two visits by the ILYM Field Secretary who was especially encouraging and helpful with issues of outreach and growth as essential for the future of the meeting. We had several visitors in 2009 and a returning Friend has become active in the meeting. While numeric growth is still a challenge, we are aware that our collective spiritual life has grown stronger and deeper.

This past year we began a Quaker 101 study series as a way to reach out to fellow seekers as well as renew or increase our own understanding of our faith. However, Q101 quickly evolved into a well-attended monthly spiritual study group. Following worship and a light lunch that a Friend prepares for us, we enter a period of thoughtful discussion on a previously agreed theme. We are growing in spirit and deepening our understanding of a variety of subjects. Recently we ventured into 16th century Spanish mysticism and the insights of St. John of the Cross and St. Theresa of Avila by considering the meaning of “the dark night of the soul” in the context of their teachings. We are now ready to reflect on Friends' teachings about the “dark night journey” and our emergence into the Light.

In addition to the shared meal preceding our spiritual study, we continue to gather on a monthly basis at Friends' homes for potluck. We celebrated both Easter and Christmas with intergenerational worship, singing, and a special meal. Bible study, held twice monthly in a Friend's home, has been our practice for many years and continues to bring us together. It is our experience that following the Light brings

true togetherness and following the Light together brings *true* joy. Our worship is deepened by our unity and the joy we have found in one another.

Our youngest Friends enjoy First Day School once a month or on an “as needed” basis. The remainder of the time they remain in the silence participating quietly or at times with barely contained energy. Either way, we feel blessed by their presence. We have appreciated the childcare provided by our one High School Friend during our spiritual group study time.

In the spirit of truth and a recognized need for consistency, Duneland Friends continued to search for sensible ways to fulfill our obligations as a Monthly Meeting within the challenges of being a small gathering. We have committed to the following:

1. We will keep a log/minutes of all Meeting events. This log/minutes must be easily updated and transported.
2. At least once a Month when a large number of Friends gather for potluck we will pause for worship with the intention of conducting business for at least 15 minutes. We will have a regular business meeting on a quarterly basis.
3. We will make a sincere attempt to worship every First Day at our official location. On second First Day, worship will be followed by potluck at a Friend’s home.
4. During 2010 we will continue the monthly spiritual group that was formed from our Q101. The present format of gathering after worship and a light lunch to deepen on an agreed upon theme will continue.

Though a small meeting, Duneland Friends were active in the wider Quaker community. We had a large attendance at ILYM; attended other Quaker-sponsored events, including youth events; and served on, or clerked committees. One adult young Friend traveled to Costa Rica and contributed to a better understanding of the plight of Latin America. This same Friend also went to Copenhagen for the U.N. Climate Conference. Pastoral care remains a priority for us. As a community we have reached out to those facing challenges or change. Two Friends experienced unemployment while others have been burdened with serious health concerns. Our H.S. Friend is considering which college is the best fit. As we are getting older, some of us are facing life changes associated with aging. This year we grieved the death of two beloved Friends, one a longtime member of our meeting and the other a daughter/step-daughter of two of our members. She was a frequent visitor and participant. Both are deeply missed. The meeting has provided support, understanding, care, and companionship to those in need. Jesus taught that we should not put our light under a bushel, but on a candlestick so that it gives light to all. We want our light to shine.

EVANSTON

This has been a year of increasing warmth between members and attendees, and an increasing depth of worship. There has also been an increase in seeking for spiritual practices and for clarity of Quaker practices and understandings. This has helped us find our conflicts and to start working through them as they come up. We will continue this year with confidence to explore ourselves through and within the Light.

Spiritual Life: We began reading a Query or an Advice as an experiment at the beginning of Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, and have found general approval for it. The Meeting settles more quickly and some find the worship experi-

ence deepened. Ministry and Counsel has clarified the intent of the Sufferings Fund to include more than one-time needs. This clarification of the fund was prompted by the kind of requests for funds coming to Ministry and Counsel and by members interested in giving to the fund. Ministry and Counsel used the monthly newsletter to list skills or items that Friends can offer and skills or items that Friends need. There have been efforts to organize the unemployed and the underemployed, hoping to form an informal network of members who need work done and members who are skilled and seeking work. This network has been established. The newsletter also started to include direct requests for paid work to be done and for jobs wanted.

Meeting held two film and discussion sessions. One session was on racism and one session was on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

This was a year where the way the meeting was moved and shaped came directly from the membership rather than from committees.

“Each of us can be a theologian. We can enrich our spiritual lives and those of people around us by articulating our spiritual experiences. In drawing on theological writing from the past, we can find continuity and wipe out feelings of isolation. We can divine answers to our toughest concerns....We can dare to find out what God is saying to us.” - Shirley Dodson, 1980, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends: *Faith and Practice*, Writings on Belief #29 pg. 94.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

In our meeting for worship, we provide opportunities for coming into expectant and living silence and for spiritual encounters which may be shared through vocal ministry. Our worship experiences as well as programs help us to understand and to seek out how to better live our interrelated individual spiritual journeys in the context of being a religious community. This past year newly attending people have been guided in becoming more involved in the life of the meeting. Our annual Quakerism 101 program provided a nicely attended outreach program, and we have sought to more intentionally engage in outreach to university students. We also had various program venues for discussion and development of spiritual journeys and practices that have allowed for a deeper exploration of the Quaker faith and for people to grow from mutually sharing their own experiences. We have a continuing expanded growth in our First Day School program and attendance (often children make up over 1/4 of the meeting for worship attendance) and have appointed a teen Friend to serve as an “intern” on the nominating committee. Our Quaker identity to the wider world is expressed in our faith, practices and business procedures. We give witness to Friends’ testimonies through involvement in our neighboring community organizations and in wider Friends’ structures and organizations. While we are frequently blessed by the presence of new spiritual seekers, appropriate follow-up and engagement is limited due to constraints on available Friends. Likewise, efforts focused on spiritual growth of members can become sidelined due to the need to address interpersonal relationship issues. In all of this, we do see and experience the meeting seeking to address these challenges and other challenges as opportunities to seek a deeper understanding of our spiritual grounding and to live out a more intentional witness to the guiding presence of the Light in our lives.

LAKE FOREST

Lake Forest Friends Meeting is a community of strong people with good ideas who are working hard. We need to continually reaffirm the integrity of the meeting.

We need better skills in dealing with our conflicts. That is a tender area that needs maturing. New ideas are welcome.

We are adjusting to a new committee structure, and we recognize the challenge of a learning curve regarding that structure. Our committee structure, based on our values, has assisted our growth and created new challenges.

A lot of people have contributed to the success of PADS, the local homeless shelter, this year. There has been a very generous donation of members cooking and offering their time on behalf of our community. There is a vibrant committed energy around PADS.

People on the Social Justice Committee would like to see us increase our involvement in the local community. How do we use the wonderful resources and talent of our meeting members to align with our goal of bringing peace and goodwill to our community and world?

The Peace Committee would like to bring our attention to peace issues and when appropriate activate our community through demonstrations, letter writing, and vigils. This year LFFM held a Forum with Illinois Yearly Meeting Field Secretary Paul Buckley on the Historical and Spiritual origins of the Quaker Peace Testimony. The attendance was good. While wars rage in Afghanistan and the Middle East, we support the effort to reduce the military budget by 20%.

The new Environmental Committee has been fairly active. They have sponsored two forums, one on QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness) and another on Food and our Faith, and have another one coming up soon on the Great Lakes. The Meeting is getting a composter, and we will be hiring someone to remove buckthorn. We have ordered some environmental books and will be showing a video on invasive species.

The Ministry and Worship Committee is working on keeping our communication open and successful with relationships extending to the wider Quaker world community which connects us with Illinois Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. M&W engaged well-known Quaker healer John Calvi to lead a forum on QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture) and then a weekend retreat for LFFM that was well attended. The committee also oversaw a Newcomers Group, a Spiritual Formation Group, a monthly Circle of Healing, weekly premeeting Adult Education, and the Meeting's interface with the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Ministerium.

Pastoral Care contributes to the loving attention needed during the cycles of our lives. We would like to see members engaged in helping with this important offering. All are welcome to contribute their time with visitations, cards, and phone calls.

Coco Shea and Aaron Colin had a beautiful wedding celebration under the care of the meeting in the fall. The day was filled with Love and Light surrounded by family, friends and members of LFFM. It was a gift for everyone. Sadly, we also held a memorial service for Rob MacGruder, a new member who died in September.

This year's conveners of the Hospitality Committee reported a rough entry and journey as fledgling members and conveners of the Hospitality Committee. They believe that a seasoned member is needed to guide this valued part of LFFM...FOOD and all the attendant duties therein. The Nominating Committee has duly noted this needed course correction.

The Life of the Mind continues to meet at Linda Sizemore's house. This is an excellent way to experience one of the great resources of this Meeting...intelligent, thoughtful minds. Linda is also a great cook! Everyone is always welcome.

The finances of our meeting have been under the excellent guidance of our Finance Committee and outgoing Treasurer Sallyann Garner. We are very successful in making generous contributions to Illinois Yearly Meeting. Our fiscal year starts the first of October. The greatest influx of contributions is made in the fall quarter of the year. It would be good to have a greater percentage of members and attenders donating for the monetary health of the meeting. Small donations are appreciated. It is the consideration and understanding that our meeting needs to be supported on many different levels. I believe our beloved longtime member, Blanche Frey, noted that members and regular attenders had three responsibilities: 1) attending Meeting, 2) joining a committee(s), and 3) donating financially. Any amount is appreciated... on some level it is truly the thought that counts.

