

Minutes

of the business sessions of

Ohio Valley

Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

(Friends General Conference)

“Love One Another As I Have Loved Thee”

The 192nd Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 25 to Seventh Month 29, 2012

Earlham College

Richmond, IN

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Agenda for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business				
Wed. 6:45 pm – 9:45 pm	Thur. 10 am – 12:30 pm	Fri. 10 am – 12:30 pm	Sat. 10 am – 12:30 pm	Sun. 10 am – 11 am
Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call of Representatives	Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call	Centering Worship Greetings	Centering Worship Greetings	Centering Worship Greetings
Welcome, Introductions, Letters of Introduction Gratitude to youth workers Delegates to youth business Absent Friends	Welcome, Letters Statistician Report Treasurer Report	Review of Faith and Practice Revision Close Relationships, Part I, Draft 5 for approval	QEW report FWCC report FGC report	Final Nominations Minute of Appreciation for those leaving service to OVYM
Review of Agenda Epistle Summary	Proposed Budget from Budget and Finance Quaker Heights Friends Home, Inc	Close Relationships, Part II, Draft 4, for seasoning Planning Committee report	Visioning Threshing Youth Secretary Report Teen Committee Report	Site for 2011 Registrar's Report 2010 Epistles from the Youth Middle Youth Teens YAF
Quarterly Meeting Reports Initial Nominating Committee Report	Friends Music Camp AFSC report FCNL report	Peace and Social Concerns Religious Education Personnel Committee	Middle Youth Report Children Committee Report Announcements	2010 OVYM Epistle Closing Worship at Stout Meetinghouse
Executive Committee Report "Threshing-Indiana YM conflict" Advancement and Nurture Committee State of Society Summary Announcements	Announcements Closing Worship	Property Corporation Quill Publications Records Coordinator Web Master Announcements	Closing Worship	
Closing Worship		Closing Worship		

Minutes of the 192nd Session

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Seventh Month 25, 2012; 6:45 pm – 9:59 pm

1. Opening of Session

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered in waiting worship at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana for its 192nd annual session. The clerk shared Psalm 23.

2. Greetings and Welcome

The clerk greeted Friends assembled for the 192nd session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

3. Roll Call of Representatives

The clerk called for the roll of monthly meetings. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to the minutes.

4. Staff, Volunteer Gratitude

The clerk recognized staff and volunteers who will work with the young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the 192nd session and encouraged Friends to greet and thank them throughout the sessions.

5. Delegates to the Youth Business Sessions

Deborah Jordan will visit the Children's program. Phyllis Martin will visit the Middle Youth program. Rex Sprouse will visit the Teen program. The clerk thanked Friends who agreed to visit the business meetings of the youth programs.

6. Absent Friends

Friends were reminded to hold in the Light those Friends who are not able to be at this year's session.

7. Review of Agenda

Friends reviewed the published agenda for the 192nd annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A small number of changes were reviewed.

8. Summary of Epistles Received

Ben Griffith introduced Beth Parrish and Yoshiya Togami, who shared a summary of the Epistles received by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from 21 bodies of Friends. Katie Whiteside and Barry Zalph prepared the report but were unable to attend. Highlights of each epistle were shared and told of joys and struggles from Friends around the world. Friends accepted the report.

9. Letter of Introduction

The clerk read a letter of introduction from Friends General Conference for Jean Marie Barch. Pamela Cook was introduced as Jean-Marie's traveling companion.

10. Whitewater Quarter Report

Rex Sprouse presented the report from Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, noting that the past year has seen a period of relative calm. Rex shared that Whitewater Quarter will spend time in the coming year on programs for the young people of the Quarter, and the matter of the status of Maple Grove Monthly Meeting. Rex invited Friends to keep available the dates of October 13 and 14, 2012 for the Joint Quarterly Meeting to be held at Happy Hollow Camp.

11. Miami Quarter Report

Ben Griffith reported that Miami Quarterly Meeting will be served by co-clerks Faith Morgan and Veronica Frost in the coming year. Miami Quarter welcomed Englewood Friends Meeting to the Quarter. Friends welcomed Englewood Friends with song.

12. Nominating Committee Initial Report

Evalyn Kellum, Howie Baker, Ben Griffith and Diann Herzog presented the report of the Nominating Committee as it stood at the beginning of the 192nd session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Special concern was shared for four committees: Nominating, Teen, Middle Youth and Children. Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education have been merged to form Religious Nurture and Education. The committee is working on its charge. It was noted that the Nominating Committee is recruited by a Naming Committee. Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale and David Garman currently serve as the Naming Committee. The Naming Committee will lift names to serve on the Nominating Committee. Those names will be then presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Friends were encouraged to consider the needs shared by the Nominating Committee and offer to share gifts to the committees in need. Friends entered into a period of worship to consider names to be lifted. Friends approved the appointment of the following Friends to serve in the following capacities during the 192nd annual sessions: Sandra Ward Angell and Rex Sprouse will serve on the Epistolary Committee. Katie Whiteside and Barry Zalph will prepare the summary of Epistles received. Betsy Neale and David Garman will serve at the Memorial Meeting. Friends approved the initial report of the Nominating Committee.

13. State of Society Summary

David Garman presented the summary of the State of Society reports received from the constituent meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The reports shared a diversity of voices and styles in the meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A recurring theme in the reports is that visitors find many of our meetings to be very welcoming. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has welcomed two meetings in recent years. Friends accepted the report.

14. Executive Committee Report

The clerk shared the report of the Executive Committee. The report highlighted that the Executive Committee has wrestled with finding a response to the pain we have sensed from yearly meetings in close geographic proximity to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Executive Committee encourages Friends to consider the articles in the June/July 2012 issue of Friends Journal that discuss some of the issues contributing to the pain of Friends

in other yearly meetings Friends entered in to a period of threshing the subject of appropriate responses to the pain of our dear Friends. Richard Mitchell, Steve Olschewsky, Lisa Cayard and Nikki Coffey Tousley will serve as an *ad hoc* committee charged with drafting a letter of pastoral support to West Richmond Friends and/or Indiana Yearly Meeting Friends to be brought back to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for discussion and consideration. The clerk requested that the committee draft a letter to be presented and considered during the 192nd annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The clerk will work on the schedule to arrange a time for the presentation. Friends approved the minute.

15. Closing Worship

The session closed at 9:59 pm with a period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene on Seventh Month 26, 2012 at 10:00 am as way opens.

Seventh Month 26, 2012 10:00am – 12:08pm

16. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from Encounters with Silence by John Punshon. The passage noted that the Spirit of God, as orderer, ruler and governor, will choose those whom God will meet.

17. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

18. Introduction of Visitors

Wendy Waters-Connell was welcomed as a representative of Quaker Heights Care Community. Emma Jay was welcomed as a representative of American Friends Service Committee. Kristen Bohl was welcomed as a representative of Olney Friends School. Ruth Brindle Dobyns was welcomed as a representative of the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College.

19. Quaker Heights Care Community

Wendy Waters-Connell presented the report from the Quaker Heights Care Community. In the past year, Quaker Heights worked on strategic goals, including those financial and those providing clinical excellence. Difficult decisions were taken to outsource the employment of departments. Wendy commended the courage of the Board of Trustees. Debt was refinanced. A reimbursement was received from liability insurance that was deposited into escrow. Quaker Heights is currently rated as a four star facility, and is striving to the fifth star. Quaker Heights is rated as one of the top 25 nursing facilities in Ohio and enjoys high satisfaction from employees and high overall resident satisfaction ratings. Wendy introduced Lisa Gooding, the Director of Development for Quaker

Heights Care Community. Lisa shared the story of Madison Lowe, an eight year old girl who sold her artwork for \$.25 for each piece to raise funds to donate to Quaker Heights. The initial donation of \$13.15 has multiplied in many ways. Madison's story will be a part of the Quaker Heights fund raising process. Madison continues to volunteer at Quaker Heights. Wendy shared slides and a video of residents and volunteers. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

20. Statistician's Report

Frank Huss presented the Statistician's report noting that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has experienced a net loss of 14 members in the past reporting year. Total membership was 738. Friends accepted the report.

21. Treasurer's Report

Wilson Palmer presented the Treasurer's Report. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$2000.00, and bank statements are in balance. Wilson noted that the Property Corporation was laid down in the past year with a balance of \$ 1400.00. After the legal expenses, \$ 1361.84 remained to be donated to Quaker Heights Care Community. William Penn House was added to the list of organizations for donation. \$ 200.00 was donated. Concern was shared that William Penn House was added to the list of organizations to receive contributions, but donations were not made for 5 years, or a total of \$ 1000.00. Friends accepted the report and agreed to make the \$ 1000.00 donation for the missing years.

22. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Wilson Palmer presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013. It was noted that the budget recommends a proportional share of \$ 110.00 per member. The proposed budget projects a deficit of \$8000 to \$10000, noting that lower than projected expenses have reduced or eliminated deficits in the past few years. Wilson reminded Friends that the budget process begins in April, and Friends are encouraged to offer suggestions at that time in the process. Friends approved the budget.

23. Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College

Ruth Brindle Dobyms presented the report of the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College. The Quaker Heritage Center presents programs and exhibits that reflect the heritage and concerns of contemporary Quakers. The Quaker Heritage Center hosted "Windows and Mirrors" from April 2 though June 29, 2012. "Sky Full of Cranes" is being presented in cooperation with the Peace Resource Center of Wilmington College. "Sky Full of Cranes" will feature an August 6 dinner with a Japanese theme and an exhibit reception. Weather/Water permitting, the event will feature a release of floating paper lanterns. The Quaker Heritage Center continues to offer and develop educational programs for all ages. The Quaker Heritage Center participates in "Grow Food, Grow Hope" and the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce. The Quaker Heritage Center looks forward to the 2013 Quaker Genealogy Conference. Friends accepted the report.

24. Friends Music Camp

Victoria Burke presented the report from Friends Music Camp, sharing that Peg Champney is the heart and soul of Friends Music Camp. All of the 2012 campers will be in Yellow Springs on July 28, 2012 for the annual benefit concert. Friends accepted the report.

25. Olney Friends School

Kirsten Bohl reported that she has come to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from the Friends Music Camp which is meeting at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. The “Dig Deeper” T shirts have graduated into business cards that feature the “Dig Deeper, Love Learning, Love Land, Love My Olney Friends” logo. Olney Friends School has welcomed Charles (Charlie) Szumilas as Head. Charlie is not a Quaker, but is learning fast.

26. American Friends Service Committee Report

Leslie Lyszak presented the report, noting that American Friends Service Committee has reduced the number of regions from nine to four. It was noted that Kentucky is part of the Southern Region. Ohio and Indiana are part of the Midwest Region. Leslie advised that volunteers are needed to become local meeting liasons to American Friends Service Committee and offered to update Friends on the duties of the liaison. The American Friends Service Committee has prepared three queries seeking advice from Friends about the work of American Friends Service Committee. These queries will be shared with meetings. Responses will be welcomed. Friends accepted the report.

27. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Frank Huss presented the report, noting that the main focus of the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation has been the Pentagon Budget. Friends are encouraged to not only contact the representatives, but to become familiar with local offices of their representatives. Jane Stowe shared a minute of the Friends Committee on National Legislation Executive Committee. She shared a factoid that preventing war is 60 times cheaper than fighting it, and graphics illustrating spending priorities. Friends Committee on National Legislation would like 100 more Friends to attend their annual meeting. Friends accepted the report.

28. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:08 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 26, 2012 at 3:30pm as way opens.

Seventh Month 26, 2012 3:30pm –5:10pm

29. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from Encounter With Silence by John Punshon on finding the way of God.

30. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

31. Friends General Conference Report

Rex Sprouse, Shannon Issacs and Richard House are Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting representatives to Friends General Conference. Rex reminded friends that one of Friends General Conference's major work is having a yearly gathering. The 2013 Gathering will be in Greeley, Colorado and in 2014 it will be in California, Pennsylvania and friends are greatly encouraged to attend. Friends General Conference has a new website and is more user friendly. www.fgcquaker.org Rex in his role as professor assigned all to go home and explore it. Jean Marie Barch, who is on the Central Committee, spoke about Friends General Conference's traveling ministry. Shannon Isaacs spoke about Friends General Conference's goal of setting priorities and having a sustainable budget. Sharing the direct experience of God with the world was the first priority. The second was a loving community. The third was outreach. They will help seed new meetings. Friends accepted the report.

32. Friends World Committee for Consultation

Howie Baker and Erik Cleven spoke of their experiences in Kenya at the Sixth World Conference of Friends. Erik said there were a lot of opportunities for a variety of worship styles. Expectations were not met, but were surprisingly surpassed. The Maori translation of Quakers is, "The faith community that stand shaking in the wind". Howie added that he told the story of Elijah sitting in the cave waiting for the still small voice of God as an explanation of silent worship. And he was very happy to report that, "They got it!" He also shared that he enjoyed dialogues around different theologies. He was happy that after many ups and downs a letter was written by youths promoting intervisitation. The third representative, Rachel Ernst, was not able to attend today but will be available later this weekend. Friends accepted the report.

33. Friends Peace Team

Paul Kriese presented the report prepared by Susan Lee Barton. Friends Peace Teams participate in healing broken communities. Participants are primarily volunteers. Susan Lee issued an appeal for funds to support the work of the Friends Peace Team and offered to visit meetings to share the mission of the Friends Peace Team. Friends accepted the report.

34. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Secretary

Carol Simmons presented the report of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Youth Secretary, noting that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens are amazing people. Carol shared an overview of the activities of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens. Twenty one teens are in attendance at the 192nd session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, nineteen took part in

the service project to Washington, D.C. Carol shared pride at how Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens met people where they were. The massive power failure occurred during the service trip, and the teens formed a loving community that reached out to those in need and embodied the highest qualities of community. Friends accepted the report.

35. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teen Committee

Nikki Coffey Tousley presented the report of the Teen Committee, offering thanks to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for its support of the teen program, and to all of the volunteers and those who served as Friendly Adult Presence. The 2012 service project had a higher cost than most of the service projects, but should come out close to budget when final numbers are received. The teen program is planning to pursue a large trip in 2015, possibly an international journey. Nikki offered thanks to Carol Simmons for her leadership. Friends accepted the report.

36. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Middle Youth Committee

Martha Viehman presented the report of the Middle Youth Committee, giving thanks for the generosity of Gail Koehler in her service to the Middle Youth Committee. Martha acknowledged the importance of unique programming for these young people. The Middle Youth Committee has not been able to organize as many activities as the participants would like. Martha expressed gratitude to the Friends who have agreed to join the Middle Youth Committee, but reminded Friends that more are needed. Martha closed her report that there is always room for more. Friends accepted the report.

37. Pendle Hill

Steve Angell presented the report on Pendle Hill, calling attention to the display at Runyan. Steve highlighted some of the new workshop options being offered by Pendle Hill.

38. School of the Spirit

Steve Angell spoke to Friends about the School of the Spirit ministry of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The School of the Spirit is a traveling ministry without a central campus. They offer silent retreats, with one to be held in Cincinnati in September, 2012. Steve encouraged Friends to visit the display in Runyan.

39. Closing Worship

The session closed at 5:10 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 27, 2012 at 10:00am as way opens.

Seventh Month 27, 2012 10:00am – 12:12pm

40. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from Encounters With Silence by John Punshon reminding us that silence is more than undisturbed prayer, but a discipline.

41. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

42. Faith and Practice Committee

Betsy Neale and Rex Sprouse presented two parts of the Close Relationships section for *Faith and Practice*. These drafts are appended to these minutes.

43. Faith and Practice, Close Relationships, Part 1, 5th Draft

Rex Sprouse read, and Friends enthusiastically approved Close Relationships Part 1, Draft 5. This draft will be printed in the minute book as fully approved and will be posted to the Faith and Practice section on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website.

44. Faith and Practice Close Relationships, Part 2, 4th Draft

After a reading of Close Relationships, Part 2, Draft 4, Friends entered into a period of threshing. The fifth draft will be printed in the minute book to be seasoned for one year and be presented for final consideration at the Yearly Meeting Sessions in 2013.

45. Planning Committee Report

Tunia McClure read the report from the Planning Committee explaining how comments from past years were used to discern how to proceed with this year and future sessions. The service project was again held at the beginning of sessions. A major change will be moving the sessions for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to Wilmington College in 2013. Friends attending these sessions are asked to fill out an evaluation of the sessions to help planning for next year. Friends accepted the report.

46. Web Site Report

Lonny Burger, Web Administrator, thanked Friends for giving him a place to share his artistic expression. Lonny shared statistics of visitors to the website. He instructed that ovym.quaker.org is the best way to view the website. The new website is more user-friendly and each page has all the useful links including links for our monthly meetings. There is also the ability of a pop-up dialogue box for high priority pieces of interest. Friends accepted the report with enthusiasm and gratitude.

47. Peace and Social Concerns Report

Jane Stowe presented the report of the Peace and Social Concerns committee. There was a pre-session meeting about the Occupy Movement. There is a letter writing table in Runyan and Friends are encouraged to stop and write a letter or more. The committee needs more members especially younger and more energetic bodies. They also need meeting liaisons. Jane emphasized that this committee is representing our testimonies to the world and Friends should seriously participate. Friends accepted the report.

48. Religious Nurture and Education

This is now a combined committee helping the Spirit move among us. David Garman thanked everyone who participated in the survey and asked Friends to attend the threshing session Saturday to discuss our vision statement. Like culling honeysuckle, the committee wants to encourage deeply rooted beliefs and weed out those that are not deeply rooted.

49. Records Coordinator Report

Susan Hyde reported that Wilmington College is a depository for Quaker records. The committee will be preparing guidelines for items. Friends accepted this report.

50. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:26 PM with announcements a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 28, 2012 at 10:00am as way opens.

Seventh Month 28, 2012 10:00am – 12:22pm

51. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from Encounters With Silence by John Punshon, reminding us that we are to be ready if called.

52. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

53. Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Ria Collee presented the report of Quaker Earthcare Witness. The annual meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness was held Chicago, Illinois in late October, 2011. The meeting considered matters of food and biodiversity, farming and food production. Friends were encouraged to visit the Quaker Earthcare Witness website and subscribe to the Quaker Eco Bulletin. The spring meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness was held in June. Quaker Earthcare Witness will celebrate its 25th anniversary the first week of October, 2012 in Chicago. The original name of the committee was Friends Committee in Unity with Nature. Ria recommended highly the pamphlets and videos of Quaker Earthcare Witness and attendance at the fall annual meeting. Friends accepted the report.

54. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Vision

Ben Griffith reported on the Visioning process on behalf of Religious Nurture and Education. The committee recommends that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting corporately discern its programs for children, middle youth, teens and young adults, seeking clarity and a new vision about these groups. The committee encourages intervisitation and the possibility of a traveling ministry. Quarterly Meetings are asked to consider an annual joint quarterly meeting. Four Friends spontaneously formed a working group to bring recommendations to Religious Nurture and Education on diversity and inclusion. Friends accepted the report and approved the recommendations included in the report and approved the work of the working group on diversity and inclusion.

55. Report of the *ad hoc* Committee Drafting a Letter of Support

The *ad hoc* committee named in minute number 14 of the 192nd annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, composed of Lisa Cayard, Nikki Coffey Tousley, Richard Mitchell, and Steve Olszewsky presented the draft letter. Friends entered into discussion on a number of aspects of the draft. Friends agreed to refer the discussion points back to the *ad hoc* committee for a final draft to be approved or rejected at Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business on Seventh Month 29, 2012.

56. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:22 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 29, 2012 at 10:00 am as way opens.

Seventh Month 29, 2011 10:00am –11:00am

57. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from ~~Encounters with Silence~~ by John Punshon reminding us that religion and life are one.

58. Reading of Traveling Minute

The clerk read a Traveling Minute commending Pamela Cook to the loving care of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting as the traveling companion to Jean -Marie Prestwidge Barch.

59. Welcome, Final Roll Call of Monthly Meetings

The clerk welcomed Friends to the closing session of the 192nd session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Roll Call of Representatives from Monthly Meetings was reviewed. Friends not introduced in previous business sessions were introduced and welcomed.

60. Presentation of Draft of Letter of Support

Steve Olszewsky, Lisa Cayard, Nikki Coffey Tousley and Richard Mitchell presented the letter drafted to express pastoral care to Friends of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

“To Indiana Yearly Meeting Friends,

Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting extend our loving care and concern to Friends of Indiana Yearly Meeting as you wrestle with painful conflicts and decisions. Please know that we are holding all of Indiana Yearly Meeting in our loving prayers. We treasure our relationships with you, our friends and neighbors.

As fellow Quakers, we honour our shared religious heritage, grounded in the teachings of Jesus. We hold you in love as you seek God’s Will with integrity and faithfulness. We are mindful of the teachings of Jesus that we “love one another as I have loved you” which is the theme of our yearly meeting sessions this year. Our plenary speaker reminded us on Thursday evening that I Corinthians 13 tells us:

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

Most of our monthly meetings have experienced similar struggles and we know the painful challenge of discerning together what God would have us do. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends want to lift up our experience that the Light of Christ shines in every person, and that our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members bring many spiritual gifts and blessings to our meetings.

Lovingly thine,”

After discussion, Friends agreed to lay the matter over to Executive Committee for further action.

61. Final Report of the Nominating Committee

Ben Griffith, Howie Baker and Diann Herzog presented the final report of the Nominating Committee. Friends accepted the final report of the Nominating Committee and approved the nominations.

62. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee Report

Bill Cahalan presented the report of the Earthcare Committee. The committee got its start in 2005, became a sub-committee of Peace and Social Concerns in 2006, and became a stand-alone committee in 2011. The committee supports Quaker Earthcare Witness. Primary areas of concern include the sustainable growth of food, the world water crisis, and creative design. Friends are encouraged to attend Earthcare Committee meetings and consider becoming a member of the committee. Friends accepted the report.

63. Appreciation

The clerk read a minute of appreciation for the service of Byron Branson to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

64. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Site Announcement

Tunia McClure announced that the 193rd annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be held Seventh month 31 through Eighth Month 4, 2013 at Wilmington College. Friends accepted the report.

65. Registrar's Report

Eric Wolff presented the Registrar's Report. The 192nd annual session was attended by 207 Friends. Of these, 19 were children, 5 were middle youth, 18 were teens, 13 were young adult Friends. Friends accepted the report.

66. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visitor to Children's Program

Deborah Jordan visited the Children's Program. Children shared concerns about cleaning up after play, and that Lego structures were being damaged. The children identified the solutions they would pursue to these concerns. Friends accepted the report.

67. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visitor to Middle Youth Program

Phyllis Martin visited the Middle Youth program. She shared that our Middle Youth are amazing and she was able to witness the Middle Youth epistle being written. Friends accepted the report.

68. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Visitor to Teen Program

Rex Sprouse visited the Teen Program. A key concern for the Teens was bedtime on Saturday night. During Rex's visit, Teens considered who would continue to serve on the Teen Committee. Their process was respectful and considerate. Friends accepted the report.

69. Epistle from the Children's Program

The young people of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Children's Program presented their Epistle.

“Fifteen school age young Friends met at the 192nd annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 25 – 29, 2012 to consider the theme of “Love One Another As I Have Loved Thee.” The peaceful and beautiful campus of a historic Quaker College was the background for a time of fellowship, a deep spiritual sharing, learning about Quakerism, ourselves and each other, and working of service projects. Children learned about expressions of love and courage between friends of different races in the book, Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles, which inspired their skit. They could all relate to being hurt when excluded and how powerful love can be to heal this pain. Children also learned about Quaker Elizabeth Fry's work in prisons giving hope and dignity to people who were so rejected. Children made pictures of love and hope for prisoners to make them feel less lonely and more

cared for. OVYM Friend Eileen, who also works in prisons, shared how important it was to understand the whole story of a person in prison. Children also learned about Jesus' acts of love to people who were rejected and learned that giving love makes real changes.

OVYM Teens shared about their service trip in D.C. and expressed how important it was to look at someone who was homeless, not walk away. Children learned that if you can think about it, you can actually do it and saw all the food teens picked and provided for hungry people.

Children shared love through making toys for and visiting animals in a shelter. Their hopes for the future are that nobody would be poor and unloved, everyone would have a home and food, that people would treat each other and animals with care and respect. Finally, we believe that we can give love without expecting anything back, in our own individual ways and that can change the world."

Friends accepted the Epistle.

70. Epistle from the Middle Youth Program

Ian Murray presented the Epistle of the Middle Youth Program.

Greetings from the Middle Youth who attended the 192nd session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting held at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana the 25th day to the 29th day of Seventh Month 2012.

Six Middle Youth Friends from Bloomington, Oxford and Yellow Springs monthly meetings were present.

We enjoyed many activities. Rafting was super fun. We travelled eight miles on the Whitewater River. It took us a respectable and relaxed five hours. On the way, we filled bags with trash and recycling that we found as a service project to help the river environment. We saw a lot of wild life, such as a tortoise, several great blue herons and a school of fish. We did many outdoor things on the campus, including tree climbing, hiking trails and playing with the skip disc we found.

We created a giant walking labyrinth with chalk, based on our experience making and learning about mandalas. We all learned as mastered the art of making paper cranes for a peace project in Lexington to remember the Japanese victims of the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. We received many positive comments from Friends about our paper cranes displayed in the stairwell and our labyrinth in the parking lot. Also relating to war and peace, we visited the AFSC Windows and Mirrors exhibit, where Emma guided us through the mural gallery of art portraying the suffering of war in Afghanistan.

We watched the movie "The Princess Bride" and then prepared and performed our own modified skit titled "The Quaker Bride".

We especially want to thank our visiting speakers, Ben, Kirsten, and Jean-Marie.

Overall, coming to OVYM brings us to a friendly, peaceful place. Next year, we would welcome more Middle Youth to join our fun activities.

Middle Youth of the Seventh Month, 2012

Friends accepted the Epistle

71. Epistle from the Teen Program

Adam Togami presented the Epistle from the Teen Program.

To Friends everywhere:

The 192nd annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered together from Wednesday July 25th through Sunday July 29th on the Earlham Campus in Richmond, Ind. Twenty-one teens, three of whom were first-time attenders, gathered and centered on the message of love, considering the query, “Love One Another, As I Have Loved Thee.”

Teens were inspired and challenged by plenary speakers Jean-Marie Barch and Ben Griffith, who offered us their gifts in meeting with us as a group and leading by example the opening of oneself for the creation of a loving community.

The teens contemplated queries about our spiritual life and daily life as a group, in small worship sharing groups and individually. Individual spiritual practices included running, listening to and making music, drawing, writing, and meditating.

This year the teen group had a mass exodus of graduating seniors. Six seniors (Emmett Olis-Cartmell, Adam Togami, Silas Bruner, Corrigan Eckert, Jonathan Birkel, and Adam Funk) will be joining the young adult friends this coming year. In addition the teen group has nominated and approved Rachel Logan-Wood to serve as Recording clerk and Dylan Cahalan as the new teen co-clerk serving with Lucy Grace.

Teens powered the Intergenerational Service Project at the Cope Environmental Center, and highly encourage more people of all ages to join in this sharing of community building through service.

Teens bonded through the shared trials of the annual canoe trip, spending time together, playing music and games,

They accepted with gratitude the dialogue that Simply Speaking brought to us and appreciated the wisdom that an intergenerational activity can bring.

The universal language of music – the songs and chants – never stopped.

Our time together was emotionally and spiritually motivating, and we will carry the love we have for one another and OVYM as we go back to our home, creating communities of love everywhere

In friendship, until next year,
The Teens

Friends accepted the Epistle

72. Report from the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Howie Baker reported that Young Adults met during the 192nd session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Many Young Adults worked with younger ages of Friends in the Children, Middle Youth and Teen programs. Micky Myers has offered her gifts of administration to help organize the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Adam Togami has established a Facebook page for Young Adult Friends.

Friends accepted the report.

73. Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Sandra Ward Angell and Rex Sprouse presented the Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Epistle
Seventh Month 29, 2012

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from the lovely Earlham College campus in Richmond, IN, where Friends are gathered for the 192nd annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting! Although our region is faced with a severe drought at this time, we have been blessed with an outpouring of Living Waters. Our time together has fostered the growth and development of our spiritual lives as a community grounded in love and faithfulness, and we look forward to seeing a bountiful harvest of fruits of the Spirit.

