

Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Second Month 1, 2020
Called meeting via Zoom

1. Opening worship. Friends entered into waiting worship as they gathered via Zoom.
2. Roll call. The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff:

Yearly Meeting officers and administrators

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk: Rex Sprouse
Assistant Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes
Statistician: not present
Web Administrator: not present

Committee Clerks

Auditing: not present
Braddock Fund: not present
Budget & Finance: Dales Hayes
Children's: Susan Hyde
Earthcare: David Duvall
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: not present
Records: Susan Hyde
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Young Adult Friends: not present
Youth Services: Jason Swank

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Terre Holada

Monthly Meeting representatives

Bloomington: Marcia Ankrom sends regrets
Campus: not present
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff, Deborah Jordan
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer

Fall Creek: not present
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada, Fred Feitler
Lafayette: not present
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: not present
Miami: not present
North Meadow: not present
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: not present
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting staff
Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson

3. Announcements. The Presiding Clerk reminded Friends that monthly meeting statistical reports had been due on First Month 15 and asked that Friends check with their meetings to ensure that they had been submitted. The Clerk also announced that she would not be able to attend the Fourth Month Executive Committee meeting and that Assistant Clerk Betsy Neale planned to preside at that meeting. Friends were reminded that budget requests should have been submitted by First Month 15. It was announced that Elizabeth House was now coordinating the Quaker archives at the Watson Library at Wilmington College.

4. Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes. Friends accepted the written report.

5. Update on discussion regarding collection of statistics. The Clerk announced that at this point she had received reports of discussions from the following meetings: Bloomington, Clear Creek, Community, Eastern Hills, Fort Wayne, and Oxford. It was noted that some other meetings had been holding discussions, but had not yet submitted reports of these discussions.

6. Service on Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Friends approved the following names for service on Nominating Committee: Jane Stowe (Clear Creek) and Richard Mitchell (Lexington). Service begins immediately upon approval and ends at the end of annual sessions 2022.

7. Minute of Concern regarding appointment to Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. A concern was expressed regarding the current requirement stated in the *Yearly Meeting Handbook* that Executive Committee approve names of Friends that monthly meetings bring forward for service on Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Friends agreed to return to this concern in the near future.

8. Religious Nurture and Education Committee. Nikki Coffey Tousley presented the report, highlighting several upcoming events and programs that the Committee would be offering and/or supporting. A full written report is appended to these minutes. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

9. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Carol Simmons presented the report. Our 200th annual sessions will be held Sixth Month 17-21, 2020. The theme for the 2020 annual sessions will be “Embracing our Call to Faith, Imagining Our Shared Future.” Plans for plenary speakers were nearing finalization. Initial talks with the Events Manager at Earlham College suggest that costs for use of meeting rooms might significantly add to the cost of yearly meeting sessions. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

10. Youth Secretary report. Kaia Jackson presented the report. Kaia reported that three youth from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting had attended the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, and that this had been a successful event. Plans for a summer 2020 teen service trip were underway. Kaia announced that her service as Youth Secretary was likely to end at some point during the summer after the end of annual sessions. Friends accepted the report.

11. A conflict within the Yearly Meeting. Martha Viehmann presented the report and Betsy Neale presided as Acting Clerk during this item. For several months there has been an as yet unsolved conflict within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting involving the interacting work of several committees. Friends acknowledge that this conflict has deeper roots. At this time, mediation attempts will continue. Friends recognize the faithful work of Nominating Committee, the current work of Youth Services Committee clerked by Jason Swank, and the work of Youth Secretary Kaia Jackson.

12. Noticing. The Clerk drew Friends’ attention to the practice of “Noticing,” outlined by Melissa Foster at the following URL:
https://neym.org/sessions/news/noticing?mc_cid=d7f6ee6aef&mc_eid=fb386127fe.
Friends may wish to discuss this practice at the Fourth Month Executive Committee meeting.

13. Announcement of Joint Quarterly Meeting. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Clerk Terre Holada announced that the next Joint Quarterly Meeting session would be held Tenth Month 17-18, 2020 at Happy Hollow Camp near Nashville, IN.

14. Closing worship. Friends closed with a brief period of worship.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will begin at 12:00noon on Fourth Month 4, 2020 at North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis, IN.

APPENDED REPORT

Religious Nurture and Education (submitted by Nikki Coffey Tousley)

The RNE committee met by Zoom on January 25th. We continue to try to stay in touch with meetings and arrange visits. We are happy to hear that Eastern Hills Meeting is considering creating an inter-visitation committee.

Given that we had a full day retreat in the fall, we decided not to plan one this spring, but do hope to organize two shorter gatherings of parents, people First Day School teachers and others

with a heart for Quaker youth. Our hope is that together we can think more broadly about the needs of children and youth, and that those involved with children at small meetings feel less isolated. We are offering this as a program for the spring meeting of Whitewater Quarter and would like to find a good date for a similar gathering in Miami Quarter, perhaps 10-12 on a Saturday ending with lunch. We hope the children's and youth committees can be involved. We would welcome suggestions of a date for the latter at the February Quarterly meeting. We might consider similar gatherings for clerks, treasurers, and/or activists in the future, and would welcome other suggestions.

We have also had conversations about outreach and hospitality, and are offering to lead a program on the topic at Joint Quarter and a workshop during Yearly Meeting sessions. We encourage Friends thinking about outreach to make use of the Grow Your Meeting Toolkit, which the committee gave to meetings in hard copy a few years ago and is available as a PDF through FGC. FGC also has more recent online program entitled "Weaving a Wider Welcome" which considers both outreach and diversity.

Gail Koehler offered an update from the Sexual Misconduct task force, and we also briefly discussed some conflict within the Yearly Meeting. In the future, we think it may be helpful to do some programming on facing conflict as Friends.