We had a productive First Day School program this year. There was a structured youngest group that read stories, made a project, and talked about the stories they read. It has been well attended. The middle group focused on the Peace Testimonies and different members came each week to help illuminate our Quaker values. They have been keeping a journal to remember their lessons from throughout the year. All the children helped make a meal for PADS and sent care packages to our college Quaker students. There were generous donations of time and talent from Bert Frey, Sophie de la Mar, Katherine Young, Sally Walshe and many others.

It was also a very productive year for Building and Grounds. There is a good crew and workdays were productive. The Meeting House was specially made ready for Coco's wedding. The porch needs a new roof and the siding needs replacing. We have hired someone to jack the floor of the porch.

We love our Meeting House. It is our treasured space that holds the energy field of our gathered prayers, hopes, aspirations, and tears. It is a sacred silent space that helps us week after week feel the numinous in our lives. Surrounded by our beautiful woods, it is a Heart Space filled with the Great Spirit's love. We are grateful.

- Betsey Wills

NORTHSIDE

Northside Friends Meeting has continued to grow this year, providing us with fresh energy and new challenges. We routinely set out as many as forty chairs on First Day and continue to welcome a constant stream of visitors who wish to experience Quaker Meeting. Many come back for a few weeks or a season and we are happy to have them. Some decide to make Northside their spiritual home. This year, we welcomed Ted Ehnle, Mark Robinson, Cecil Romano, and Per Stinchcombe as new members of the Religious Society of Friends. Caroline Moore became a member of Northside Friends Meeting by transferring her membership from Cannon Valley Meeting in Minnesota. Our community is a collective of many voices and varied religious backgrounds, searching for Spirit through many paths.

Our Meetings for Worship are still strong, serving as a peaceful, communal, and supportive space to worship and grow spiritually. One attender, Eva Hare, has described her experience on a particular First Day:

"I felt a solidity and sense of reverent space that I normally associate with walking into cathedrals or the Art Institute or old growth forests, a sense that the space you have entered carries its own innate spirituality or touch of godliness. This particular meeting brought me to a greater understanding/acceptance/tolerance/connection with the purpose of communal worship."

Many members feel that the faith nurtured at Meeting for Worship carries into daily moments of peace and calm outside of the meeting. Midweek Meetings for Worship are held weekly on Fourth Days, with the location rotating between the homes of several members, providing members an opportunity to connect and ground themselves in the middle of the busy work week.

The online presence of Northside, northsidefriends.org, serves as a portal through which new Friends find the Meeting and as a space for members to share resources, readings, minutes, event dates, and recipes. Peter McMahan, Beth Burbank, and Bill Esler, the members of our Website Committee, conducted a well-attended workshop for others at the request of ILYM.

Both the Second Hour program and the Book Club have become popular, building education and discussion of Quaker history and practice. In addition to many Second Hour discussions led by members, Northside has also welcomed both Paul Buckley and Stephen Walsh, who shared their knowledge and experiences.

Our Book Club has met twice a month throughout the year. Last spring, the Book Club focused readings and discussions on the text *Friends for 350 Years*. In the fall, a focus on pacifism and the peace testimony began with Yoder's *Nevertheless* and then continued with a variety of essays and articles from Quaker writers. Beginning a new cycle, members have chosen *A New Earth* by Eckhart Tolle to read and discuss through this spring.

The Meetings' members and attenders also share social time together. In addition to Scrabble nights and group participation in larger organized events such as monthly Critical Mass bike rides, Friends also frequently ask other members to celebrate birthdays, new homes, and other big dates with them. Larger planned social events this year included a picnic gathering at Montrose Harbor in early summer, a weekend retreat in Wisconsin with the theme "Godly Play", and participation in MCGM's corn roast gathering. Recently, Friends organized and hosted a simple meal benefit to support those in Haiti affected by the disastrous earthquake.

Several of our members looked to the Meeting this year for support in sickness or troubled times. Our Ministry and Counsel committee handled each individual situation with grace and compassion. As the needs of our members have gradually shifted, Meeting for Healing has been gently set down. Meetings for Healing are not currently being organized; but Northside is ready to pick up the practice again should we feel led to do so.

As we critically assess the challenges that face Northside Friends Meeting, we recognize familiar issues. A Finance Committee was established to support our Treasurer and the Meeting did make budget at the close of the fiscal year, but with little room to spare. Northside continues to provide childcare during Meetings for Worship, but has no steady First Day program. We acknowledge that nurturing the spirituality of our youngest members and providing them with a foundation of religious education is important, and we continue to seek someone who feels called to lead a First Day program in our community. Several of our members are actively involved in the creation of the Chicago Friends School, scheduled to open this coming fall.

While many members are involved in individual social concerns activities, there is a sense of eagerness in the meeting to find a corporate service project. We hold this concern in the Light and wait for a leading.

Eldership has fallen on just a few members of the Meeting, as many are relatively new to Friends and some previous elders have relocated. While currently few in number, these stalwart Friends lend a spiritual grounding and stability to Meeting for Worship, and our community is grateful for their continued presence.

As we begin the celebration of our fortieth year, Northside Friends Meeting is mindful of the need to retain and strengthen our spiritual centeredness as our numbers grow.

OAK PARK

The earth has cycled again around the sun. The great circle of life has also cycled again. We seek comfort in this reality, but don't always find it.

Some people have entered our lives; some have departed. The death of one of our beloved members (son, cousin, and friend) is a difficult reality. There have been other difficult losses among us, beloved relatives and friends. We remember the gifts they left us and we miss them. The kindnesses, love, and stories shared by others support and comfort us.

A member led a new teen program this year. With guidance from the ILYM Youth Coordinator, she helped the teens develop their own program. Adults have become more aware of the teens' social and spiritual needs, and better appreciate the gifts they bring to our community.

On a sunny day in February we hosted MCGM at the Oak Park Conservatory. We felt the warmth not only of the sun but also of our fellowship with Friends from throughout our region. We learned about some of their concerns and activities. We shared information about our commitment as a Chicago Fair Trade Congregation, and about our Trailside Museum Herbaceous Garden project (cofunded by a grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness). A member continued her leading on loving and restoring our diminished ecosystems by holding a workshop on reconciliation ecology in the Chicago area. We encourage all to consider that the earth needs its strongest creatures to be good and faithful stewards in order to keep the great circle of life alive.

We perceive a decline in attendance over the past couple of years. A smaller number of faithful members and attenders have been doing the work. As a result we have been unable to fill some key leadership positions, including that of children's religious education coordinator. Although we don't often acknowledge it, young people are a vital part of the circle of life. With the openings of Spring to inspire us, we sense the Spirit calling us to do more to open our spiritual home to families with children. Gently guided by our Clerk and Ministry & Oversight Committee, we have seasoned a plan to hire a children's educator to provide sustainable religious programming for children. We hope that this will also enable and encourage their parents to fully participate in the blessings of worship, and in the life of our Meeting community.

We bask in worship, loving the living Spirit that passes among us like a gentle breeze. The Spirit also comes to us like birdsong. Sometimes it seems very far away, its presence sweetening the cacophany. Sometimes we listen intently, and its beauty, clarity, and strength fill our hearts. We look forward to continuing to learn and love and grow together in the Holy Spirit.

OSHKOSH

Clerk's Report

“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.” - Psalm 34:18

Friends,

As we gather for Annual Meeting we are reminded of the suffering of many people throughout the world.

We have had no requests for membership this past year. We have had no one married under the care of our meeting. We've had small visitations by children. At present we have one member under 16 years of age. We have not held First Day School with children. We've had adult mid-week classes on the Bible and other Quaker literature expressing various points of view as well as non-Christian points of view. These classes have been satisfactory.

The meeting has received monthly reports on the oversight of our Community Loan Fund. We continue our prison visitation to Oshkosh Correctional Institution. We have also visited in Waupun at the John C Burke Correctional Center for women.

We have had no deaths among our membership this year. We continue to have visitation with the members of the Winnebago Worship Group. We have received no oversight this past year from Northern Yearly Meeting. We had some oversight and visitation from Illinois Yearly Meeting Friends this past May. Two of our members attended Northern Yearly Meeting. Three of our members attended Illinois Yearly Meeting. We continue to supply food as well as monetary donations to the local food pantry. We continue to support Friends organizations such as: AFSC, CCCO, Pro-Nica, Friends House Moscow, etc.

We continue to support both yearly meetings. Oshkosh Friends have monthly fellowship with the Unitarians at a peace vigil. We also hold our own peace vigil once a month in Oshkosh.

Respectfully, Thomas L. Barlow

Elder's Report

We have become busier than ever this last year. Because we are a small meeting we work very hard at staying centered and trying to stay in touch. We have all had individual family situations that have stressed us out but we have all been very careful to express our understanding of the individual situations. This is very good, since Meeting is supposed to be a source of support and ours has functioned as one this year.

We have become much more sensitive to each others' concerns and gone out of our way to make sure that everyone has input into our decisions and understands our reasons for our various stances. We have individually explored options for new outreach and spiritual growth. Because we are so small it seems senseless to form committees for this purpose. It seems to work for us. Even though it sounds good and unified, this only works because and while we all work at it. It is not easy. When one of us is too stressed or depressed we sometimes slip and then recover our equilibrium. We need to forgive ourselves for these slips and stay in the Light or return to the Light and then let go of the error. This is harder than it sounds, but necessary if we are to consolidate the spiritual gains we have made this year and continue to move forward. Sometimes we are impatient. We believe that we should progress faster, but that is the human in us talking – the part that wants its reward and wants it

now. We have to be patient and progress in God's time, not ours: we have to recognize the difference. One way brings spiritual advancement upon which we can build and one feeds only the ego and does not last. We have progressed this year and will continue to do so – hopefully in the Light.