The theme of this year's sessions, "Love One Another As I Have Loved Thee," has aptly captured the unifying motion of the Holy Spirit in our plenary sessions, our business sessions, and our fellowship with one another. Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting have also expressed our care for all Creation through an intergenerational service project at Cope Environmental Center, workshop themes, children and youth projects, and impassioned yet hopeful calls to action from Quaker Earthcare Witness and the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee.

In our evening plenaries, we were privileged to hear two arias about love sung in different keys. Long-time Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friend Ben Griffith shared from a tender and vulnerable place about the personal sacrifice and transcendent forgiveness that God's Love both requires of us and gives to us. Visiting Friend Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch helped us to realize how we can know that we are loved and to appreciate that we are a sanctuary for the Love of God.

Despite a heavy agenda, tenderness and gentleness filled our meetings for business. Even when struggling for unity on one or two thorny matters, Friends listened with open hearts and patient concern to one another. Friends enthusiastically approved revisions regarding close relationships for the Yearly Meeting's Book of Faith and Practice and made a decisive commitment to action to strengthen our support for the youth of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and to explore how we can become a more diverse faith community. We also had the pleasure of welcoming Englewood Friends Meeting into membership in our yearly meeting.

Many of our usual opportunities for worship and fellowship together were also infused with a deep sense of love and tenderness. For example, as usual, our Teens took under their care both an opening get-acquainted activity and frank sharing on a challenging topic in small groups. These events are always popular at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and this year they were particularly helpful in bringing us together first as friends and then as Friends. We experienced similar depth in our early morning meetings for worship, our worship sharing, our workshops, the memorial meeting, the Living Witness presentation by our Friend Peg Champney, and our informal conversations over meals and in our free time. We have truly come to know one another better in those things that are eternal.

We pray that the Eternal Spirit may grant you the grace and love that we have experienced these past five days.

In the Light,
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Friends accepted the Epistle.

74. Clerk's Expression of Gratitude

The clerk read a minute of appreciation to Earlham College.

Dear Earlham College,
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting thanks Earlham College for supporting our yearly meeting sessions. You are most welcoming and helpful.

We enjoy the time we have spent with you and look forward to our return in two years. You are a blessing to us.

Peace and Love,
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

75. Minute of Appreciation

Friends offered a minute of Appreciation for the steadfast service of Paul Kriese as Presiding Clerk.

76. Minute of Appreciation

Friends offered a minute of Appreciation for the beautiful service of Deb Kociszewski as Recording Clerk.

77. Closing Worship

The session closed at 11:30 AM and moved to Stout Meeting House for worship. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will reconvene Seventh Month 31, 2013 at Wilmington College for the 193rd annual session.

Presiding Clerk: Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk: Stephen Angell
Recording Clerk: Deb Kociszewski
Assistant Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
with assistance on minute numbers 29 through 32 and 41 through 50 from Terre Holada

Roll call of Monthly Meeting representatives

(See Minutes 3, 17, 30, 41, 52, 59)

192nd Session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends Seventh Month 25 through Seventh Month 29, 2012

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Frank Huss
Dayton	Barbara Robinson
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	Micky Myers
Green Plain	Caroline Taylor
Henderson Worship Group	No Representative
Lexington	Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville	Beth Parrish, Howie Baker
Miami	Lonny Burger
Oxford	Sandra Ward Angell
Yellow Springs	Victoria Burke

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington	Janette Shetter
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends	Bob Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	Erik Clevon
Maple Grove	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No Representative
Fort Wayne Worship Group	No Representative

2012 OVYM NOMINATIONS

OFFICERS
(thru '13 YM)

Presiding Clerk	Stephen Angell
Assistant Clerk	Paul Kriese
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	

2012 SESSIONS	2012
Epistolary Committee	Sandra Ward Angell, Rex Sprouse
Summary of Epistles received	Barry Zalph, Katie Whiteside
Memorial Meeting	Betsy Neale, David Garman

2013	2014	2015
RELIGIOUS NURTURE AND EDUCATION (STILL DEFINING CHARGE OF COMMITTEE)		
David Garman	Terry Reynolds	Andy Garrison
Rex Sprouse	Diann Herzog	Ben Griffith
Elaine Troth	Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs	
	Co-opted for Youth Visioning-	Heather Snediker-Morscheck
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
Dinah Duvall (PM)	Tunia McClure (2W)	Kate Anthony (1M)
	Barbara Robinson (1M)	Kay Wheeler (1M)
Dale Hayes (1M)	Martha Viehmann (1M)	
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
Hannah Branson (5M)	Beth Parrish (3M)	Susan Hyde
	Carey Bryson	Gloria Bruner
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
Martha Viehmann (1M)	Linda Olis (1W)	Rachel Dean (1M)
Bill Shetter (1W)	Richard Mitchell	
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
Wilhelmina Branson (4M)	Nikki Coffey Tousley (2M)	Russ Wheeler (1M)
Nick Rhein (1M)	Nathan Coppock (1M)	Chance Duvall (1W)
	Heather Snediker-Morscheck	Peter Hardy
David Funck (1M)	Emmett Olis-Cartmell	Anna Margaret Green
LucyGrace Kokenge (Teen Cl)	Rachel Logan-Wood	Somer Eckert
Dylan Cahalan (Teen Cl)	Kirk Hardy	Hanae Togami

2013	2014	2015
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Jane Stowe (convenor)	Richard Mitchell	Marjorie Isaacs
Ron Haldeman	Bob Vetter	
Frank Huss	Jean Crocker-Lakness	
EARTHCARE COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Bill Cahalan (convenor)	Marci Ankrom	Janette Shetter
Jamie Fota	David Duvall	Ria Collee
	Julia Thompson	
AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)		
Donita Barnes (1W)	Bob Holada (1 W)	Veronica Frost (2M)
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist.Treas, [-- who is Clerk of B&F] (3+))		
Denny Troth (1W) Paul Buckley (1W)	Fred Feitler (1W)	
FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE (9)		
Betsy Neale (3 M)	Rex Sprouse (3W)	
Lisa Cayard (3M)	Mary Garman (1W)	
	Paul Buckley (2W)	
Wilson Palmer–Invited Member		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
Caroline Stanley (Olney Rep)		Carl Hyde (1M)
Anne Whitaker	Gail Miller (1M)	
BRADDOCK TRUSTEE +Named by Braddock family (3) Year to Year		
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
Dan Cartmell		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
Frank Huss	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
	Assistant Webmaster	
Lonny Burger	Emmanuel Greene	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS		
2013	2014	2015
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Leslie Liszak (1W)	Jana Schroeder (2M)	Peter Fosl (2M)
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
	JP Lund (2M)	Howie Baker (1M)
	Rachel Ernst (1M)	
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
Rex Sprouse (2W)	Shannon Isaacs (1M)	
Richard House (2M)		
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
Ken Bordwell (2M)	James Russell (2M)	
Frank Huss (Co-op)		
Ron Haldeman (1W)		

The following are one-year YM appointments to the named organization

2013

**FLGBTQC
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS**

**Carrie Shaver
James Russell
To be named by Earthcare Cmte
Susan Lee Barton**

M = Miami Quarter; **W** = Whitewater Quarter; **1 or 2** = 1st or 2nd 3-year term;
P = Partial term; * = convener or clerk; **TM** = Teen Member.
 (#) next to the Committee's name equals the number of committee members for that committee.

“**V**_____” equals a un-filled position (or vacancy) to be filled later by E.C. and NOM COM action.

Summary of Epistles Received

This report summarizes the epistles from 6th Month 2011 through 6th Month 2012 for the following 21 bodies of Friends: Aotearoa/New Zealand YM, Australia YM, Baltimore YM, Britain YM, German YM, Illinois YM, Intermountain YM, Iowa Yearly Meeting–Conservative, Ireland YM, Netherlands YM, New England YM, New York YM, North Pacific YM, Norway YM, Ohio Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia YM, Southeast YM, Southern Appalachian YM & Association, Western YM, and Wilmington YM, and the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya. Whether attended by 56 Friends (Norway) or over 1500 (Britain), whether meeting for the 38th time (North Pacific) or the 350th (New England), the Yearly Meeting annual sessions took characteristically Quaker approaches to spiritual challenges and earthly issues of concern to Friends everywhere.

Aotearoa/New Zealand YM noted a theme of “brokenness transformed through love into wholeness” emerging during their annual sessions. They heard from six of their members who participated in the Sixth World Conference of Friends and deeply valued the hope and commitments reflected in their reports. Brokenness is part of their current experience, as recent earthquakes forced Christchurch Friends to abandon their meetinghouse and its land, and destroyed the homes of some Friends. “Despite this, Christchurch Friends told us they are in good heart.” Aotearoa/New Zealand Friends felt their hearts touched by concerns for their country’s high prison population, scars related to their colonial past, the need to reverse environmental destruction and achieve net zero carbon dioxide emissions, and the need for reform of their country’s constitution. They united in opposing the sale of state assets, opposing the mining of lignite coal, and endorsing a petition for a citizen’s initiated referendum.

Australian Friends “pondered and explored the requirement of ‘what does love require of us’ as individuals and as a community of Friends.” Respect for the gifts and concern for the historic suffering and current needs of indigenous peoples permeated their annual sessions. They created “space for nurture of the artistic soul during the Fine Arts Day, held prior to Yearly Meeting.” Australian Friends have made commitments to address several societal issues, leading to difficulty in allocating adequate effort to each. They asked, “How do we create the space for engagement in social witness and for the nurture of the soul so that, in the words of Meister Eckhart, time is not ‘what keeps the light from reaching us.’ ” Reaching to Friends beyond their continent, they welcomed programs by the Burundi Peace Choir, David Atwood (former Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva), and Arbiter Simorangkir from Indonesia. They reported on several year-round initiatives under the care of the Yearly Meeting, including a newly appointed Peace and Earthcare Worker to deepen their collective work in these areas.

Baltimore YM met for its 340th annual sessions. They received plenary presentations from Miyoko Moriuchi (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) and Philip Gulley, an afternoon of intergenerational Alternatives to Violence Project exercises, and Bible study led by Friends from North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Friends United Meeting and Baltimore YM.

Baltimore YM conducts a prison ministry, work camps, and an intervisitation program. Their annual sessions benefited from gifts of music and ministry from visitors sponsored by the intervisitation program. The Ad Hoc Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns

Committee was laid down upon completing its assigned task of eliciting from each of the 52 constituent monthly meetings a minute describing its stand on same-gender marriage. The YM acknowledged lack of unity and the need for further work on this issue. The YM has been forced to make painful cuts in its operating budget. “[W]e know that if our leadings are true, and we are faithful to them, way will open to fulfill the work God has laid on us. These painful reductions prompt us to consider as individuals, as local Meetings, and as a gathered community whether we could all dig deeper to support the work we have discerned.”

After special gatherings at each of its 52 monthly meetings, the Yearly Meeting united on a vision statement. “[W]e became clear that our Yearly Meeting is more than a service organization or an association of Meetings. We are a worshipping community gathered by God and called to a radical faith.”

Baltimore YM Young Friends presented their epistle in the form of a humorous and enlightening allegorical tale.

Britain YM gathered with over 1500 in attendance in Canterbury with the theme, “Growing in the Spirit: changing the way we live to sustain the world we live in.” Contrasting the radical simplicity and dependence upon the Divine of early Friends with the verging-on-ordinariness of modern Friends, they asked themselves, “Can we reconnect with our roots, to live a religious life and proclaim a message the world needs to hear?” The epistle continues:

With joy, our Yearly Meeting has made a commitment to becoming a low carbon sustainable community. The time to act is now. We need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we produce. We are called to challenge the values of consumer capitalism. Between us we have already made changes with which we are comfortable: now is the time to make uncomfortable changes. Yet through transformative action we have much to gain: a simpler life can be a richer life.

Charting the way forward, Britain YM recommends the book, *Costing not less than everything: sustainability and spirituality in challenging times* (the Britain YM 2011 Swarthmore Lecture). They close their epistle by noting the promise of Spirit-led radical action: “The task we have set ourselves has the potential to renew our Quaker community in Britain.”

German YM heard a moving lecture by Julia Ryberg on “Living Truthfully” and thereby building deeper friendships. All ages addressed the theme of Living Truthfully. The children’s epistle shares wisdom applicable to all:

We performed a play. It was called “Gossip over Coffee.” It was about Truth and Sincerity. One shouldn’t criticize others behind their backs. If something really annoys us, it’s good to say it openly without being hurtful. That isn’t always easy. But if one doesn’t say anything, it often makes everything worse. This is what the play was about.¶ It was fun.

Moving through difficulty to joy, German YM united in a response to the Kairos Document of the Christian churches in Palestine.

Illinois YM met for the 138th consecutive year in its historic meeting house on the prairie in McNabb, IL, with a theme of Compassion (in the Face of Difficult Things).

Celebrating and learning from the diversity among Friends, they welcomed programs by Peggy Senger Parsons, Quaker minister of Freedom Friends Church (Oregon), Niyonu Spann (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting), Alicia Lucasi (Bolivian Quaker Education Fund), and Shan Cretin (American Friends Service Committee). Friends from preschool through young adulthood had challenging, rewarding, and fun experiences at the annual sessions. Their three-to-five-year-olds submitted the following epistle:

We like coming here.

We like school here.

We like the bonfire.

We like dancing.

We like playing lion.

See you next year.

Intermountain YM met for its 38th annual sessions at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, NM in 6th Month 2012. Many Friends participated in “Early Days” activities including YM preparation, art-making, and hiking. The theme was “Nurturing the Next Generation of Friends,” which prompted deep sharing and listening through a plenary by Gretchen Baker-Smith (New England YM), a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for the Next Generation of Friends, and business consideration of funding for Mountain Friends Camp, founded three years ago by young Friends from Intermountain YM. The YM united on an annual donation of \$10,000 to the camp for three years. They valued contributions of Quaker guests from Canadian YM, Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, New England YM, Stillwater OK, and Mexico City. They heard powerful testimony from Intermountain YM Friends who participated in the World Conference of Friends in Kenya this spring. The young Friends grieved together the loss of a member.