- Nan MacDonald, Elder

ROLLA PREPARATIVE

In our report for 2008 our average attendance was about 3. Now we are reporting an average of 5! An increase of 67% in two years! (A minor statistical advantage of small groups.)

We have continued the informal format of recent years: A typical meeting consists of half an hour of unprogrammed worship, followed by half an hour of study in the form of round-robin reading of selected literature, with pauses for lively discussion of the material being read. We are considering allowing a full hour for worship, followed by an hour of First-Day school.

Clerk Chris Jocius represented us at Continuing Committee and participated in the Memorial Day work weekend at McNabb. Two new officers have been chosen. Ken Alford will serve as Recording Clerk and Dulce Alford as Treasurer.

This has been an eventful year for us. Tony Penico was released from Rolla manor and is making progress healthwise in Eva's care at home. George McPherson has by now recovered substantially from migraines that came on so suddenly last August that it was thought he had had a stroke. Chris Jocius in Rolla and Margaret Katranides and Nancy Duncan in St. Louis were crucially helpful. Beth Parkinson has felt the benefit of daily therapeutic swimming.

Julia Rigsby graduated from Rolla High with honors and scholarships and will be leaving us for college in the fall. Steven and AyJy Bhardwaj returned to Missouri by separate routes for graduations. (Chris met Steve at the St. Louis airport.) Chris and George got to meet AyJy's parents and sister and to watch Steve receive his MSc. from Missouri S&T. The group moved on to Kirksville, where AyJy received her DO degree the next day. She will be a surgeon.

Ken Alford and Dulce Grotha flew off to Hawaii to get married and are now Ken and Dulce Alford. Ken's house had burned down early in 2009 and he has drafted plans to rebuild. Currently, in addition to their usual occupations, the Alfords are managing a farm for a local businessman, and are living in a house on that farm.

Kiley Bush, a student at Missouri S&T who has been attending our Meeting for some time, expressed his desire to become a Quaker. A Clearness Committee, including Chris and George from Rolla and Margaret Katranides and Michael Ruberton, St. Louis Friends, met with him in Rolla. Kiley travelled to St. Louis to hear the report of the committee to their next Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The report was positive and Kiley Bush was joyfully accepted as a Friend.

Only a few people knew that George had willed his dwelling to Friends' Meeting of Rolla, specifying that the Meeting would have sixty days to decide whether to accept the gift. Otherwise, proceeds of the sale of the house would be directed to specific charities. If the Meeting were small at the time of his death, they might not want the responsibility of upkeep of the property, George thought. Then, in August of 2008, George's beloved sister Connie passed away, leaving him as sole owner of her home in the country outside of Rolla. With the help of friends and Friends, the house was emptied and placed on the market for sale.

Then three things happened. First, Ken and Dulce saw a small house that Dulce thought would make a nice meetinghouse for us. It even *looked* like a meetinghouse. She got us interested in having our own place. George raised the objection of affordability.

Second, George got to thinking. As a result, he told us about his will, and said “So you won’t be standing around waiting for me to die, and if we find a suitable house, and if we solve the upkeep problem, and if Connie’s house sells for its estimated worth, then I will cut Rolla Friends out of my will and instead contribute funds out of the proceeds from Connie’s house to buy a Meetinghouse about the size of my present dwelling.” As a result, we started looking at houses – about 15 so far – noting the remodeling required in each case.

Third, a plan was agreed to as to how to meet upkeep costs for the first five years of ownership. During this period, it will be necessary to increase our numbers of attenders/contributors. This may be the most important aspect of this project: The motivation to release the Light to others.

- George McPherson, Jr.

ST. LOUIS

Through the past year, St. Louis Friends experienced joys and challenges, and there has been a refreshing renewal of programs and practices that have strengthened our connectedness. The quality of worship has continued to deepen and resonate with many, with Friends giving spoken ministry that has been Spirit-led.

The Meeting reached unity about the First Day School children entering the last fifteen minutes of Meeting for Worship, which has allowed them to participate in a gathered meeting. A few Friends have voiced opposition to this, but the Meeting has found it to be meaningful.

Friends continue to gather in Friendly Dozens, and to support each other by participating in Group Spiritual Directions. New groups in each of these have formed over the year. A series of well-attended “Not Just for Clerks” gatherings have been positive efforts to find what works best for us as a Meeting.

Our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business have settled into the Quaker Etiquette, which has helped us do the Meeting’s business more effectively while still being Spirit-led. We have simplified our nomination process, and committees continue to bring the products of their work to meeting for business. A continuing concern has been how we can improve our outreach to members and attenders to encourage and strengthen participation in the life of the Meeting. We have focused on nominating members and clerks to the core committees and supported them in their work. Friends have stepped forward or accepted invitations to work with Advancement and Social Concerns.

A challenge we have found particularly perplexing is that a small group of Friends has begun to meet independently of our Meeting. We continue to seek the best way forward in our relationship with these Friends. Members who feel less at home or less appreciated in the Meeting need us to reach out to them, which has been part of our work during the year. This opens further concerns about ways of strengthening our relationships with each other and the Meeting. We must ask ourselves if we have communicated lovingly, expressed our appreciation for each other, and asked what it means to answer to that of God in the persons next to us in Meeting. We continue to pray for God’s guidance in this.

We lost some weighty Friends, one to death and others as a result of life changes, but we know they will remain with us in spirit.

Our First Day School continues to be energetic and spiritual. The teachers have presented lessons on the Testimony of Equality and on religions of the world. The children organized a food drive and collected over a hundred items for donation to our neighbors at the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Adult education has continued to be energetic also; we have had a series on Exploring Quakerism and are currently studying "Quakers in America" by Thomas Hamm. Further evidence of the Spirit is the leading of one of our members to travel to Egypt as a witness to ending the blockade on the Gaza Strip.

St. Louis Friends Meeting has been seeking to deepen our sense of the Spirit over the past year and we are working on ways to continue in this endeavor in the year ahead.

SOUTH BEND

The Meeting once again welcomed new members and attenders from various backgrounds. Andrew Peterson became a member; his membership gave the meeting a chance to appreciate the work he and others are doing with the African Great Lakes Initiative. Two babies (Hannah Laird and Sarah Hungerman) were born into families of the meeting. The number of young children at the meeting continues to be a blessing.

Longtime and beloved attenders Marie Reyburn and Scott Van Jacob passed away, the latter after a long battle with cancer that involved many of us in the meeting community. We also held a memorial meeting to celebrate Verna (Marty) Neidigh. Some members of our community, including Tom and Mateo Casteel, moved away (although we look forward to the Casteels' return). We also welcomed a number of new attenders, some new to Friends and some familiar with Friends.

This past year our meeting adopted a new practice of reading Queries at the rise of worship. This practice was instituted to highlight our Quaker heritage and facilitate consideration of the Queries in a way which would not intrude on our program-free worship. This practice has been well received. The meeting also held a retreat in September on spiritual journeys that was successful in creating both spiritual growth and greater fellowship.

Our meeting continues to worship at the Charles Martin Youth Center in downtown South Bend, but in early 2009 we relocated to a new room in this facility. Friends have expressed varied responses to our new meeting room, which provides much more direct sunlight but has more noise from the street and less room for growth. The experience has made us mindful of the fact that meaningful and holy worship can be conducted in many settings, including those far less amenable than ours. Our worship and ministry work has continued to be strong, although some Friends have expressed concerns over a slight drop in weekly attendance. As always, the continued vitality of our worship of God is and will be the enduring source for our growth and spiritual sustenance.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

This year our meeting adopted a subtle name change to become the Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting. We still meet at the Gaia House - Interfaith Center in Carbondale where, happily, we have now procured a room for our Friends Under Nine-

teen (FUN) programming, dubbed the Fox Den. In addition to the new room, we have added a FUN coordinator position in our meeting and are working together to provide more meaningful activities for our kids. Currently, we have five young Friends who attend regularly – Delia (who is in high school this year), Marlana, Elias, Corey, and Victor. We enjoy occasional visits from other youth and from our young adults: Bryce, Noah, Justin, Kevin, Nate, and Adam.

Our meeting has between 12 and 14 regular adult attenders, including 6 resident members with the recent addition of William “Doc” Stodden. In August we said goodbye to Michael Burnside, a short-time but spirited attender, who moved along in his seeking; we keep in touch with Michael Batinski and Ginny Hoffman who have for this year taken on administrative responsibilities with The Meeting School in Rindge, New Hampshire; and we will miss Gavin Betzelberger when he leaves Carbondale upon his graduation from Southern Illinois University this spring. In addition to these absences, however, we were blessed with a birth within our community: Mica Allen was born to Doc and Mallary on May 3, 2010.

This year we rotated Clerk and Treasurer roles. We continue to encourage Maurine Pyle in her traveling ministry and recently congratulated her on becoming co-directer at the Gaia House - Interfaith Center. We also continue our financial support of Good Samaritan Ministries in Carbondale and have supported other Quaker and community projects in town and afar.

Apart from our regular First Day worship and programming, several Friends meet on Thursday afternoons for a Quaker book group. Our larger meeting also holds Life of the Meeting potlucks each few months at Friends’ homes where we discuss the needs and goals of our group. Amid many changes in our meeting, we look forward to another year together and to growing as a community.

- Mallary Allen

SPRINGFIELD WORSHIP GROUP

Springfield Worship Group deepened its collective spiritual life this year through increased attention to Quaker practice.

We began gathering once a month to conduct business in a worshipful manner after choosing a clerk to guide the agenda and a recording clerk to prepare and distribute minutes. In connection with meeting for business, we now hold a monthly social potluck.

Some practical results grew out of these business and social gatherings. We created a Worship Group Fund so that individuals won’t have to bear a greater burden on any group expenses. We regularized meetings for worship in individuals’ homes. We formalized the discussion of individuals’ concerns and leadings. And we established a calendar for Queries and worship sharing.

We also feel that through this process we deepened our commitment to our spiritual community, which is under the care of Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. With their help, we began compiling the history of Springfield Friends and collecting our minutes for deposit in the Quaker history section of the University of Illinois library.

A collective project we undertook this year, again with the help of Urbana-Champaign Meeting, was to begin to consider together and to record with the Worship Group our individual wishes on memorials and burials. In that context, we began discussing “green” burial and researching our options through state statutes and local rules and regulations.

We also gathered for an open-hearted sharing of opinions on the war in Afghanistan and Greg Mortenson's book *Three Cups of Tea* about building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At the same time, we have begun to expand our presence in the wider community. We are now a member of the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association and we are represented at their monthly meetings and programs. We are exploring involvement in a new local coalition for human rights. We continue to prepare and serve monthly meals at a local homeless shelter.

We remain a small group with anywhere from six to 12 attenders on any given Sunday. However, we continue to grow. This year we welcomed two new attenders, and one of our long-time attenders has asked for clearness to join the Religious Society of Friends through the Urbana-Champaign Meeting.

For us, this year has been a season of increase in every sense.

UPPER FOX VALLEY

Our small Meeting is blessed with the spirit of love binding us together, with our local community, and with the wider Quaker community. Energy abounds within our group, and our meetings for worship manifest a deep sense of the Spirit. This energy results in a rich set of offerings on Sunday mornings.

We start with a reading/discussion group that currently is using *The Quaker Bible Reader*, edited by Paul Buckley and Stephen Angell (the first reading in which is one by Don Smith, formerly a member of our Meeting). Earlier we had used the series of booklets produced by Quaker Quest as the focus and stimulus for our sharing. After the discussion we sing songs from the *Quaker Hymnal* or *Rise Up Singing* before Meeting for Worship. After Meeting, and a sharing of joys and sorrows, we have a simple pot luck luncheon amid much conversation and laughter.

In spite of these rich First Days, our Meeting remains small, with little overall change of participation month to month. Perhaps the significant number of non-members who attend regularly suggests we do not work hard enough at encouraging them to formally join us. Or perhaps it indicates we are more concerned with the Spirit than we are with the formalities of organization.

We are conscious of the fact that small numbers also means small numbers of children. Participation of the Meeting children in our activities is infrequent, and if visiting children find no children at Meeting, they are not likely to return. We have taken some small steps to encourage involvement of children, but must admit that we have not had success. Likewise, we are aware of the reality that we have not worked sufficiently to support the small worship group started by a member family in Aurora. We know we should do more.

On the other hand, members and attenders of our Meeting have been involved notably in activities of Illinois Yearly Meeting, Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting, and Quaker Earthcare Witness, as well as many local social service, peace, and environmental, organizations. Can we find the time and resources to reach out better to potential attenders and members?

One of our major activities during the past few years has been to host an "Old Fashioned Corn Roast and Pot Luck Picnic" for Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the start of our worship group (then called McHenry County Friends), and will welcome Friends from everywhere to our old-fashioned picnic-celebration this year!

- Bill Howenstine

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The spiritual state of our Meeting is generally positive, though we do have our challenges.

Our membership turns over at a steady pace, due mostly to ours being a university town. The overall mix of ages, families and number of attenders remains relatively constant with overall attendance ranging from 25 to 35 on any given First Day.

Unfortunately donations are down and we have not been saving according to our goals. Nevertheless we continue to receive enough to cover ongoing expenditures. We are heartened to have at least this much financial fortitude in these difficult economic times.

Our meetings for worship remain blessed with much silence. We treasure the messages when they are shared. Although this is very peaceful, we wonder if the lack of Ministry leaves people wanting more. In other settings, we speak more. Our Thursday night meetings typically have lively and valuable discussions, providing wholesome fellowship and an opportunity to collectively explore our Quaker values and practices. Some recent themes have been: individuals' spiritual disciplines and John Woolman's autobiography.

The ILYM Field Secretary, Paul Buckley, gave a workshop for us entitled "Discovering our Spiritual Unity." We discussed covenant communities and reflected on other spiritual food for thought. We have also been greatly enjoying the many intergenerational gatherings outside of worship. We have had well-attended events such as a Pancake Supper, Christmas cookie baking party, holiday meals at the Meeting house, a spring campout, a Christmas Eve service, and the Right Sharing of World Resources fund-raising and game event among others. The advancement committee has sponsored or co-sponsored a community-building event approximately every 6 weeks. This is much more activity than years and decades ago.

Our religious education with children is a source of both joy and concern. We have a healthy number of younger children from several families who enjoy First Day School and other child- and family-oriented activities we have organized. These include a week-long summer day camp, a camp-out on the meetinghouse grounds, trick-or-treating for UNICEF, and family worship. Many adults make these events possible and also feel enriched by the experience. Recent RE activities have included exploring the outdoor world, learning about Quaker testimonies, and preparing and performing the Christmas story using shadow puppets.

On the concerns side: Our Religious Education convener has to work hard to recruit adults to lead First Day School classes, and we have not maintained the critical mass of young teens needed to support a teen program.

We are involved in the local community in various ways. Once a month, we make sandwiches for a local charity that feeds the homeless. We recently held a pancake supper and silent auction to raise money for our emergency fund, which is available to needy members of the community (This is becoming a tradition). We have collected clothing and books for the safe haven community. We have been collecting books for prisoners. Many of the activities mentioned above build community. In addition, we have a monthly potluck after meeting for worship, and we have revived our Quaker Eights dinner parties.

Individuals of the Meeting have had a number of personal cares, concerns or crises. The Meeting has convened several different committees for clearness, care and/or support, sharing individual burdens with the rest of us. As needed, the Meeting and individual members and families have been very forthcoming.

Minutes of the Continuing Committee of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Clear Creek Friends Meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois, Tenth Month 31, 2009
David Finke, Presiding Clerk, Tom Paxson, Asst. Clerk, Pam Kuhn, Recording Clerk

1. The meeting opened in worship at 10:00 am with 40 Friends in attendance.
2. Friends went around the room and introduced themselves.
3. The Continuing Committee reviewed the tentative agenda for today.
4. Dawn Amos, Co-Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The final financial reports for fiscal year '09 are in the minute book. These differ from what was presented at annual sessions because of financial activities that happened after sessions but during the same fiscal year including the purchase of the Mills property.
5. As of 10/29/09 our total "cash" assets are \$150,236.59 including a \$1000 loan.
6. The Treasurer reported that everything is in order. All operating and designated funds currently have a positive balance. The restricted Property Improvement Fund currently is carrying a positive balance of \$42,560.16.
7. Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee (FC). Much of the FC focus has been to oversee financial aspects of the Mills property purchase and needs. A letter went out to the monthly meetings in September announcing the purchase and the decision to ask an increase in the minimum contribution to \$240 per Adult Resident member.
8. Finance Committee appointed the following FC members to the following positions: to the Personnel Committee – Roger Laughlin; to the ad hoc committee to get to know the new property – jointly Margie Haworth and Pam Kuhn; to the Budget Review Committee – Sandy Huntley.
9. Since there seem to be certain expenses and income that unavoidably come in after the fiscal year ends, Finance Committee will recommend for action at the next annual sessions that, as a practice, the financial books be kept open for four to six weeks beyond the end of the fiscal year. FC will request that the financial reports be brought annually to the Fall Continuing Committee for final approval.
10. Finance Committee wants to express much appreciation to the committees and individual Friends for their involvement and active support of the budgeting process.
11. Finance Committee recommends the following minute. "Illinois Yearly Meeting extends our thanks to our Clear Creek Monthly Meeting Friends for their prompt actions and personal generosity in securing the Mills Farmhouse property this spring. This enabled Illinois Yearly Meeting to proceed with confidence at our business sessions and promptly purchase the property afterwards. Thank you, Friends!" Approved. This will be sent to Clear Creek Friends by David Finke, Presiding Clerk.
12. Finance Committee asks Friends to hold Nancee Miller in prayer. As her illness continues, Nancee, Ashlee, and all the Huntley and Miller family appreciate the support and love of those of us who hold her dear.
13. Beth Schobernd reported for the committee referred to in Minute 52 from annual sessions as the ad hoc committee to get to know the new property and announced a new name for the committee, the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property. Approved.