Iowa YM (Conservative) met in 7th Month 2011 for its 134th annual sessions, with the theme of “Our Quaker Testimonies.” They took time to honor the contributions of Friends of past generations and of living Friends of all ages. Likewise, they expressed thanks for their continuing connections to the diverse body of Friends around the world. They report declining membership in their older meetings while newer groups of Friends seek to affiliate with the YM. They approved the revision of their *Book of Discipline* after fifteen years of committee work, finding in this accomplishment cause for celebration.

Ireland YM met with a theme of Building Community, based on 1 John 4:7, “Dear Friends let us love one another, for love comes from God.” They celebrated the adoption of a new edition of *Quaker Life and Practice*. They received presentations on pioneering Quaker work in mental health and Quaker work in Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Zimbabwe. The YM endorsed the Christian Aid Tax Justice Campaign addressing the root causes of poverty. They received a report on civil partnership from a group convened in response to a concern brought forth in 2010 from Junior Yearly Meeting. They reported “considerable difference among Friends” on this concern. They expressed appreciation for the year-round activities of YM youth under the leadership of their Youth Coordinator.

Netherlands YM met in 5th Month 2012 with a theme of Quakers and Just Peace, echoing the theme of the meeting a year earlier at which the World Council of Churches adopted the goal of declaring war illegal and abolishing the “just war” doctrine. The YM took several actions in support of this goal, including requesting the national government to renounce its current plans to strengthen ties with Israel and endorsing the call from Quaker Council for European Affairs for government actions to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Netherlands YM members who participated in the World Gathering of Friends in Kenya challenged the YM to act on the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice and to interact more widely and deeply with other branches of Friends.

New England YM celebrated the end of their 350th anniversary, “focus[ing] on the impact human society has on the future of the earth.” They acknowledged their brokenness as individuals and as a community, hearing powerful ministry from those who had suffered discrimination in their midst. They conducted business with tenderness, thereby strengthening their bonds of community.

New York YM grieved the sudden death of one member, being reminded of the fragility of life and appreciating the gift of community and the unique gifts of each person. They noted the inseparability of earthcare from other Quaker testimonies. They feel hope in the rising generation of young Friends to live these testimonies. They experienced extended worship and reported “a sense of elation and of heaven entering” among those holding [in prayer] the YM assembled in worship.

North Pacific YM held its 39th annual sessions with 283 Friends in attendance. OVYM member Michael Birkel served as Friend-In-Residence presenting programs on the theme, “Being Practically Spiritual: The Integration of Inward Life and Outward Action.” He noted a false dichotomy between “activist” and “mystic” and the synthesis that has marked the best of historic Quaker work. Young adult Friends combined their work and words with those of older adult Friends, as manifested in a single epistle, bringing the message, “We are here! We are part of you!” A full agenda and relatively new business practices resulted in some challenges in giving due consideration to all of the issues at hand. Friends did not reach unity on a minute on population stability. The YM united on affiliating with Quaker Earthcare Witness, and decided to take a year for additional discernment on the question of affiliating with Friends General Conference.

Norway YM met with 56 Friends in attendance for its 194th annual sessions, in 5th Month 2012. They explored the theme, “Spiritual Gifts – Building Community” with help from Thomas Swain (Philadelphia YM). Of their annual sessions, they reported “The Spirit was working in us and we opened our hearts for God and one another.” During the next year, they will begin work on a Norwegian book of Faith and Practice while refocusing on peace work and keeping up the good work of Quaker Service Norway.

Ohio YM (Conservative) met in 8th Month 2011. In the conduct of their business, they found the “need to wait on God for guidance, for love and for inspiration. And when we wait on God, He will give us the love and power to communicate with not only other Quakers, but with the whole world.” Ohio YM invites other YMs to send Friends to attend their 200th annual session in 8th Month 2012 and their 200th anniversary celebration in 2013.

Philadelphia YM gathered in 7th Month 2011 for its 332 annual sessions with over 500 Friends in attendance. “Friends wrestled with discerning the path forward through a time of crisis in the world and in our Yearly Meeting. We heard wonderful examples of Friends and meetings responding to God’s call, but as a Yearly Meeting, we struggled with clarity and direction and how to proceed with a smaller staff and with a reduction in the income from our resources.” Staff reductions included elimination of the Young Adult Friends Coordinator position. The Young Adult Friends epistle expresses both sadness over loss of this staff support and dismay over decisions made in a manner they felt did not adequately respect and include Young Adult Friends.

The theme, “Powerful Beyond Measure; Trusting the Call to Leadership” received elucidation from Irene McHenry (Friends Council on Education), Michael Minnig (Westtown School), and Jay Marshall (Earlham School of Religion). They defined leadership as “initiative in relationship,” leading to a community “powerful beyond measure.” Friends under 18 years old comprised 25% of those in attendance and showed leadership in many situations during the annual sessions.

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) held its 41st annual sessions in Sixth Month, 2011. (We did not have an epistle for 2012 as of this summary.) Plenary speakers Jane Synder of FWCC and Elaine Crauderueff of Quaker Quest addressed the theme of “growing within, shining forth.” Deep emotions surfaced as Friends considered a Minute on Immigration and a Harmony with Nature section of their book of Faith and Practice. They noted cost of travel and the ecological impact of Yearly Meeting as continuing concerns. Learning, fellowship, and recreational opportunities drew together Friends of all ages.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting met in 4th Month 2012 with 176 in attendance, with the theme, “Make a Joyful Noise at Every Opportunity.” Tom Neilson presented the annual Walton Lecture, using spoken word and song to share his spiritual journey. An intergenerational songwriting exercise led to self-discovery, learning, and some surprisingly good songs. Friends considered concerns relating to criminal justice, peace, and earthcare. Friends raised money for a Nicaraguan economic development project and convened a committee to consider whether and how the YM might take under its care the unprogrammed Friends Worship Group in Havana, Cuba.

Western YM met in 7th Month 2011 in Plainfield, IN. They welcomed a new Director of Christian Education, Pat Byers and held a reception for departing Superintendents Marlene and Steve Pedigo. They sought volunteers to perform necessary tasks during the search for a new superintendent. They briefly noted financial difficulties facing the YM. Speakers from West Richmond Friends Meeting, Friends Boys School in Belize, and Friends United Meeting Africa Ministries made presentations. With gratitude, Western YM newly recorded three people as ministers of the Gospel.

Wilmington YM gathered 4/29 – 5/1/2011 with the theme, “One Body Called in Peace.” Mike Daye spoke to this theme, challenging each Friend to “bring the Peace of Christ to our community, our country, and our world.” The sessions began with a special retreat to examine procedures to make the YM function more efficiently. The YM revised its manual for counseling prospective conscientious objectors. Wilmington Friends

celebrated the recording of a new minister of the gospel. They will convene again for annual sessions in 7th Month, 2012.

The **Sixth World Conference of Friends** brought together over 850 Friends from 112 Yearly Meetings and Friends associations from 51 countries. Convened by Friends World Committee for Consultation, they met at Kabarak University in Kenya with significant participation from Conservative, Evangelical, Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference, and independent Friends. The most recent comparable gathering of Friends took place in 1967, two generations ago. Three Ohio Valley Friends (Howie Baker, Erik Clevon, and Rachel Ernst) participated as our representatives.

They considered the theme, “Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World.” The gathered Friends heard the theme as a

call with a real sense of urgency in these times of natural disasters, violence, global change, and unequal access to basic needs. We ... are sometimes too preoccupied with being heavenly to be useful on Earth. ... [W]e need to be present and engaged in our communities, while remaining attentive to the Still, Small Voice, in order to allow the Spirit to work through us. ... [W]e feel called to try to return to the conviction and simple faith of our Quaker ancestors and their transformed lives, so that we may once again become a prophetic people, speaking to God’s purposes in these times.

The diversity of religious beliefs and practices among delegates tested their understanding and charity for one another. Facing this daunting diversity, they addressed brokenness within themselves and their Religious Society as well as in the world at large. They accepted for themselves and pose to all Friends a challenge: avoid rushing to heal our brokenness and instead “consider what God’s plan could be for a hurting individual, and for a hurting community.”

Delegates focused on setting the stage for unified, transformational action by Friends worldwide. To this end, they completed a two-year process and approved the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice (<http://www.saltandlight2012.org/call.pdf>), a concise and powerful one-page call to action for Friends worldwide. Rather than merely reciting global crises and calling for Divine assistance, the Kabarak Call speaks to the actions that our faith requires of us, for example: “We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.” For 850 Friends to unite across cultures, economic circumstances, and theologies to embrace such a challenge shows the power of the One that can draw us into unity. As witnessed in the epistles summarized here, the World Conference has already begun to shape discussions and decisions in Yearly Meetings around the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Whiteside & Barry Zalph

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

Over the course of the last year, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting held three sessions: Tenth Month 16, 2011, at Bloomington Friends Meetinghouse; First Month 15, 2012, at Stout Meetinghouse in Richmond, IN; and Fourth Month 15, 2012, at Fall Creek Friends Meetinghouse, in Pendleton, IN. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gratefully acknowledge the faithful service of Bloomington, Clear Creek, and Fall Creek Friends who participated in hosting these sessions, as well as those who attended.

Concerns that were raised this year that we hope to be able to work on in the coming year include (1) cultivating community-building activities for youth at Quarterly Meeting sessions and (2) preparing to lay down Maple Grove Friends Meeting in a rightly ordered manner.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends enjoyed varied afternoon programs over the course of the three sessions. In the fall, we were privileged to welcome the Friendly Folk Dancers, who performed folk dances from a number of cultures as a witness for peace. The winter afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the results of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's recent survey. In the spring, Friend Micah Bales spoke to us about the spiritual grounding of his involvement in the Occupy Movement.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends are looking forward to hosting the biannual Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp (near Nashville, IN) during the weekend of Tenth Month 13-14, 2012. As always, all Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends are invited and encouraged to attend. A more detailed informational flyer should be available near the end of the summer.

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting
Sixth Month 25, 2012

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

Although the quarter has had difficulty finding one clerk this year, we were glad to have three Friends willing to each clerk a meeting. This means there was some lack of continuity but still a good and willing Spirit pervaded. We are pleased to report that Faith Morgan and Veronica Frost will co-clerk for the next two years.

We have encouraged more fellowship at our gatherings by offering hospitality on Saturday night and having interactive programs before our business meeting. Each of the program parts of the meetings has been well attended, and sometimes even intergenerational. In Oct., we participated in small group sharing on the peace testimony followed by artistic group presentations. In Feb., the program was on the OVYM vision survey and in May, the program was on the State of Meeting reports with each small

group considering 2 State of the Meeting Reports from the 10 meetings in the Quarter. These groups then came back and reported their insights.

Our main business this year to report is our welcomed addition of Englewood Monthly Meeting to our body. We ask our Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting body to welcome these new Friends into our midst. We have already found their company and fellowship to be richly rewarding.

We have also struggled with how to respond to the ongoing conflicts present particularly in Indiana Yearly Meeting but are also present to some degree in Western YM and Wilmington YM. We hold all these Friends in the Light, and will continue to find ways to respond to the call of the Spirit.

Ben Griffith reporting as Oct 2011 clerk, Stephen Angell and Richard Mitchell have also acted as Presiding Clerk of the Quarter in February and May respectively.

Executive Committee Report

Executive Committee has had a really busy year focusing on where the Yearly Meeting has been and discerning where God's spirit is leading us to go. We have threshed and seasoned and discerned who we are as a Yearly Meeting. What should we be about as a Yearly Meeting? We have looked to the structure and have moved in the direction of combining some committees and re-naming others as well. We have wrestled with issues of how to deal with the pain we have seen within and outside of our Yearly Meeting and those Yearly Meetings close geographically to us even as their theology and structure vary widely from our own. In response to a number of discussions at Executive Meeting, we will open ourselves to threshing in this session how OVYM might respond. Certainly a number of monthly meetings and Miami Quarterly have been considering ways to reach out in Love. Is it appropriate to reach out to our sister Yearly Meetings with anything more than voicing our love and concern? Friends are encouraged to study the June/July issue of the Friends Journal for more information and understanding.. We have sent Friends abroad and have welcomed new Friends into our midst. We have visioned how to best serve and nurture our youth in ways that will create more space for them. We have asked how our Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly are serving us and how to see that God's spirit is working to its best in these places. Our Yearly Meeting is alive with issues and with concerns. Friends are actively working to make our corporate and individual witness alive with God's sense in our watchful waiting in our Meeting for Worship and in our meeting for work in the world.

Paul Kriese
Presiding Clerk
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
7th Month, 2012

Budget and Finance Committee Report

Budget and Finance Committee's General Fund projection for 2012-13 expenses is \$83,690, a 0.38% increase from last year. Last year's suggested proportional share per member was \$113.54. This year, with a slightly larger budget and a few less members the number is about \$114.17. However, the last few years' expenses were less than our projections and income, so the balance in the OVYM General Fund has been growing. Therefore, we recommend using \$110 per meeting member next year (more than a 3% reduction). For detailed information about our income and expenses please see the spreadsheet charts submitted by the treasurer. The proposed budget is the right-most column. Table 8 is a summary of our General Fund which is the majority component of our finances.

As can be seen in Table 8, we are once again proposing a General Fund budget that has a deficit. The number listed is over \$8,000. Based on historical giving of some of the Meetings that did not respond to our request to a pledge of support next year, the proposed deficit is more likely \$10,000. In most recent years our projected shortfall has not materialized, due to less than budgeted expenses. Although we try to predict the next fiscal year with this budget, at the same time we want to encourage committees to stay active. We do this by leaving their budgets unchanged, even if the money has not been used in the past. So the budget has parts where we try to predict and other areas where we try to encourage. We are currently carrying enough reserves to cover any temporary shortfall, should we end the year with a deficit.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

Treasurer's Report

We started fiscal year 2011-12 with a projected General Fund deficit of about \$5000. We ended the year with about \$6,000 less real expenses than predicted. We finished this fiscal year with a surplus of \$2000.