14. The committee wrote the following description of their charge. "The ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property serves as a forum among and between the Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Planning Committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, the Stewards, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, gathering and sharing information as an aid to increasing transparency as we more fully integrate the Mills property into the yearly meeting." Friends accepted this description.
15. The ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property expects that the property will not be generally available for lodging, committee meetings, retreats, or other purposes by the yearly meeting for at least a year. The committee is planning to meet again on 2/20/2010.
16. Carol Bartles and Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P) and the Stewards. M&P recommends the following mission statement. "The Committee of Maintenance and Planning assembles and works together to help sustain the spirit of our present community of Friends, those who came before us and those who come after us. Our primary role is stewardship of the historic Illinois Yearly Meeting House and campus and additional purchased property, supporting landscape through preservation, maintenance and informing the Yearly Meeting of building and maintenance options as way opens. We seek to work in a manner that embodies the Quaker conception of right building, simplicity and integrity that honors our earthly resources and promotes peace." This will be brought to annual sessions for approval.
17. The Maintenance and Planning Committee will hold a visioning workshop in First Month, 2010, concerning the use of the Mills property. Maurine Pyle will facilitate.
18. The Maintenance and Planning Committee has set priorities for work to be done on the Mills Property. The highest priority is to prepare the house for use as a place for winter worship of Clear Creek Meeting this winter. The next priority is to clean up the site in preparation for an evaluation of needs and uses by the yearly meeting.
19. The Maintenance and Planning Committee has already removed all items on the Mills property that could be useful to someone and set up a "garage sale." In addition, the Stewards hired (as temporary ILYM employees) members of the Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage Community from Missouri to clean out the chicken house, barn, and milking parlor. They have also dismantled the south lean-to off of the barn and removed seven dumpsters of debris. The Stewards along with the Environmental Concerns Committee and others have been cleaning up the landscape removing unwanted plants, brush, and unwanted trees. The house is being professionally rewired with recommended fire, safety and emergency features integrated. Clear Creek Friends have cleaned up all the rooms in the house, removed detritus left by previous owners, stripped some of the wallpaper, removed paneling, etc.
20. Tasks on the Mills property scheduled in the near future include plasterwork in the house and replacing the existing patio which is causing water damage to the house. The Maintenance and Planning Committee is also moving forward on a professional Capital Asset Management Plan for the entire property (new and old). M&P has already made a list of potential improvements which they will put on the website.

21. Other items on the Mills property that are to be addressed at some point include painting, work in the kitchen and bathrooms with an eye on accessibility, and an entrance to the building that is wheelchair accessible.
22. The Mills property is now legally titled as owned by ILYM. Putnam County has approved the conversion of the house and land as exempt from property tax because we are a religious institution. The property is currently covered by insurance. Church Mutual Insurance Company has visited the property and is working on the revised insurance premium for the future.
23. The Stewards are moving forward to complete the purchase of the ¾ acre property to the south of the meetinghouse which will square off the yearly meeting property.
24. The Co-Treasurer reported there is enough money in the Property Improvement Fund to cover the initial costs identified by the Stewards and the Maintenance and Planning Committee.
25. The Continuing Committee raised concerns about safety on the Mills property. The Stewards will respond to these.
26. The Stewards invite groups of Friends to come and work on the new property for a day or two. Specific tasks have been identified. Contact them.
27. The Continuing Committee expresses profound thanks for all the work that has been done.
28. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&D). SE&D will be working closely with the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Environmental Concerns Committee to divide work and responsibilities for the future. The visioning workshop should help SE&D develop a better understanding of how to move forward. All Friends are encouraged to attend this workshop.
29. The Site Envisioning and Development Committee's next committee meeting will focus on development and fundraising. The committee awaits the Capital Asset Management Plan created by the Maintenance and Planning Committee and other costs identified by the Environmental Concerns Committee and will fold these into their next committee meeting for consideration. Also, after the visioning workshop, SE&D will review the outcome and confer with M&P as to how to move forward with organizing our next steps.
30. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). ECC continues to work on ongoing projects on the entire property. A full report is on the ILYM webpage.
31. The Environmental Concerns Committee held its Fall retreat and spent much of that time working on enhancing the natural landscape of the Mills property and preparing guidelines for the care and development of its natural features in the future. Also the committee is identifying trees that may need to be removed for safety reasons. ECC plans a burn of the ILYM Prairie in early- to mid-November when favorable weather conditions are present.
32. The Continuing Committee asked the Environmental Concerns Committee to give to Stewards some principles and guidelines on enhancing the landscape of the property.
33. The Environmental Concerns Committee, in response to Minute 67 from annual sessions, agreed to continue their practice of having the representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness also be a member of that committee.

34. Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Twenty-one ILYM Friends attended the web workshop recently. There will be follow-up to various meetings to see what support is needed and perhaps provide a website template.
35. The Ministry and Advancement Committee created and will be distributing to monthly meetings a flyer called "Queries for Reflecting on the Health of the Meeting." The document will also be available on the ILYM website.
36. The Ministry and Advancement Committee is working on how to support meetings as they help Friends with issues of death and dying.
37. The Continuing Committee feels held in our work today by elders in the yearly meeting.
38. Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. Friends from seven different monthly meetings gathered recently with two members from FGC's Religious Education Committee, for a workshop on Godly Play/ Faith & Play. ILYM's Religious Education Committee was grateful for the participation and enthusiasm of Friends who took part in and supported this workshop. More information about the program is available at www.faithandplay.org.
39. Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has received several resignations from Friends who are no longer able to serve. The committee asks that we accept their resignations with gratitude for the service they have given the yearly meeting. The Nominating Committee appreciates receiving notice of resignations and respectfully requests that committee clerks notify a member of Nominating Committee when they become aware of resignations. Please note the following: Patricia McMillen resigning from Peace Resources Committee after March, 2010; Robin Johnson resigning from Maintenance and Planning; Julia Pantoga resigning from Friends Peace Teams representative, and from QVSTC as committee clerk, both effective December 2009; and Nora Vera-Godwin resigning as Reading Clerk. Approved.
40. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Friends for appointment effective immediately: Patricia McMillan, Clerk of the Handbook Committee (temporary appointment); Joan Pine to Handbook Committee; Tom Fairbank to Publications Committee; John Hackman as a representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness; Ted Kuhn as ILYM's representative to the corporation of the American Friends Service Committee. Approved.
41. The yearly meeting has charged the Nominating Committee to bring forward three names for the newly formed Personnel Committee (see annual sessions Minute 39). The committee names two Friends, Roxy Jacobs and Valerie Lester. Approved. The committee will search for one additional member and name one person as clerk. The Nominating Committee will work on making the terms staggered.
42. The Nominating Committee recommends the following minute on nomination of clerks of standing committees. The Continuing Committee understands that this will be used as a guideline during this year. "Clerks of ILYM standing committees should be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee has followed the practice of recommending the clerks of those committees and submitting these in writing to the body in annual session or, as needed, to Continuing Committee. When there is an urgent need to replace a committee clerk, the Nominating Committee may ask the committee to discern one from

among its members. The committee should then ask Nominating Committee to bring his/her name to the next session (Continuing Committee or annual sessions) for confirmation. Outgoing clerks or standing committee members may also make recommendations to Nominating Committee regarding a committee clerk, based on their sense of the current needs of the committee and their acquaintance with the gifts and commitment to serve of the committee's members. Nominating Committee should prayerfully consider all such recommendations from committee members and should bring forward these names only when Nominating Committee has achieved a sense of clearness." A minute on this matter may be brought to annual sessions.

43. A Friend read the report from Patricia McMillen for the Handbook Committee. The Handbook Committee recommends the following changes be made immediately to the Handbook.
44. In place of the existing description of the Finance Committee, a description approved at annual sessions and copied verbatim will be used. (See Minute 28 of 2009 annual sessions). Approved.
45. A new description of Personnel Committee will be added. (See Minute 39 of the 2009 annual sessions.) "The Personnel Committee will create consistent and legal policies for our paid staff. The Committee should refer to the ad hoc Personnel Committee Exploratory Committee report on page 35 of the 2009 Minute Book. The committee shall be composed of a representative from each of the relevant governing committees (Ministry and Advancement, Youth Oversight, and Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee), a representative from the Finance Committee, and three independent members one of whom should be named clerk of the committee. The Nominating Committee shall bring forward names of three independent members to serve staggered terms. The Finance and relevant governing committees are requested to bring forward names of representatives from those committees." Approved.
46. The Handbook Committee proposes adding the following clarification to the list of publications in Handbook section one, page 9. "Illinois Yearly Meeting Website. Several ILYM committees have posted relevant documents on the website that do not appear in the Handbook. To access these documents, go to www.ilym.org." Approved.
47. David Finke gave a concern about accessibility from the Presiding Clerk's desk. In 2007, ILYM began to explore issues of accessibility by forming first a working party under the care of Maintenance and Planning. More recently the working party has not been mentioned but it appears accessibility issues are still being addressed. The Continuing Committee doesn't want to lose information that has been gathered already. The Continuing Committee directs that the Presiding Clerk along with others whom he selects prepare a proposal for the Spring Continuing Committee to form some sort of a review committee or an ad hoc committee to keep issues of accessibility in the forefront, review past finding about concerns in accessibility, perhaps write queries to committees, and research resources for accessibility.
48. Chuck Hutchcraft reported for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC). At annual sessions the question arose about including ILYM representatives to AFSC and FCNL to serve on Peace Resources Committee (Minute 67). Using the yearly meeting Presiding Clerk as an example, PRC sees ex officio membership

as a role that may speak to the issues being discussed while not being required to undertake full participation in all of the meetings, retreats, and projects of the committee. In this sense PRC recommends that not more than one person from the ILYM's AFSC representation and not more than one person from the FCNL representation be asked to serve on PRC ex officio. The Continuing Committee felt that Minute 67 was a suggestion rather than a mandate. PRC will continue to work on enhancing communication between the different bodies and bring suggestions to annual sessions.