In the following charts, the third to last column is last year's 2011-2012 budget. This can be compared against the second to last column, which shows the actual income and expenses for fiscal year 2011-12. The last column is the Finance and Budget Committee's proposed 2012-13 budget. (Note: Table 21 is intentionally out of order to save the report from taking another page.) Table 1 shows all of the funds related to the Yearly Meeting. Tables 2 through 6 are the details of the income and expenses for those funds. Table 8 is a summary of the General Fund, our main account. The rest of the Tables are details related to the General Fund.

The Friends Property Committee was laid down in fiscal year 2011-12. After subtracting expenses to our legal agent for the State of Ohio, \$1,361.84 was donated to the Quaker Heights Care Community. William Penn House was added to our list of donations. Finance and Budget Committee directed me to give them \$200 annually. It seems this action was approved by the Yearly Meeting sometime in the past, but never implemented.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer, Treasurer, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End						
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	2,516.00	3,516.00	3,516.00	4,516.00	175.67	1,175.67
Benevolent Fund (Table 3)	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00
Peace Witness Fnd (Table 4)	2,600.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Capital Fund (Table 5)	5,591.24	5,718.00	5,605.76	5,630.76	5,626.53	5,651.53
Faith & Practice (Table 6)	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00
Friends Property Corp.	1,436.84		1,436.84		-	
General Fund (Table 8)	42,101.63	31,319.00	50,422.16	31,543.63	52,422.39	42,133.39
Total	61,545.71	50,853.00	71,280.76	52,490.39	69,024.59	60,260.59

Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund						
Starting Balance	1,516.00	2,516.00	2,516.00	3,516.00	3,516.00	175.67
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Kenya '12)					4,340.33	
Ending Balance	2,516.00	3,516.00	3,516.00	4,516.00	175.67	1,175.67

Table 3. Benevolent Fund						
Starting Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00
Income	57.38	100.00	17.59	25.00	15.07	25.00
Disbursements to QMs	57.38	100.00	17.59	25.00	15.07	25.00
Ending Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,800.00

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund						
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,600.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Donate - Peace Tax Fund		100.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ending Balance	2,600.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00

Table 5. Capital Fund						
Starting Balance	5,518.00	5,618.00	5,591.24	5,605.76	5,605.76	5,626.53
Income	73.24	100.00	14.52	25.00	20.77	25.00
Distribution						
Ending Balance	5,591.24	5,718.00	5,605.76	5,630.76	5,626.53	5,651.53

Table 6. Faith and Practice Printing Fund						
Starting Balance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
Transfer from General Fund		500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Distribution						
Ending Balance	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
Table 8. General Fund Summary						
INCOME						
Meeting Contrib. (Table 9)	77,849.02	76,303.00	76,367.28	74,232.00	74,030.64	70,001.00
Interest		100.00				
Other Income	3.00		601.31		10.00	
Contributions to OVYM	335.09	200.00	964.06	200.00	672.60	200.00
Donated Travel Costs	1250.32	3,500.00	6,121.26	5,000.00	2850.08	4,000.00
Sales of Disciplines						
Total Income	79,437.61	80,103.00	84,053.91	79,432.00	77,563.32	74,201.00
EXPENSES						
Operating Exp. (Table 10)	27,428.60	32,040.00	27,818.85	30,640.00	25,320.94	30,940.00
Committee Exp. (Table 15)	4,692.35	9,800.00	8,046.39	10,500.00	9,931.71	10,500.00
Rep. Travel (Table 21)	4,074.66	8,500.00	6,275.13	7,250.00	4,852.77	7,000.00
Y M Session (Table 22)	14,125.06	14,513.00	13,143.01	14,350.00	13,807.87	14,350.00
Xfer to FWCC Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Xfer to F&P Printing Fund		500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Donations (Table 23)	19,350.00	19,350.00	18,950.00	20,150.00	20,150.00	20,650.00
Total Expenses	70,670.67	85,703.00	75,733.38	84,390.00	75,578.09	84,490.00
Net Gen. Fund Gain (Loss)	8,766.94	(5,600.00)	8,320.53	(4,958.00)	2,000.23	(10,289)

Table 9. Meeting Contributions						
Bloomington	6,967.50	5,624.00	5,624.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00
Campus	1,611.50	1,810.00	1,810.00	1,817.00	1,819.00	1,760.00
Clear Creek	12,150.00	11,539.00	11,907.40	10,900.00	12,331.50	10,560.00
Community	7,950.00	8,484.00	8,484.00	8,856.00	8,862.00	8,470.00
Dayton	1,590.00	1,703.00	1,703.00	1,477.00	1,477.00	1,430.00
Eastern Hills	2,350.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,214.00	2,200.00	2,090.00
Englewood						
Fall Creek	686.00	300.00	487.00	300.00	675.00	1,320.00
Fort Wayne		450.00	450.00	454.00	454.00	550.00
Green Plain	450.00	450.00	300.00	450.00	250.00	300.00
Hopewell	600.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	1210.00
Lafayette	1,688.00	2,000.00	1,817.00	1,817.00	1,760.00	1,760.00
Lexington	6,082.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,655.00	4,655.14	4,400.00
Louisville	9,100.00	9,050.00	9,050.00	9,083.00	10,000.00	8,800.00
Maple Grove	-	-		-		-
Miami	6,000.00	6,109.00	5,400.00	6,131.00	4,769.00	4,681.00
North Meadow	4,274.20	4,299.00	4,299.00	4,315.00	4,330.00	4,070.00
Oxford	1,725.00	1,584.00	1,584.00	1,249.00	1,250.00	1,400.00
White Rose	500.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,362.00	500.00	1,320.00
Yellow Springs	14,125.00	13,801.00	13,851.88	13,852.00	13,398.00	11,880.00
TOTAL Meeting Contrib	77,849.20	76,303.00	76,367.28	74,232.00	74,030.64	70,001.00

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
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Table 10. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 11)	1,281.00	2,550.00	2,007.47	2,100.00	1,351.64	2,400.00
Clerical support (Table 12)	183.00	800.00	263.94	650.00	160.66	650.00
Staff (Table 13)	21,332.00	22,940.00	22,379.54	22,940.00	22,179.72	22,940.00
Publications (Table 14)	4,032.60	5,450.00	2,867.90	4,650.00	1,328.92	4,650.00
Archives	600.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total	27,428.60	32,040.00	27,818.85	30,640.00	25,320.94	30,940.00

Table 11. Administration

Bank Charges	22.00	50.00		50.00		50.00
Liability Insurance	969.00	1,000.00	958.00	1,000.00	904.83	1,000.00
Background Checks	72.00	300.00	36.00	150.00	54.00	150.00
Clerks' Expenses	115.00	800.00	668.68	500.00		800.00
Treasurer's Expenses	103.00	400.00	344.79	400.00	392.81	400.00
Total	1,281.00	2,550.00	2,007.47	2,100.00	1,351.64	2,400.00

Table 12. Clerical Support

Office Expenses	139.00	700.00	159.99	500.00	38.33	500.00
Postage	44.00		65.91	80.00	78.27	80.00
Copying		100.00	38.04	70.00	44.06	70.00
Total	183.00	800.00	263.94	650.00	160.66	650.00

Table 13. Staff

Compensation	19,370.00	21,000.00	20,519.64	21,000.00	20,519.64	21,000.00
Tax	633.00					
Workers Comp	314.00	360.00	325.75	360.00	333.33	360.00
Cell Phone	395.00	480.00	408.02	480.00	396.00	480.00
Internet Access	385.00	400.00	400.75	400.00	420.00	400.00
Travel	175.00	200.00	725.38	500.00	510.75	500.00
Professional Development	60.00	500.00		200.00		200.00
Total	21,332.00	22,940.00	22,379.54	22,940.00	22,179.72	22,940.00

Table 14. Publications

Quill	2,421.76	3,300.00	909.23	2,500.00		2,500.00
Minute Books and RIA	986.84	1,650.00	1,512.85	1,650.00	1,021.84	1,650.00
Directory	624.00	500.00	445.82	500.00	307.08	500.00
Total	4,032.60	5,450.00	2,867.90	4,650.00	1,328.92	4,650.00

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
Table 15. Committee Expense						
Relg. Nurt. & Ed. (Table 16)	-	400.00	276.47	400.00		400.00
Middle Youth (Table 17)	106.00	600.00	166.00	600.00		600.00
Peace & S C (Table 18)		600.00	35.32	550.00	122.57	550.00
Religious Ed (Table 19)	235.00	200.00		200.00	119.37	
Teen Program (Table 20)	3,350.72	5,800.00	4,683.81	5,800.00	8,081.53	6,300.00
Joint QM Child. Program		200.00	166.00	200.00		200.00
Travel - Donated	492.66	1,000.00	2,024.14	1,750.00	857.21	1,000.00
Travel - Reimbursed	507.97	1,000.00	694.65	1,000.00	751.03	1,000.00
Total Expenses	4,692.35	9,800.00	8,046.39	10,500.00	9,931.71	10,050.00

Table 16. Religious Nurture & Education Committee						
Books for members		50.00		50.00		50.00
Pamphlets, copy and prntg		100.00	41.56	100.00		100.00
Postage & Photos						
Gatherings, Retreats, Honor.		150.00		150.00		150.00
Resource Materials		100.00	234.91	100.00		100.00
Total Expense	-	400.00	276.47	400.00		400.00

Table 17. Middle Youth Committee						
Joint Quarterly Gathering	106.00		41.00			
Winter Gathering						
Staff		400.00	125.00	400.00		400.00
Supplies		200.00		200.00		200.00
Total Expense	106.00	600.00	106.00	600.00		600.00

Table 18. Peace & Social Concerns						
Work Camps		120.00		120.00		120.00
Pre-YM Workshop		250.00		250.00		100.00
Postage		180.00	2.62	130.00	32.57	130.00
Materials			32.70		90.00	150.00
Display for YM Sessions		50.00		50.00		50.00
Total Expense		600.00	35.32	550.00	122.57	550.00

Table 19. Religious Education Committee						
Lending Library					69.37	
RE Newsletter						
Postage		50.00		50.00		
Fall & Spring Retreats	235.00	150.00		150.00	50.00	
Total Expense	235.00	200.00		200.00	119.37	

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
Table 20. Teen Program						
INCOME						
Contributions			477.00		1,215.00	
Fundraising		300.00	1,270.50	500.00	751.96	500.00
Participant Fees	40.00	1,200.00	1,550.00	1,200.00	4,310.00	1,700.00
Total Income	40.00	1,500.00	3,297.50	1,700.00	6,276.96	2,200.00
EXPENSE						
Publicity		100.00		100.00		100.00
Teen Events	769.00	1,700.00	664.98	1,400.00	545.40	1,400.00
Service Trips	2,590.00	5,500.00	6,714.08	6,000.00	13,482.63	7,000.00
Fundraise cost/use of funds	31.72		602.25		330.46	
Total Expense	3,390.72	7,300.00	7,981.31	7,500.00	14,358.49	8,500.00
Net Teen Program Cost	3,350.72	5,800.00	4,683.81	5,800.00	8,081.53	6,300.00

Table 22. Yearly Meeting Sessions						
INCOME						
Contributions	-	500.00	735.10	500.00	1,334.98	500.00
Registration	2,582.00	2,500.00	2,750.00	2,800.00	2,151.60	2,800.00
Room & Board Charges	13,760.00	13,700.00	11,998.00	12,500.00	11,468.50	12,500.00
Bookstore Income	2,415.00	2,000.00	1,312.12	1,400.00	1,520.68	1,400.00
Total Income	18,757.00	18,700.00	16,795.22	17,200.00	16,475.76	17,200.00
EXPENSES						
Administration	171.00	250.00	15.00	50.00	143.07	50.00
Adult Program	1,526.00	1,800.00	1,324.30	1,600.00	1,225.87	1,600.00
Young Adult Program						
Teen Program	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,538.29	1,400.00	1,313.13	1,400.00
Middle Youth Program	1,233.00	1,233.00	1,315.00	1,400.00	1,282.62	1,400.00
Children's Program	3,114.06	2,765.00	3,155.19	2,800.00	2,272.76	2,800.00
Adult Room & Board	12,808.00	13,000.00	12,148.41	13,000.00	11,909.30	13,000.00
Room & Board Subsidies						
Children, middle, teens	5,040.00	5,125.00	5,092.20	5,100.00	7,488.00	5,100.00
Staff	1,512.00	1,600.00	1,860.00	1,800.00	2,142.00	1,800.00
Guests	504.00	466.00	300.00	400.00	476.00	400.00
YAF attenders subsidy	1,420.00	1,420.00	997.40	1,200.00	521.60	1,200.00
First-time attenders subsidy	1,626.00	1,626.00	994.10	1,000.00	243.30	1,000.00
Simple Meal Donation	600.00	600.00	431.50	500.00	415.00	500.00
Bookstore Expenses	1,928.00	1,928.00	766.84	1,300.00	850.78	1,300.00
Total Expenses	32,882.06	33,213.00	29,938.23	31,550.00	30,283.43	31,550.00
Net Cost of Session	14,125.06	14,513.0	13,143.01	14,350.00	13,807.67	14,350.00

	2009-10 Actual	2010-11 Budget	2010-11 Actual	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actual	2012-13 Budget
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Table 21. Representative Travel

Normal (\$250 per trip)	1,325.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,200.00	2,500.00
Additional Reimbursement	1,242.00	2,000.00	705.25	1,500.00	659.90	1,500.00
Coopted Representatives	750.00	1,000.00				
Donated Travel	757.66	2,500.00	3,569.88	3,250.00	1,992.87	3,000.00
Total Expenses	4,074.66	8,500.00	6,275.13	7,250.00	4,852.77	7,000.00

Table 23. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries						
Quaker Heights Home	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Friends Music Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,700.00
Lauramoore Home	400.00	400.00				-
Subtotal	3,400.00	3,400.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,700.00
Quaker Organizations						
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00
FCNL	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,000.00
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Quaker UN Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Subtotal	12,750.00	12,750.00	12,750.00	13,250.00	13,250.00	12,750.00
Quaker Ed. and Outreach						
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Peace and Social Concerns						
FLGBTQC (Lesbian/Gay)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
William Penn House				200.00	200.00	1000.00
IN Fr. Com. On Legislation	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Right Sharing of World Res.	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Subtotal	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	3,000.00
Total Contributions	19,350.00	19,350.00	18,950.00	20,150.00	20,150.00	20,650.00

Statistical Report

Twelfth Month 31, 2011

Miami Quarter

Monthly Meeting:	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
MEMBERSHIP											
12/31/10	32	78	20	39	11	41	80	54	11	118	484
Correction by addition										2	2
Births/Adoptions											0
Request of parents											0
Convincement Children accepted as adults		1								2	3
Transfers to											0
TOTAL GAIN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Correction by subtraction											0
Deaths	1									2	3
Removal by request Children becoming adults										8	8
Transfers from	1	2				1					4
Loss of contact										4	4
TOTAL LOSSES	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	19
Net gain or loss	-2	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-10	-14
MEMBERSHIP											
12/31/11	30	77	20	39	11	40	80	54	11	108	470
Resident members over 18	20	47	11	21	4	31	62	21	9	52	278
Resident members under 19	0	13	0	4	0	2	3	7	0	10	39
Non-resident members over 18	11	15	9	14	7	7	15	23	2	36	139
Non-resident members under 19	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	15
Regular attenders over 18	4	26	6	2	0	69	9	14	4	15	149
Regular attenders under 19	0	7	3	2	0	27	7	3	4	5	58
United Meetings	*			*							
Budget members	15	77	20	19.5	11	40	80	54	11	108	435.5
Worship attendance	10	40	11	14	0	31	27	14	7	30	184
Non-member attendance	2	18	4	3	0	16	15	5	2	12	77
First Day School	0	9	2	3	0	7	12	6	2	4	45
Friends in school/college	0	3	4	1	0	2	4	7	0	11	32

Whitewater Quarter and OVYM

	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	MG	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
Monthly Meeting: MEMBERSHIP 12/31/10	74	96	13	8	11	16		38	12	268	752	764
Correction by addition										0	2	0
Births/Adoptions										0	0	0
Request of parents										0	0	1
Convincement Children accepted as adults	1									1	4	6
Transfers to										0	0	4
TOTAL GAIN	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	12
Correction by subtraction										0	0	0
Deaths	2							1		3	6	3
Removal by request Children becoming adults										0	8	4
Transfers from										0	4	6
Loss of contact										0	4	4
TOTAL LOSSES	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	22	18
Net gain or loss	-1	0	0	0	0	0		-1	0	-2	-16	-6
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/11	73	96	13	8	11	16	0	37	12	266	736	758
Resident members over 18	57	27	12	7	11	7	0	33	7	161	439	445
Resident members under 19	3	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	10	49	54
Non-resident members over 18	9	66	0	0	0	7	0	4	5	91	230	236
Non-resident members under 19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	19	20
Regular attenders over 18	48	12	0	0	0	9	0	24	0	93	242	243
Regular attenders under 19	22	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	29	87	74
United Meetings					*					1	3	3
Budget members	73	96	13	4	11	16	0	37	12	262	697.5	718.5
Worship attendance	53	28	12	6	7	13	0	16.7	2	137.7	323.7	336.7
Non-member attendance	28	8	17	0	0	5	0	6	0	64	141	143
First Day School Friends in school/college	14	3	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	24	69	70
	5	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	13	45	44

Youth Secretary Report

I write this as the Teen Committee, Teen Group and I put the final details in order for the teens' annual summer service trip, which has become a highlight of the group's year. Nineteen teens are signed up for this year's trip, which is to Washington, D.C., where we will work with the William Penn House Quaker workcamp program in a variety of urban service experiences. We also will visit the offices of Friends Committee on National Legislation and engage in some lobbying on Capitol Hill. We have other exciting plans as well and look forward to sharing more about our adventures during annual sessions.

Working with the Penn House and connecting with FCNL this summer both continue a thread that has run through our whole year – one of uniting with Quakers of different ages, yearly meetings, and affiliations.

Within OVYM, the Teen Group came together in October with the Middle Youth Group (after separate overnights) to visit the Dayton International Peace Museum. In May, the two groups had a joint overnight in Yellow Springs that included presenting an evening coffee house as a fundraiser for the service trip program.

Our Teen Group also is forging satisfying and fruitful connections with other yearly meetings. The annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest, held Martin Luther King Jr. weekend at Evanston Friends Meeting, just north of Chicago, has become popular with a core group of our teens who have come to see the weekend as mini, mid-year FGC Teen Gathering. Six of our teens went this year, which counted a record participation number of 36 teens all told, representing Illinois Yearly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, and OVYM.

We continued to develop an especially strong connection with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting with a joint retreat in March at Earlham. Our teens enjoyed the chance to experience the campus while classes were in session; and LEYM, which is currently small in number, enjoyed having a relatively large turnout. We also spent time that weekend with West Richmond Friends, attending a Friday night coffee house at the church with their youth group and then attending the church's First-day Worship service. Members of their youth group also participated in a workshop on discernment presented to us by Earlham's Quaker Fellows program leaders. We have deep feeling for West Richmond Friends, not only for their struggles and the pain they have experienced, but also because the family of two of our beloved Teen Group participants are members of West Richmond Friends. Their struggle is our struggle, their pain our pain, their joy our joy.

Turning to the wider Quaker world, our teens have been active this year. As of mid-June, at least five were set to attend the FGC Gathering in Rhode Island, immediately after our service trip. In April, Rachel Logan-Wood, of Community Friends in Cincinnati, went to Washington, D.C., as a finalist in the American Friends Service Committee's "If I Had a Trillion Dollars" youth video contest. What's more, two from our group -- Jonathan

Birkel, of Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, and Kaitlyn Funck, of Community Friends in Cincinnati -- are currently on the Friends World Committee for Consultation's biennial Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. This year's trip to the Netherlands and the UK had only 14 slots for youth from both North and South America, along with 14 from Europe and the Middle East. Having two youth representing OVYM is very special.

The readiness with which our teens seek out and make wider Quaker connections reflects well, I think, on the connectedness they feel to their home meetings and OVYM. Living the Quaker values they have learned through your teaching, and even more important, your example and love, is of deep importance to them. There is no doubt that they have been paying close attention.

Teen Committee Report

The teen committee meets regularly to support the work of the teens and the teen secretary. At least 24 teens have participated in activities this year, including Yearly Meeting sessions, weekend retreats and the annual service trip. Our teen clerks for the year were Adam Togami and Lucy Grace Kokenge, who participate in meetings of the committee when able. Adam will be going on to college this fall, and we thank him for his leadership over the past few years. Other teens serve on nurture committees, formed at Yearly Meeting and on the service trip, to care for the community. We are also thankful for a talented pool of adults who join the teens as Friendly Adult Presences. We continue to try to find ways for the teens take on more of the responsibility for their own program between events, such as holding regularly scheduled planning conference call, although the busy lives of our teens makes this difficult. We also continue to have low attendance at our retreats during the school year, as compared to the summer program, and had to cancel our February retreat. Retreats were held in October, November and May.

The highlight of the program is the annual summer service trip. As this report is written, we are in the last week of planning for 19 teens and several adults to travel to Washington DC. We will work with Washington Quaker Workcamps, a program of William Penn House stressing the spiritual roots of service. The teens will be serving the homeless, doing cleanup along the Anacostia River, and lobbying, including meeting with Representative John Lewis of Georgia. They will also have some time for sightseeing and attending the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival. This is a significantly more expensive trip than in past years. We are able to manage the programming fee by drawing on volunteer FAPs. We were not able to find a meeting inside the city with space to accommodate us, and considered camping in the suburbs to save costs. Ultimately, we decided that staying in the city was important to the experience, and found low cost accommodations at the National City Church (Disciples of Christ) bunkhouse. The added expenses called for more rigorous fundraising. Thanks to the generosity of the meetings and individuals who responded to our fundraising letter, bought hoodies, and

attended the coffee house at Miami Quarter, we will be able to stay within our annual budget and may have some to carry over to future trips.

After the Alaska trip, the committee decided to plan a more extensive service trip every 5 years, with the possibility of a trip to the developing world. Given the large financial investment in the Washington trip, we decided to wait until 2015 for an international trip. We have asked the treasurer to set up a fund so that we can carry over fundraising income if it is not needed to meet our budget for a particular year.

We have several teens graduating, with some attending Quaker colleges, but there are also several moving up from the Middle Youth, so we expect our numbers to continue to be high in the coming year. We are happy to see our teens involved in wider Friends activities such as the biannual Quaker Youth Pilgrimage this summer, Friends General Conference and the annual Quake that rocked the Midwest. This interest is, in part, the fruit of the Yearly Meeting's support of the Alaskan exchange, which piqued interest in FGC among our teens. We appreciate the extensive commitment that this Yearly Meeting makes to its teens.

The teens would like to hold a fundraising concert this spring, so look for that information. We hope to record the concert and make a DVD to sell, including a video the teens made last fall for an AFSC contest.

Nikki Coffey Tousley
Teen Committee

Clerical Support Report

I have been doing this job for 5 years so I understand the basics. The Yearly Meeting does not run like clockwork, but it runs on the love and service of many Friends who give of themselves to support our combined spiritual and outreach efforts. I am blessed to get paid to help those efforts on a part time basis. Sometimes Friends are confused about my role: I am a full time Friend and a part time contract employee. Thanks to everyone for their prayers, suggestions, appreciations, and reminders in my role of clerical support staff. I think there might be a better title for this position so stay tuned. May the Spirit continue to move and guide us.

Deborah Jordan

Faith and Practice Committee

Report in Advance

June 2012

Committee Members Paul Buckley, Lisa Cayard, Mary Garman, Betsy Neale (co-clerk), Wilson Palmer, Rex Sprouse (co-clerk).

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2011-2012 In February 2012 the Executive Committee approved the request of the Discipline Revision Committee to change its name to the Faith and Practice Committee. Committee members feel that this change is consistent with the name of the revised book we are developing, and the name Faith and Practice is better known among many Friends for our book of discipline.

The Executive Committee also approved the following charge for our committee:

The purpose of the Faith and Practice Committee is to review and, as needed, prepare draft revisions to the OVYM *Faith and Practice* and present these to the yearly meeting for action.

Over the course of the year, the committee held three day-long meetings. In the fall the committee distributed *Close Relationships* (Part II), Draft 3, to monthly meetings for their review and comments. In the winter and spring we reviewed monthly meeting responses to this document and concluded that we could include in Part II the material we had originally planned for a Part III.

Presentations at the 2012 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Sessions

Close Relationships, Part I: At the 2011 OVYM Sessions, Friends accepted *Close Relationships, Part I, draft 5*, for publication in the 2011 Minute Book and a year of seasoning. At our 2012 annual sessions Friends will be asked to approve *Close Relationships, Part I, Draft 5*, for inclusion in the OVYM book of *Faith and Practice*. The text of this document appears below.

Close Relationships, Part II: The Faith and Practice Committee presents *Close Relationships, Part II, Draft 4*, for threshing. The text of this document also appears below. [Editor's Note: Draft 4 below has been replaced with Draft 5 – see minute 44.]

We remind Friends that once both Part I and Part II of the section on *Close Relationships* have been approved by Friends, the terms Part I and Part II will be removed, and the text will be joined into one document. The committee divided the text into parts to make working documents of manageable sizes.

In closing We thank Friends for their participation in the work of Faith and Practice revision this past year. We look forward to a productive year in 2012-2013. Monthly meetings can again expect assignments, one for their consideration between October 2012 and January 2013 and another for their consideration between February and April 2013.

The Book of Faith and Practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Close Relationships (Part I)

5th Draft

Seventh Month 30, 2011

See these Quakers, how they love one another.

(Edward Hicks, 1851)

Introduction

The fundamental faith of the Religious Society of Friends should be visible in our daily lives. Faithful Friends seek to practice Divine love in close relationships with our community of family, friends, and the children under our care. As we experience God's love, we grow in love for God and our fellow human beings. We are called upon to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness in our lives with one another (Colossians 3:12-13). Both individuals and monthly meetings have a responsibility to support and nurture spiritually edifying close relationships built on this foundation.

Friendship

Deep friendships strengthen us spiritually. They encourage, stretch, challenge, and sustain us. In friendship we respect one another, protect one another's reputation, and honor confidentiality. Good friends minister to one another by listening with an open heart and mind and speaking truth with love. Through our experience of friendships across genders, sexualities, classes, generations, faith traditions, races, and ethnicities we move toward establishing the Kingdom of God on earth.

Since the earliest days of our Religious Society, Quakers have been encouraged to know one another in those things that are eternal. Spiritually uplifting friendships require faithfulness to the leadings of the Spirit, not necessarily agreement on every point of faith and practice.

Sexuality

Sexuality is a gift from God, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It is a powerful force that can transform life in ways both positive and negative. Mutual love and respect, honesty, and commitment are essential ingredients of a rightly ordered relationship.

Deep respect for that of God in each person requires that our relationships be free of exploitation and abuse as well as subtle manipulation. Abuse of sexuality can have serious, long-term, emotional, physical, and spiritual consequences. Sexuality education for both children and adults should use the best scientific information available. Furthermore, because sexuality can be one of the ways we participate in the love of God, a true understanding of sexuality must also include the spiritual dimension.

Marriage and other steadfast commitments

Our meetings are enlivened and challenged by marriages and other steadfast commitments. Such commitments build spiritual bonds that make themselves felt not only in the home and in the meeting but also in the world. As relationships develop, the partners ideally find richness in sharing on all levels of being: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual.

Some committed partners request marriage under the care of the meeting. [An affirmation of marriage equality for same-sex couples is to be found on pp. xx in this volume in the context of the sub-section on the Testimony of Equality.] Following a discernment process, marriage is solemnized in a Meeting for Worship, the partners promising with Divine assistance to be faithful to each other. We believe that God alone can rightly join partners in marriage, and neither a religious nor a secular official is required to accomplish this. When a Quaker Meeting takes a marriage under its care, it witnesses the marriage and makes a serious commitment to support and strengthen that marriage. [The recommendations for the wedding procedure are to be found on pp. xx in this volume.]