49. The Peace Resources Committee recently had a retreat at the Evanston meeting-house. The theme was Spirituality and Peacemaking. PRC continues to explore and develop tools for peacemaking as well as a continued dedication to developing a sense of what the Peace House on the Prairie may look like. The committee is reconfiguring the Peace Testimony workshop to be a stand-alone workshop that could be used by meetings without a member of PRC present. The committee is working to restart a blog on peace topics.
50. Chris Goode reported for Chicago South which will be organizing FUN (children's program) at annual sessions in 2010. The afternoon and evening activities have volunteers, but they are still looking for someone to deliver the snack each morning and teachers for the three age groups in the mornings. Friends should contact Sue Styer. Friends who volunteer do not need to be from Chicago South. Chicago South has the least number of Friends to draw on.
51. Chicago North is doing Site Prep. There was no report at this time.
52. Nancy Duncan reported for Blue River Quarterly on food and program for annual sessions 2010. Zach Schobernd will be our chef again. The program theme will be *Seeking and Sharing our Spiritual Home*. Wednesday night Friends will be sharing on our spiritual journeys about finding a spiritual home. On Thursday night there will be a presentation of different Quaker organizations. On Friday night we will have our traditional square dancing. On Saturday night, Phil Gulley will give a talk. Tom Paxson will be doing the Plummer Lecture. There are still a few volunteers needed for serving food.
53. Paul Buckley reported as Field Secretary on continuing visits to meetings and other activities. He sees a need for outreach and has available pamphlets and books on outreach for meetings to use. He recommends meetings look at how visitors can find us and how we can meet their needs before they come through our door. Meetings should consider having materials in Spanish and try to remove Quaker jargon when we speak to visitors.
54. A Friend read the report from John Knox concerning the Peace Tax Fund. With the documents signed by ILYM officials in late June, all of the funds of the Illinois Yearly Meeting Peace Tax Fund have been successfully transferred from the two old ShoreBank accounts to one new interest-bearing account. Its current balance is \$7,318.60. The next steps are to put most of the money into CDs to earn more interest and coordinate online access with the ILYM Treasurers.
55. Future plans of the Peace Tax Fund Committee are to reconstruct the makeup of the \$7,318.60 and to discern how much of the principle and accumulated interest can be dispersed to worthy causes. Before annual sessions the committee plans to be fully caught up in all record-keeping; have a system set up to do all the annual paperwork and reporting that is called for in the 1989 Guidelines of the Fund; to resume the Fund's annual practice of donating the interest to one or

more not-for-profit organizations whose missions help promote peace in the world and perhaps to promote actively the fund to Friends who might feel led to protest war using the Fund.

56. Sarah Pavlovic read a report from Peter Albright for the Youth Oversight Committee. High school teens donated \$2,400.00 to Project Lakota this summer. The committee thanks yearly meeting Friends for helping Teens by purchasing T-shirts or bags and/ or making their own donation to Project Lakota. This year there will be quakes on Veterans Day weekend at Downers Grove meetinghouse, the Martin Luther King weekend at Evanston meetinghouse, Memorial Day work weekend at McNabb and annual sessions also at McNabb. There have been difficulties taking down the teepee this year because of the weather. The committee and Stewards are working on this.
57. Tom Paxson reported on our concern with the Tamms Correctional Facility as outlined in Minute 38 at annual sessions. As Presiding Clerk, Tom wrote to Illinois Governor Quinn on the issue and received a response from the executive assistant to the director of Illinois Department of Corrections. Tom reported on some reforms that are being made at the facilities. Meetings that may like to get involved with this should go to the Tamms Year Ten web site, www.yearten.org.
58. Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. Our longest minute book ever is now published with a bright blue cover. The committee urges its active use, and full distribution within meetings.
59. The next Continuing Committee will be at Columbia Monthly Meeting on third month 6, 2010.
60. The Continuing Committee is deeply grateful for being hosted by our oldest monthly meeting, Clear Creek Friends, including a wonderful lunch. You are really awesome.
61. The meeting closed at 4:30 pm with worship and 33 Friends present.

Present at the meeting: (Note this list doesn't include children whose joy was present around us though not at the meeting. Some Friends may not have signed the sign-in sheet and may have been inadvertently left off of this list.)

Dawn Amos (Southern Illinois), Carol Bartles (Clear Creek), Paul Buckley (Field Secretary), Helen Dickinson (Oak Park), Janice Domanik (Lake Forest), Kay Drake (Clear Creek), Nancy Duncan (St Louis), Charley Earp (Northside), Ted Ehnle (Northside), David Finke (Columbia), Nancy Finke (Columbia), Cathy Garra (Lake Forest), Mariellen Gilpin (Urbana-Champaign), Chris Goode (Downers Grove), Sharon Haworth (Urbana-Champaign), Sandy Huntley (Duneland), Chuck Hutchcraft (Lake Forest), Judy Jager (Evanston), Margaret Katranides (St Louis), Pam Kuhn (Lake Forest), Brad Laird (South Bend), Hannah Laird (South Bend), Peter Laser-son (Urbana-Champaign), Roger Laughlin (Evanston), Virginia "Jinny" Laughlin (Evanston), Pat Lucas (Duneland), Janet Means Underhill (Lake Forest), Grayce Mesner (Clear Creek), Neil Mesner (Clear Creek), Elke Narkiewicz (Spoon River), Tim Narkiewicz (Spoon River), Tom Paxson (St Louis), Chip Rorem (57th St), Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek), Monica Tetzlaff (South Bend), Roy Treadway (Bloomington-Normal), Sue Tursman (Evanston), Betty Wolf (Clear Creek), Carol Zimmerman (57th Street), and Guest: Bronwyn Griffith Mills, (Marquette, MI).

Minutes of the Continuing Committee

of Illinois Yearly Meeting

Columbia Monthly Meetinghouse, Columbia, Missouri, Third Month 6, 2010

David Finke, Presiding Clerk, Tom Paxson, Asst. Clerk, Pam Kuhn, Recording Clerk

Recording Clerk note: These minutes are not in strict chronological order, but rather in order by subject matter.

1. The meeting opened in worship at 10:00 am with 24 Friends in attendance (with one more coming later). David Finke, Presiding Clerk, read a quotation from George Fox as quoted in our ILYM *Faith and Practice* at the beginning of our new section on "Friends Manner of Decision-Making".
2. Friends went around the room and introduced themselves.
3. The Continuing Committee reviewed a devotional writing from Isaac Penington and accepted the tentative agenda for today.
4. Treasurer's Report. Co-Treasurer Dawn Amos gave the Treasurer's report. The yearly meeting currently has \$149,983.49 Net (cash) Assets. Of this, \$24,053.15 is unrestricted undesignated (operating); \$95,149.01 is unrestricted designated (special gifts, payroll reserves, FWCC World Meetings, deferred maintenance); and \$29,781.33 is restricted (property improvement). We have one loan of \$1000 from an individual.
5. Income and expenses in the operating fund are for the most part what was expected. The yearly meeting received an unrestricted donation of \$5,000 which has been added to the special gifts (an unrestricted reserve fund.) We have paid \$855 towards the Capital Assessment Management Plan from this fund.
6. The Property Improvement Fund has received donations and other income of \$42,694.98 since 2009 sessions. The meeting has spent \$42,452.27 for renovations of the Mills house and other maintenance expenses.
7. The Continuing Committee accepted the Treasurer's report.
8. Finance Committee. Dawn Amos additionally reported that the Finance Committee is asking committees and individuals with specific responsibilities to submit requests for their next year's budgets. There are helpful documents on the website for doing this work. Please submit the requests to Dawn Amos in April.
9. Finance Committee has gathered information on the history of costs from annual sessions. Planning groups may find this helpful for guidance. It is currently on the website and will be added to the log books.
10. Visioning Workshop. Maurine Pyle facilitated a visioning workshop on January 9, 2010, in Bloomington, IL. At least 46 Friends attended and wrote cards to put on the wall with ideas of a vision for the yearly meeting. These have been copied and posted as an on-line forum on our website where Friends can read and post comments on them.
11. Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property. Beth Schobernd reported for the Ad Hoc Committee for the Mills Property (ad hoc CMP). The ad hoc CMP considered the fruits of the 2010 visioning workshop as well as work done by various committees since the new property was purchased. They considered these queries: What is best for the yearly meeting spiritually? What are we led to do with this gift of property?
12. The ad hoc CMP presented the following statement: "*We asked ourselves, 'What are we being led to do with the Mills Property?'*" *We challenged one*

another to hear deeply the hunger, the desire, throughout the yearly meeting, expressed at the Visioning Workshop on January 9th for programming to help us grow spiritually, and to help us grow a greater sense of ourselves as a vital spiritual community. We yearned to be spiritually nurtured ourselves, and to help nurture newcomers; we wanted to let our light shine and welcome new faces, new ideas, new energies, attracted to the Light among us. We reminded ourselves that many churches first create a need—a program—then make opportunities for giving toward construction of the buildings necessary for an already-in-place program. We support the creation of a “working group on Advancement” to plan, coordinate, promote, and carry out a year-round program of in-reach and outreach—retreats, workshops, and study groups. Creation of an Advancement working group is a near-term goal, begun now, and it could provide a framework of living and teaching Friends’ testimonies that will make full use of the ILYM campus. Creating a spiritual framework has a very low financial investment with a very high spiritual payoff over the long haul for the yearly meeting. We were reminded by one of our number that anything worth working on takes more than a lifetime; we see a program for our spiritual nourishment as something of worth to which we could devote many lifetimes. We honor the existing good works and retreats of Standing Committees, and see the role of a Working Group on Advancement as one of expanding, enhancing, and supporting the good work already being done.