It is the conviction of Friends that marriage is a covenant for life. A lifelong commitment can sustain a marriage through very trying times, forging a deeper and more spiritually mature relationship. Implicit in the marriage promise is the realization that problems and conflicts will arise and that both partners are committed to making sincere efforts with Divine guidance to resolve them. This is not an easy task but a high calling toward which we should strive.

Close Relationships (Part II)

5th Draft

8th Month 11, 2012

Supporting marriages and other steadfast commitments

Meetings have a responsibility to lift up the importance of love, trust, and mutual respect in marriage and other steadfast relationships. As time passes and individuals change, relationships will also change. These changes offer opportunities for spiritual growth and for the deepening of the relationship. Meetings can nurture this process in a

variety of ways. This support might range from home visitations, to celebrations of anniversaries, to holding workshops and retreats, to referring couples to resources offered by wider Quaker bodies.

If particular needs or difficulties arise, Friends are advised to hold the couple in prayer and to offer gentle encouragement. It is our experience that a confidential clearness committee offered by the meeting can assist a couple (or an individual) in seeking God's guidance in the relationship. Meetings should be aware of their limitations and be prepared to refer couples to specialized resources beyond the meeting.

Sharing a home

Friends recognize that shared homes include a variety of possible relationships, such as single-parent, two-parent, blended, and multi-generational households, as well as adults living without children. We rejoice and are nourished in homes full of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where the Light can be felt by those who live there and by all who visit. Such homes reflect caring, trust, and commitment in an atmosphere of good humor and play. The efforts of making a home should be shared with tender regard for the needs and abilities of all members and with appreciation for their unique contributions, recognizing that needs and abilities grow and diminish over the course of each person's life. In the home our beliefs and practices are tested on a daily basis, and conflicts within families are inevitable. Learning ways to resolve them through openness, honesty, and mutual respect helps strengthen our relationships. Friends are reminded that the guidance of the Light Within is at all times available to lead us into greater love.

Special needs and long-term illness

Special needs and long-term illnesses can arise at any time in a person's life and may entail physical, cognitive, social, or psychological challenges. Caring for a child, adult, or aging family member with special needs or a long-term illness can bring unanticipated blessings, but it can also exhaust and isolate the caregiver and can put strain on relationships within the household. Realizing that families may be reluctant to ask for help, Friends should reach out with sensitivity to offer support and nurture to each family in a way appropriate to its unique needs.

Addiction in a home

Addiction to alcohol and other substances poses unique challenges that can seriously undermine the health of a household. Friends are encouraged to inform themselves about addictive behavior in order to provide appropriate types of support to addicts and their loved ones. Addiction requires professional treatment, and support of an addict requires support for treatment. Even with the best of intentions, providing shelter and sustenance can merely perpetuate the addiction. Meetings should support members who are undertaking the difficult actions required to make recovery possible for members of their households.

Divorce

Friends are cautioned against divorce or separation except under extreme circumstances. Escape from domestic unhappiness through the all too common practice of divorce repudiates an agreement entered into for life, and gives countenance and support to a usage demoralizing to home life. Friends should rather strive, through frequent communication on a deep and honest level, to reconcile differences when they arise. Even when anger and resentment arise, these feelings may be dealt with in constructive ways which contribute to self-knowledge and improved interpersonal relationships.

Although Friends may make every effort to reconcile differences, there are times when close relationships end. Meetings can play a constructive role in these transitions by extending compassionate care to all those involved and responding to that of God in each person. Friends should recognize that children in these situations may be especially in need of the meeting's love and care.

Abuse in a home

The exercise of inappropriate power in close relationships can result in physical, psychological, or sexual abuse. In the face of the social isolation often associated with an abusive home, those victimized may feel alone and desperate. Meetings are advised to educate themselves about domestic abuse and to become particularly sensitive to signs of such situations and to be bold in offering assistance. Meetings are encouraged to create communities of trust in which those who are being abused can seek the support of the meeting.

Nurturing children

To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us.

(John Woolman, 1758)

Our children are given to us for a time to cherish, to protect, to nurture, and then to salute as they go their separate ways. They too have the light of God within, and a family should be a learning community in which children not only learn skills and values from parents, but in which adults learn new ways of experiencing things and seeing things through young eyes. From their birth on, let us cultivate the habit of dialogue and receptive listening. We should respect their right to grow into their own wholeness, not just the wholeness we may wish for them.

(Elizabeth Watson, 1980)

Every child deserves physical, intellectual, and spiritual nurture. To this end, parents and other adult caregivers must establish themselves as loving and reliable sources of guidance. Caring for children is a life-transforming responsibility, bringing joys, challenges, and experiences of personal and spiritual growth for adult and child. Through good example and consistent teaching, we can counteract many of the negative influences children inevitably encounter. Children are greatly influenced by parents who lead faithful lives, discerning and following the Light Within. Our inward faith is made manifest through practicing simplicity, honesty, nonviolence, service, and love.

To guide our youth toward a life of fulfillment and service, it is essential that Quakers teach their children about creative responses to conflict, the consequences of violent behavior, discernment in sexual activity, the dangers of addiction, and the importance of living in harmony with creation. At the same time, parents and other caregivers should not impose on their children their full range of expectations but rather should have a deep appreciation of who their children are in their own right and support the unfolding of each child's unique gifts. We believe that by nurturing the development of self-worth, self-confidence, and self-discipline, we help children to grow into responsible and compassionate adults. Parents and other caregivers should teach their children about the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends, and meetings should support children's participation in Quaker youth events and activities. The habit of quiet waiting upon God, both in meeting for worship and in regular family devotion, tends to strengthen and develop the spiritual life of a child.

Preparation for Death

An awareness of our mortality may help us to find life richer in the present, to cope better with the deaths of those we love, and to accept death with dignity for ourselves. Friends are encouraged to talk openly about death and its meaning for our spiritual lives. Many find that as they face impending death, they are drawn to invite their loved ones into exceptionally frank and open conversations, often leading to emotional healing and forgiveness.

Meetings are encouraged to provide practical education about preparations for death. We can ease the impact of our death on those we love by making certain preparations. Each adult Friend is encouraged to consider making advanced directives, to make a will, and to express preferences regarding organ donations, the disposal of the body, and a memorial meeting. Meetings may wish to keep copies of these documents on file and be prepared to contact relatives in the case of a member's death or other emergency.

Bereavement

Not even the most careful preparation can alleviate the natural sorrow and grief felt by surviving loved ones. Grieving family and friends will welcome the strength provided by the spiritual, emotional, and practical support of the wider family of Friends. Meetings are advised to recognize that not everyone grieves the death of a loved one in

the same way, and Friends are advised to be sensitive to the unique feelings and needs of each grieving person. Friends may be called upon to be compassionate listeners and to help those grieving appreciate how much the gifts of their loved one enriched the lives of others. Friends are advised to be sensitive to grieving survivors during potentially tender times of the year or on particularly tender occasions. All can find support and joy in continuing to celebrate the life of the deceased person while acknowledging his or her death.

Middle Youth Committee Report

“To watch the spirit of children, to nurture them in Gospel Love, and labour to help them against that which would mar the beauty of their minds, is a debt we owe them; and a faithful performance of our duty not only tends to their lasting benefit and our own peace, but also to render their company agreeable to us. A care hath lived in my mind, that more time might be employed ... in weightily attending to the spirit and inclinations of children, and that we may so lead, instruct and govern them, in this tender part of life, that nothing may be omitted in our power, to help them on their way to become the children of our Father who art in heaven.”

John Woolman, 1758

“All Friends need to be mentors to the children in their meeting.” (Baltimore YM Advices)

How fares Spirit in the Middle Youth Committee, and through the middle youth who have gathered with us, during the last year?

The Spirit has moved in surprising ways when the middle youth have met in community and fellowship. However, OVYM’s Middle Youth gathered as a group infrequently this year: at last summer’s yearly meeting sessions at Earlham (July 2011) and again and at our fall retreat (at Englewood Friends for the Miami Quarterly session at Dayton October 2011). In addition, two middle youth, including a rising teen, joined with the teens in May 2011 at Yellow Springs for an overnight during Miami Quarterly. During annual sessions, staff are paid to provide programming at middle youth events, and for this essential financial support the committee is most grateful; this investment is excellent. Providing intentional, thoughtful content to our middle youth is a job that is best done by inspired, creative people who deserve to have those exceptional skills recognized by the small compensation we are able to give them.

Over the past several years, the committee’s goal has been to provide a welcoming and intentional space for development of spiritual identity during the “between” period when the youth have outgrown the children’s program but are not yet teens. Given the youth’s high energy, the physical activities that our paid staff shepherd middle youth participants through remain important. However, the committee actively keeps in mind the question:

“What makes this gathering of middle youth a Quaker gathering?” At yearly meeting sessions, visits from plenary speakers and guests from groups such as FCNL, AFSC, and Olney Friends school provide some explicit Quaker content. Practices such as mindfully creating space for middle youth time together and traditions including time with Worship Mentors immerse youth in a Quaker environment. Quaker practices of worship sharing, epistle writing, and doing business without imposing majority rule pushes back many cultural imperatives (regarding the strongest and most charismatic personalities winning sway, for example). Our middle typically youth experience and demonstrate acceptance--making “tolerance” an active embrace rather than a passive putting-up-with. Staff and the committee also strive to nurture individual gifts, for service or music-making, for example. And what are the result of these efforts? Every time the Middle Youth gather, they tell us they’d like to see each other more frequently, and we see the benefits of their increased contact with Quakers outside their own meeting.

Within the Committee itself, we bear witness to important and substantial evidence of Spirit’s guidance and movement when we are together. However, last year we appealed to the yearly meeting by urging people who appreciate the ministry middle youth provide us all to seriously consider joining the committee, contributing to the planning of Middle Youth gatherings, and supporting the committee’s work with prayer and oversight. In our last year’s appeal, we said with some urgency that new leadership needs to arise to meet those stated needs.

This year one committee member resigned and two new people stepped forward, but no one has a leading to take on the mantle of leadership. Planning has relied on last minute flurries of activity by overcommitted parents whose good rapport is enhanced by blessings of Spirit, which lend energy and wisdom just when we feel least able to meet the needs of our middle youth. We are discouraged that many insist they “just aren’t good with children” as if we were born with some magical abilities others do not possess. This in spite of assurances that paid staff who are called to work with children are an essential part of this committee’s work. Our experience has taught us that the ability to minister to Friends of a particular age is not confined to individual personalities, but is instead a strength grown out of applying a willing spirit to the needs that make themselves apparent. Still, no one has stepped forward to lead the Middle Youth after the 2012 annual sessions.

We see that it has become a custom in OVYM to depend on leadership for the youth committees to come from parents with youth in the program. Only one of the current committee is now in that position. Others who have served for a number of years (and several who are carrying multiple Yearly Meeting responsibilities) are experiencing fatigue and are unable to continue to provide the leadership they have in the past. We note that serving the community in this capacity is seen by some as unduly taxing. Some yearly meetings meet this need by providing paid staff to ensure continuity in the youth programming they provide. We understand that at this point OVYM is not able to make that financial commitment.

We believe one sign of a healthy community is rotating leadership, but given that our pleas have not garnered replacement leaders, we reluctantly consider a drastic and unsatisfactory possibility: the Middle Youth Committee may need to be temporarily laid down. We find this disturbing. Surely the yearly meeting is better served by a thoughtful, engaged committee that discerns, grows and develops the middle youth program beyond the need of specific parents to find a place for their children. Unless new leaders step forward after prayerful reflection on the need for adults to organize a gathering in which those who are called to serve Middle Youth can do their work, then we must consider suspending the Middle Youth program for the annual sessions at Wilmington College in 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Koehler and Martha Viehmann

Website Report

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting by administering your website. During the past year, we have continued the practice of maintaining a 24-hour turn-around on requests for updates to the website. This has often resulted in multiple minor changes being posted in the same week. The dates of major updates are still shown by the date in the bottom right of each page, which we don't change for minor updates such as a single addition, correction, or deletion of something on a page or two.

Regular visitors will have noticed the complete rebuild of the website that took place just after last Thanksgiving. The rebuild includes more images, more information, and multiple ways to locate specific pages, such as the Quick Links menu and the Around Our Website section on the Home Page and the Site Map at the bottom of every page. We've added a Contact Us Page, which has been used by people on multiple occasions to contact us electronically. The About OVYM and About Quakers areas have been expanded and we've grouped the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings under the Community Pages. We've added a meeting page for Englewood Friends Meeting, who joined Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the past year. Finally, the Home Page contains two slide shows: one with images, the other with Friendly quotes.

Traffic on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website has more than doubled since last year for which the closing of the OVYM Blogspot may be partly responsible. For the 12 month period ending on May 31st, there were more than 8780 visits to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's website, which translates to more than 731 visitors per month or 24 visitors per day, compared with last year's daily average of just over 14. Visitors viewed an average of 3½ pages per visit, which is slightly higher than last year. Our most busy months were January (869 visitors) and April (879).

Lonny Burger

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

At the 2011 annual sessions, Peace and Social Concerns Committee initiated a letter writing table: a dozen Friends wrote letters to their Congressional representatives on issues of cutting the military budget or limiting the hydrofracking process for extracting natural gas. We look forward to attracting more people to the table this summer with a larger sign.

Matt Southworth from FCNL, a former Iraq vet, led an interest group to express his concerns on Afghanistan and find out what our concerns were. Several of us were especially concerned about the “Citizens United vs. FEC” Supreme Court decision which declared corporations to be people who can contribute undisclosed funds to political campaigns. These outside funders or Superpacs are expected to contribute seven times as much money to Republicans as to Democrats in the upcoming Fall election (four times as much was given to Republicans in 2010). Several nonprofit organizations are now spearheading a campaign for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court decision; lots of mayors and several state governments have now joined this campaign.

We showed two DVDs, *Life in Occupied Palestine* with Anna Baltzer, a Jewish Fullbright scholar, and another one about a women’s interfaith peace movement that helped to get rid of a hated dictator in Liberia. We also gave out a copy of *Life in Occupied Palestine* to each monthly meeting; our decision to do this was confirmed by our starting the OVYM showing with only half a dozen people but as people walked by they were so intrigued that we had about 15-20 people by the end of the DVD and all gave it good reviews. Both North Meadow Circle of Friends and Oxford Friends have reported that they have shown this enlightening DVD, full of the facts of Israel’s oppression of the Palestinian people presented in a gentle manner. I hope the rest of OVYM meetings have had or soon get a chance to watch it.