13. Continuing Committee supports the creation of a Working Group as introduced in the Minute above. Continuing Committee asks Ministry and Advancement Committee to season the idea further.
14. The standing committees represented on the ad hoc CMP are working with all deliberate speed to bring the Mills House to full function in support of the needs of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting and of the desired in-reach and outreach programs. All committees and groups reported on their progress to date at the ad hoc CMP meeting.
15. The ad hoc CMP developed a priority list of projects to be done as soon as possible. 1. Septic system cleanout/repairs; 2. Upstairs bath; 3. Downstairs bath; 4. Drainage around the house; 5. Patio replacement (to help keep water out of the basement). Additional items that may first be considered by the yearly meeting include 6. Kitchen update; 7. Permanent accessibility into the house; and 8. Possible Garage renovation to create accessible sleeping rooms and bathrooms. Funding for items 1-5 will come from the PIF this fiscal year if funds allow. Further unnumbered work discussed included plastering and painting the remaining upstairs rooms, new siding, replacement of fixed windows on the first floor with operating windows, and attic renovation (with second means of egress).
16. Clear Creek Monthly Meeting is looking for a new name for the Mills House. Friends gave suggestions. These ideas will be brought to the next meeting of the ad hoc CMP.
17. Maintenance and Planning Committee. Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P). The committee has made great progress on renovating the Mills house and cleaning out the outbuildings.
18. M&P is working on finishing the Mills House restoration and on doing something about the stumps on the grounds. M&P has some estimates for further work on the house. Continuing Committee asked that a list with all the details of

the projects and payments to date be made available on the website and from the Treasurer.

19. Clear Creek Meeting would like to apply for an energy audit for the Mills house. The FGC Friends Meeting House Fund has a grant that pays up to \$500, half of the cost. The Continuing Committee approved the M&P recommendation that the yearly meeting provide a matching grant of up to \$500 to be taken from the Special Gifts fund.
20. M&P recommends that Clear Creek will have one or two rooms at the Mills House to keep their supplies during annual sessions. ILYM and Clear Creek will keep looking into how they will share the property.
21. M&P is writing a description - especially concerning safety issues - on how to use the new property to be included with the annual sessions' announcement.
22. M&P is preparing for work weekend on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 29 – Monday, May 31.
23. Tim Narkiewicz is working on the Capital Assets Management Plan for M&P. The first draft of the report is expected to be forthcoming next week.
24. Site Envisioning and Development Committee. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&D). The role of the committee is currently two-fold. SE&D, taking the work from the visioning workshop along with the work of the Maintenance and Planning, Finance, and Environmental Concern Committees, will fold it all together into a site plan to be presented for discernment and approval at the 2011 annual sessions. The second role of the committee is to fill any immediate needs to raise funds to help renovate and upgrade the Mills house to make it more fully serve ILYM.
25. SE&D recommends ILYM consider returning the joint committee to two committees: a Site Envisioning Committee and a Development Committee because of the different talents needed for these two functions. Continuing Committee supports the idea of creating two committees and asks SE&D to propose charges for these two committees to annual sessions. Continuing Committee understands that the Nominating Committee may need extra time in filling these two committees if they aren't approved until annual sessions.
26. SE&D asks Nominating Committee to help stagger terms on the committee or on the committees for the future.
27. SE&D has the following items to consider between now and the annual sessions. The committee needs to consider further its charge especially if the committee is split into two committees. The Capital Asset Management Plan needs to be reviewed when it is complete. The workload of the SE&D committee needs to be restructured and better formulated. Finally, the committee needs to affirm a clerk for next year.
28. SE&D would like the yearly meeting to be aware that there is an interest in turning the existing garage into 3 bathrooms and 2 accessible bedrooms. In addition SE&D will be working with M&P to envision accessibility issues, a new kitchen, a patio, and working with the Environmental Concerns Committee on ways to reduce the amount of mowing we are doing.
29. Environmental Concerns Committee. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). At the request of the Stewards, the Environmental Concerns Committee has completed a detailed short-term guideline in the document, "Landscaping Guidelines for the Mills Property". It is on the

website and available from ECC. The guideline could be used for planning by various committees. ECC hopes to have feedback from committees or individuals and will update the guideline in the future as way opens on the use by the yearly meeting.

30. The amount of mowing of the grass that is currently being done is one of the major issues the committee will be addressing. ECC is gathering other long-range ideas concerning the entire yearly meeting property.

(Recording Clerk's note: additional reports from the Environmental Concerns Committee appear elsewhere in the minutes.)

31. Directions for the Mills Property. The Co-Treasurer, Dawn Amos, clarified the use of the three different funds associated with property maintenance and improvement as identified on the Net Assets by Fund page of the Treasurer Report. At 2009 annual sessions, the Finance Committee decided the Property Improvement Fund would be used for improvements and maintenance for the Mills property and buildings during this fiscal year. When the stabilizing work is complete, the maintenance repairs for the entire yearly meeting property will be paid from the Deferred Maintenance Fund. Budgeting for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance (listed as "Facilities") will change now that we have a bigger campus.
32. Continuing Committee reviewed those projects which are still needed to stabilize the Mills building. It is planned that these be completed by the annual sessions: Septic system cleanout/repairs; Upstairs bath; Downstairs bath; Drainage around the house; Finish plastering, painting, and floor refinishing in the remaining upstairs rooms.
33. Continuing Committee asks the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property to bring to the yearly meeting recommendations for a policy for the use of the Mills house by yearly meeting committees and groups during the year from the 2010 annual sessions to the 2011 annual sessions.
34. Continuing Committee understands that the Site Envisioning Committee, starting after annual sessions at 2010, will spend a planning year studying additional projects for the entire yearly meeting property.
35. Ministry and Advancement. Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee (M&A). M&A has its Spring Retreat March 26-27. At that time, they will discern together what response we might make to the many calls for a year-round program of retreats and workshops, which we heard at the Visioning Workshop on January 9. In the meantime, much prayerful consideration is going into this appeal from Friends for more education and outreach. Some committee members are visiting meetings and trying to keep a finger on the spiritual pulse of the meetings they visit.
36. A working group under the care of M&A is seasoning issues on life, death, grieving and transition. The group consists of some members of M&A and other Friends. They hope to have a document ready for the M&A retreat in March. M&A is collecting stories about being present at the death of a loved one to put on the website. (Please send these to Mariellen.) Mariellen has copies of a set of booklets on death and dying available for sale to monthly meetings or individuals.
37. In late October, M&A had a workshop to help Friends learn about the formation of webpages. Rick Robey and Sean West have volunteered to lead a second

Web Workshop on April 17 in Normal, IL, with lots of personal assistance so as to help non-techie Friends from meetings get websites up and running. M&A hopes to support all meetings enabling them have a web presence by the time of annual sessions.

38. *Faith and Practice* Committee. Peter Lasersohn reported for the *Faith and Practice* Committee (F&P). F&P is working on the section concerning monthly meeting structure and has a new version on the website or from F&P members. F&P is willing to hold workshops to discuss this section at any monthly meetings or worship groups; please contact a member of the committee to set this up. F&P hopes to bring this section to annual sessions for a five-year provisional period.
39. F&P has a first draft of a section on worship groups, recognized meetings and preparative meetings that has been put on the website. The plan is to bring this to annual sessions in 2011. (See pp 70-76 of this book.)
40. F&P is open to any feedback and advice on other sections to include. They are also collecting queries.
41. Environmental Concerns Committee Additional Reporting. ECC is planning to do a burn of the prairie in March. Friends are welcome to join in.
42. ECC is planning a spring retreat-workday on Friday and Saturday, April 16 – 17 with the main focus of working on the grounds of the Mills property addition. ECC welcomes suggestions for projects.
43. Other ECC projects include construction of a vegetative growth roof over the kitchen; mapping trees on the campground and memorial trees; outlining the responsibilities of the Recycling Coordinator at ILYM.
44. Peace Resources Committee. Dawn Rubbert reported for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC). PRC brings to the attention of the Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, Peace and Social Concerns Committees, and individuals the study of the information available about torture, promoting understanding that helps to remove the causes of torture, participating in efforts to aid victims of torture and, if you haven't already, considering writing a minute of endorsement of the Call for a Commission of Inquiry. PRC recommends that monthly meetings study the Call for a Commission of Inquiry in preparation for possible action by the yearly meeting at annual sessions. PRC will send information to the monthly meetings. PRC also will distribute information about other organizations working to end torture including Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT).
45. Field Secretary. Paul Buckley gave a report as Field Secretary outlining his visits to monthly meetings and presentations he has made. Paul also gave a silent retreat for yearly meeting Friends. Paul travels with a bookstore with books on a variety of Quaker topics and finds that many meetings are taking advantage of perusing and purchasing.
46. Annual Session Planning Committees. Chicago South reports they have no teachers signed up for morning children's program during the annual session. They ask the ILYM representatives, especially from Chicago South meetings, to ask within your meetings to see if there are volunteers for these important jobs. The activities don't need to be elaborate. Having the children together to interact with each others and with caring adults is most important. If any Friends have any questions about teaching or how Friends can help, please contact Sue Styer. Other areas of FUN have been covered.

47. Chicago North reports that Sophie de la Mar and Brayton Gray will be the overall coordinators for Site Prep.
48. Blue River Quarterly is looking for coordinators for dinner, evening snacks, and final clean up of the kitchen. The program committee is looking for Friends in ILYM to speak briefly about their spiritual journeys on Wednesday nights (see Maurine Pyle or Peter Lasersohn).
49. Dawn Amos is looking into renting a large 20' x 30' tent to be used as a dining facility and also renting tables and chairs. The cost would be about \$1000. The yearly meeting will increase the daily fee for annual sessions by two dollars to cover this.
50. Nominating Committee. Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee asks the help of monthly meeting representatives in identifying Friends whose gifts can serve the Yearly Meeting. Anyone can submit names and contact information to any member of Nominating Committee: Mike Dennis, Judy Erickson, Brad Ogilve, Sarah Pavlovic, Sue Styer, or Mira Tanna.
51. The committee recommends the following appointments effective immediately: Beth Schobernd, Personnel Committee; Mike Dennis, Clerk of Personnel Committee; Steve Tamari, ILYM representative to Scattergood School for a three-year term ending 2012; Debra Penna-Fredericks, ILYM representative to Friends Peace Teams Council for a three-year term ending 2012; Monica Tetzlaff, Reading Clerk for a three-year term ending 2012. Approved.
52. In order to stagger the three-year terms of the newly formed Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee recommends the following years that indicate the annual sessions for the completion of service. The committee also identifies if the member is a representative from another committee. Beth Schobernd (independent) 2011; Angie Reeks (M&A) 2011; Roxy Jacobs (independent) 2012; Roger Laughlin (Finance) 2012; Dawn Rubbert (Administrative Coordinator's Oversight Committee) 2012; Valerie Lester (independent) 2013; Mike Dennis (Youth Oversight) 2013. Approved.
53. Nominating Committee recommends that terms of service be added to Friends serving on the Administrative Coordinator's Oversight Committee. The Nominating Committee will set up these terms in consultation with the current committee members. Approved.
54. Nominating Committee has looked into the practices of Friends Association for Higher Education, and found that they do not seek representatives from yearly meetings. Continuing Committee approved that the yearly meeting will not appoint a representative.
55. Naming Committee. David Finke identified potential Friends for the Naming Committee. Continuing Committee approved the potential list and asked David to finalize the committee.
56. Personnel Committee. Dawn Rubbert reported for the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee is considering the idea of having annual performance reviews of all staff around the time of the Spring Continuing Committee. Continuing Committee supports having the Personnel Committee bring this recommendation to annual sessions.
57. Continuing Committee thanks Columbia meeting for their gracious hospitality, "souper" lunch and for opening their homes as places for us to stay. We were

glad for the opportunity to have Friends from this area attend Continuing Committee for the first time and to give those Friends who are always traveling long distances a shorter commute for once.

58. The meeting ended at 5 pm with grateful worship for a sustaining energy through all the work done as especially witnessed in our energetic Presiding Clerk. Many Friends felt a sense of openness to Divine guidance as we worked together strengthening our spiritual bonds in love.

Friends in attendance included: Dawn Amos, Southern Illinois; Paul Buckley, Field Secretary; Cherie Dupuis, Columbia; David Finke, Columbia; Nancy Finke, Columbia; Nan George, Columbia; Marielle Gilpin, Urbana-Champaign; Christopher Goode, Downers Grove; Sharon Haworth, Urbana-Champaign; Chris Jocius, Rolla; Margaret Katranides, St. Louis; Pam Kuhn, Lake Forest; Peter Lasersohn, Urbana-Champaign; Grayce Haworth Mesner, Clear Creek; Neil Mesner, Clear Creek; Sherry Monroe, Columbia; Sarah Pavlovic, Duneland; Tom Paxson, St. Louis; Maurine Pyle, Southern Illinois; Rick Robey, St. Louis; Chip Rorem, 57th Street; Dawn Rubbert, St. Louis; Beth Schobernd, Clear Creek; Roy Treadway, Bloomington-Normal; and Sue Tursman, Evanston.

ILYM COMMITTEES

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE MILLS PROPERTY Clerk: Beth Schobernd

Dick Ashdown (Stewards)
Carol Bartles (Stewards)
Chris Goode (Env. Concerns)
Margie Haworth Davis (Finance)
Pam Kuhn (Finance)
Neil Mesner (Maintenance and Planning)
Tim Narkiewicz (Stewards)
Chip Rorem (Site Envisioning)
Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek)
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY VOLUNTEER CONCERNS (Initial members)

Mark Mattaini
Chuck Hutchcraft
Elizabeth Mertic

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clerk: Dawn Rubbert
2011 Margaret Katranides
2012 Dawn Rubbert
2013 Mark Amos
Ex-Officio: Presiding & Assistant Clerks

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (No nominations yet)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: Clerk: Noel Pavlovic

2011 Adrian Fisher
2011 Nancy Halliday
2012 Peggy Boyer Long
2012 Chris Goode
2012 John Hackman
2012 Margaret Nelson
2012 Noel Pavlovic
2012 Sarah Pavlovic
2013 Alice Howenstine
2013 Bill Howenstine
2013 Roy Treadway
2013 Mark McGinnis

FAITH & PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Peter Lasersohn

Janice Domanik
Peter Lasersohn
Colleen Reardon
Larry Stout
Jackie Urban

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Clerk: Judy Jager

2012 Margie Haworth Davis
2012 Judy Jager
2012 Ashlee Miller-Berry
2013 Cathy Garra
2013 Sandy Huntley
2013 Bruce Kanarek
2013 Pam Kuhn
2013 Ted Kuhn

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dawn Amos
David Finke
Sandy Huntley

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Patricia McMillen

2011 Pam Kuhn
2012 Joan Pine
2013 Patricia McMillen

MAINTENANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE: Clerks: Neil Mesner & Maurine Pyle

2011 John Hackman
2011 Chuck Howenstine
2012 Diane Clark Dennis
2012 Bill Howenstine
2012 Maurine Pyle
2013 Neil Mesner
2013 Jason Dennis
Ex-Officio: Stewards

MINISTRY AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Clerk: Mariellen Gilpin

2011 Mariellen Gilpin
2011 Mark Mattaini
2011 Angie Reeks
2012 Beth Burbank
2012 Beth Schobernd
2013 Joan Pine
2013 Jeannie Marvin

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Clerk: Sarah Pavlovic

2011 Brad Ogilve
2011 Sarah Pavlovic
2012 Michael Dennis
2012 Mira Tanna
2013 (2 additional members to be named)
Ex-Officio: Presiding Clerk

PEACE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Clerk: Chuck Hutchcraft

2011 Madelyn George
2011 Bridget Rorem
2011 Dawn Rubbert
2012 Michael Batinski
2012 Kent Busse
2012 Chuck Hutchcraft
2012 Mark McGinnis
2013 Phyllis Reynolds
2013 Breeze Richardson

PEACE TAX FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clerk: John Knox

2011 Elizabeth Mertic
2012 John Knox
2013 Chris Jocius

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Clerk: Mike Dennis

2011 Angie Reeks
2011 Beth Schobernd
2012 Roxy Jacobs
2012 Roger Laughlin
2012 Dawn Rubbert
2013 Mike Dennis
2013 Valerie Lester

PUBLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: Clerk: Judy Erickson

2011 Marcia Nelson
2013 Dawn Amos
2013 Judy Erickson
2013 Rick Robey

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Clerk: _____

2011 Sophie de la Mar
2011 Michelle Stacy
2011 Katherine Young
2013 Elke Narkiewicz
2013 Marie White
2013 Jeannie Marvin
2013 Christina Schultz

SITE ENVISIONING COMMITTEE (terms to be set at Fall Continuing Committee)

Clerk: Chip Rorem
Richard Ashdown
Chris Goode
Bill Howenstine
Maurine Pyle
Chip Rorem

YOUTH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Clerks: Mike Dennis & David Wixom

2011 Michael Dennis
2011 Diane Clark Dennis
2011 Margaret Nelson
2012 David Wixom
2013 Peter Albright
2013 Mark Amos
2013 Kate Gunnell
2013 Chris Morrissey
2013 Fay Anderson

Ex-Officio: Teen clerks, Youth Coordinator

APPOINTMENTS TO WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION

2011 Robert Godsey,
2012 Ted Kuhn
2013 Carol Bartles
2013 Todd Kuzma

ASSOCIATED COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

2013 Grayce Mesner

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2011 Wil Rutt
2012 Kevin Brubaker
2013 Brad Ogilvie
2013 Tom Simpson

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

2013 Charley Earp
2013 Gaelan McQueen

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

2013 Colleen Reardon

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

2012 Debra Penna-Fredericks

FRIENDS SECONDARY SCHOOL LIAISONS

2013 Olney: Grayce Mesner
2012 Scattergood: Steve Tamari

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

2011 Mark Amos
2011 Jeanette Baker
2011 David Shiner

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

2012 John Hackman
2013 Roy Treadway

YEARLY MEETING SESSION COMMITTEES

2010 CLERK'S COMMITTEE:

Dawn Amos, Margaret Katranides, Pam Kuhn, Elizabeth Mertic, and
Tom Paxson

2010 EPISTLE COMMITTEE:

Monica Tetzlaff, Wil Brant, Steve Tamari, and Zoe Rei

2010 EXERCISES COMMITTEE:

Barbara Stanford and Jinny Laughlin

2011 YEARLY MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

QUARTERLY/GENERAL CLERKS:

Blue River Quarterly: David Wixom
Metropolitan Chicago General: Martha Turner

OTHER YEARLY MEETING OFFICERS

AMONG FRIENDS EDITOR:

Wil Brant

RECORDS LIBRARIAN:

Brent Eckert

WEBSERVANT:

Dawn Amos