At this year’s sessions one of our members will be leading a workshop on Aging and we will have a pre-Yearly Meeting workshop on Friends Testimony on Equality and the Occupy Movement on Wed. July 25 from 10am until 2 or 3 pm with a pizza lunch provided. We also hope to offer one or more interest groups and DVD showings.

Our Earthcare Subcommittee became a full committee separate from our committee last year led by Bill Cahalan so that committee can now give a separate report.

-submitted by Jane Stowe

Earthcare Committee Report

At 2011 yearly meeting, we were approved as a full committee after forming in 2005 and functioning as a sub-committee of Peace and Social Concerns since 2006. As written in our mission statement, we are deeply troubled by the growing world-wide crisis in our human relationship with the Earth. We believe that seeking harmony with the creation, and the flourishing of all beings, is perhaps the central religious challenge of this century. We can't have peace on Earth without peace with Earth.

We have continued following the Quaker Earthcare Witness activities and have supported our member Ria Collee as yearly meeting representative to QEW. Ria will again have a table with QEW materials at yearly meeting.

Our primary area of concern continues to include supporting the growth of sustainable local food economies, but now also includes addressing the world water crisis and educating about and promoting the inspiring field of ecological design. Lifestyle and design change on a community level, as well as deep structural change in our growth-oriented economy and the corporate-dominated political system which promotes it, are both essential.

We will have educational materials at our table relevant to all three areas of focus, including a map locating our monthly meetings within the Central Ohio River Watershed, and materials illustrating technologies and designs to promote healthy watersheds. Additional ways we are attempting to educate and inspire ourselves and the rest of yearly meeting include outdoor worship-sharing, a workshop called "Re-imagining where you live: Gas fracking and tending the watershed commons", an Earthcare interest group, a showing of the film *Growthbusters*, and an article on Earthcare at Eastern Hills Meeting.

As economist Stewart Chase wrote prophetically in 1940, "We are creatures of the Earth, so are a part of all our prairies, mountains, rivers and clouds. Unless we feel this dependence we may know all the calculus and all the Talmud, but we have not learned the first lesson of living on this Earth."

Bill Cahalan (clerk)

Marcie Ankrom

Ria Collee

Dave Duvall

Jamie Fota

Janette Shetter

Friends Music Camp

Friends Music Camp looks forward to its 33rd summer session. Many committed staff members, and a large number of returning campers help to create the supportive community which happens each year at camp. Ten of the staff members are former FMC campers.

Musical activities include private lessons, ensembles large and small, and many recitals and concerts. All campers take part in chorus and musical theater. Each year on the third Saturday of our 4-week camp session, the camp performs a benefit concert in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Proceeds from the concert (well over \$3000 each year) have gone recently to support Glen Helen in Yellow Springs. Glen Helen operates school camps throughout the year, and teaches and practices ecology.

A new undertaking this past year: the New River Ensemble, made up of three long term Friends Music Camp teachers, made a tour in the New York City and Philadelphia area, playing concerts and recruiting for FMC in schools and Young Friends gatherings.

Two great grandchildren of former Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting stalwarts, Raymond and Sarah Braddock of Miami Monthly Meeting, will attend camp this summer.

Friends Music Camp is appreciative of the sponsorship of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, which chooses our Board of Directors, makes financial contributions to our scholarship fund, and helps spread the word about FMC. Thank you!

Submitted by Peg Champney

Quaker Heights Care Community

Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director

Eugenia Mills, Presiding Clerk, Board of Trustees

Quaker Heights Care Community has been busy carrying out its mission of care to the elderly and chronically ill. It is very nice when others notice how well we are carrying out our mission. The Ohio Department of Aging has ranked us one of the 25 best facilities in Ohio with regard to resident satisfaction in healthcare and in assisted living. Facilities that are above average are able to increase their level of government reimbursement. One hundred percent of Quaker Heights residents interviewed ranked their overall satisfaction positively, and 100% also said they would “recommend this facility to a family member or friend.” Our satisfaction scores exceeded the state average. Additionally, we received a 4 star rating from our excellent state survey (5 is the highest possible). We are very proud of the dedicated staff and the care they give to the residents at Quaker Heights Care Community.

Excellent care is being provided despite financial difficulties. In 2012, our income will be \$372,000.00 (17%) less due to cuts in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. This reduction in income has forced us to reduce expenses. This has been done by outsourcing three departments, laying off some of the management staff, and instituting a wage freeze for management. We were able to refinance our HUD loan, resulting in an annual savings of \$72,000.00. We have hired a development person to assist in raising needed funds. In 2011 we provided \$193,000.00 in charitable care.

We seek to provide for future needs by providing rehabilitation services (both inpatient and outpatient) on a much larger scale. We remodeled all rooms in one hall in hopes of attracting more short term rehabilitation residents. In the near future we hope to be able to build a rehabilitation wing. We also implemented fine dining (restaurant atmosphere which includes table cloths, china and ordering from a menu). This has been much appreciated by all residents.

Please tell your Meetings about the wonderful work that Quaker Heights is doing, and encourage them to consider Quaker Heights when their families and friends need help with elder care.

Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College Annual Report for 2011/2012

On March 29, over 100 members of Franklin County (Ohio) Church Women United visited the Quaker Heritage Center. They wanted to learn more about Quakers, Quakerism, Quaker history, and current Quaker activity. Fueled by their natural curiosity (and some well-timed chocolate!), the questions came like an avalanche. Are there still Quakers in Ohio? Do Quakers believe in the Bible? What version of the Bible do Quakers use? How did Quakers end up in Africa? Do Quakers vote? Why don't Quaker women wear bonnets anymore? How do you become a Quaker? We could have stayed in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse for hours! The conversation was fascinating. It is visits like this that energize me, that remind me how lucky Friends are to have a resource like the Quaker Heritage Center, and how lucky I am to have this fabulous job!

Since my last report (written in the Winter of 2010), we have hosted four different exhibits in the Quaker Heritage Center Gallery. *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, *Quaker Harmonies*, *Pete Seeger: A Life in Song*, *Transforming Lives: The Work of Friends Untied Meeting*, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, and *Bringing History to Life: The Lundy Family Collection* covered a broad spectrum of interests and topics, and came from a variety of sources. *New Harmonies* was a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian institution's Museum on Main Street program via the Ohio Humanities Council. *Pete Seeger* was researched and designed by volunteers at the Dayton International Peace Museum. *Lincoln* came to us from the National Constitution Center, the American Library Association, and the National Endowment for the

Humanities. *Transforming Lives* will continue to spread the message of the good work of Friends United Meeting as it is converted to a traveling exhibit available to meetings and other groups for display. Between the regional attention brought to the Center by the traveling exhibits, and the attention from the Quaker world brought to the Center by *Transforming Lives*, it has been a very busy year as we welcomed new visitors of all ages.

We are continuing that trend with our current exhibit, *Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan*, from the American Friends Service Committee. This powerful collection of oversize murals explores the war in Afghanistan from the civilian perspective, and has garnered critical acclaim from Wilmington College faculty, staff, and students, as well as visitors from the wider Wilmington community. Our next exhibit, *A Sky Full of Cranes*, promises to be visually appealing and emotionally moving as visitors to the Center learn about the ways that the people of Japan remember those affected by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

Another important part of our work is preserving the artifacts that are so important to the history of Friends in our region. This year we received a large collection of items from Nancy Lundy, whose Quaker roots go back seven generations in Clinton County. The collection includes clothing, textiles, quilts, coverlets, furniture, toys, household goods, books, and decorative arts, and was highlighted in the *Bringing History to Life* exhibit this winter. We were also busy cataloging the collection of Quaker advertising artifacts we had on display from Neil Snarr last winter, a gift he formally made to the Quaker Heritage Center last spring.

Each year, we touch the lives of hundreds through visits to the Quaker Heritage Center and programs we provide off-site. Visitors to the Center included staff from museums, historical societies, and libraries around the state who were participating in the *New Harmonies* exhibit, as well as visitors from across the Miami Valley and Southwest Ohio who visited the exhibit and participated in the programming; a number of coach tours from across the state; Girl Scout Troop 33710; members of Wilmington Yearly Meeting on campus for yearly meeting sessions; parents of incoming freshmen during Summer Orientation; Junior Campers from Quaker Knoll; Six & Twenty Club members; almost 400 Friends from around the world who were on campus for the Friends United Meeting Triennial; Quaker students, faculty, and staff who gathered for an opening year celebration; Delta Kappa Gamma; Wilmington homeschool students; Church Women United of Franklin County; Wilmington College students from Global Issues, English, and Psychology classes; prospective Wilmington College students and their parents; 3rd graders from Denver and East End Elementary Schools; and the United Society of Friends Women from Wilmington Friends Meeting.

We provided programming outside of the museum walls for community members who participated in the *New Harmonies* exhibit programming held in downtown Wilmington; high school students from Cincinnati visiting campus as part of their Upward Bound program; campers at Quaker Knoll's Day and Beginner Camps; the Westerville Public Library; the Wilmington College Admissions Department's Student Ambassador staff;

the Franklin Area Historical Society; the Clinton County Genealogy Society; the Wilmington College Advancement Department; and the Wilmington College President's Advisory Council.

For the second year, the Quaker Heritage Center once again hosted an AmeriCorps member from the Ohio Civil War 150 program sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society. Melanie Janiszewski, the tireless and talented regional coordinator for South Central Ohio, has managed to help historical and genealogical societies and tourism boards in all eight of her region's counties, but has also done tremendous things for the Quaker Heritage Center, including perhaps our most exciting event of the year, a brand-new venture: Abraham Lincoln Day on February 10. Thanks to Melanie's grant writing and a fundraising dinner she orchestrated at the General Denver Hotel in January (complete with Abraham Lincoln as the guest of honor), the event was budget-neutral for the Center. Timed to coincide with the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* exhibit, the Center welcomed over 250 4th graders for this day-long living history event. Again organized by Melanie, the day featured programming provided by eight community and historical organizations, all backed up by pre-visit classroom activities, and topped off with cupcakes and singing "Happy Birthday" to President Lincoln himself! We've received waves of positive feedback from teachers, school administrators, students, and parents, and are planning for another Abraham Lincoln Day in 2013.

In addition to Lincoln Day, Melanie has been an asset in creating promotions and events for our other exhibits, has helped install and uninstall those exhibits, and has set the groundwork for a tremendous opportunity in 2013: a Civil War Festival in downtown Wilmington. Reflection of Time: A Southern Ohio Civil War festival will highlight the strengths and assets of dozens of historical societies, provide a day of entertaining public history for visitors from throughout the region, and support Wilmington businesses. She has rallied significant community support for this endeavor and is beginning to solicit the sponsorships necessary to bring her vision to bear. Because of the Quaker mission of the Center, she has put special emphasis on telling the stories of Wilmington and Southern Ohio's role in the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad.

With the help of the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission, volunteer historian Christine Hadley Snyder, and project manager Sonja Koehler, the Center is submitting an application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for the designation of a Quaker Scenic Byway to run through Clinton and Warren Counties. The 50-mile route includes museums, homes, scenic vistas, parks, and neighborhoods that all help to illustrate the impact Friends have had on the lives of those in Southwest Ohio. The project has been made possible by a very generous gift which will cover the expense of signage and publicity once the project is approved.

The Quaker Genealogy & History Conference took a year off to allow us to plan our biggest venture yet: the next conference will be held on April 20, 2013, at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center! More information will be coming your way soon!

I spent quite a bit of time this year “on the road” sharing the mission and vision of the Quaker Heritage Center with individuals at the Friends Association of Higher Education conference at Bryn Mawr College, participants in Earlham School of Religion’s Quaker Leadership Conference, and members of the Ohio Local History Alliance. As the reputation of the Quaker Heritage Center grows among Friends and museum professionals, and as awareness of the Center grows among the Wilmington/Clinton County community, I am asked to participate in a number of different activities, including: strategic planning for the Ohio Historical Society; a variety of committees for the Friends Association of Higher Education; serving as a Trustee-at-Large for the Ohio Local History Alliance and presenting three sessions at their annual conference; the Wilmington/Clinton County Chamber of Commerce Network Alliance; focus groups for the Ohio Humanities Council and Clinton County Buy Local; and the Lockland Middle School Career Fair.

As a part of the Wilmington College campus community, I was able to provide training for two students who completed internships with the Center this academic year, Anthony Pettiford (Graphic Design) and Kyle Pitzer (Historical Research). As a result of his work with the Center, Kyle is starting at Wright State University this fall to pursue his Master’s Degree in Public History! I have continued as a member of the Isaac Harvey Fund Committee, served as the Coordinator for the Westheimer Peace Symposium and Issues & Artists series, provided the message at College Worship, and participated in the Friends Committee on National Legislation’s Spring Lobby Weekend. In addition, with the help of multiple students over the last four years, and on behalf of Wilmington College, I submitted an application for an Ohio Historical Marker telling the unique story of Marble Hall. I’m thrilled to share with you that the application was accepted, Wilmington College will receive a small grant towards the cost of the marker, and it should be installed and dedicated sometime this fall!

The Center has been blessed this past year by the generosity of a number of groups and individuals who have made financial contributions to the work of the Center, trusted their treasures to the Center so that they can be shared with the community, and volunteered their time and energy to our programs and exhibits. A special thank you goes out to two graduating Wilmington College students: Kelsey O’Day, who has worked as a Student Curator for three and a half years, and Rachel Kent, a Quaker Leader Scholar, who worked as a Student Gallery Assistant for the last two years. They will be missed! We look forward to welcoming Isaac Garrison, another Quaker Leader Scholar, to our student staff this fall.

None of these wonderful programs, exhibits, or activities could have happened without your encouragement, donations to the collection, and financial support throughout the past year. With your continued assistance, 2012/2013 will be our best year yet!

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Brindle Dobyns
Curator, Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College

American Friends Service Committee

Corporation Meeting, March 1-3, 2012

The American Friends Service Committee has been recovering from a series of very difficult fiscal years that required significant cuts in programs and staff. As it moves towards celebrating its first hundred years, AFSC is undergoing a significant strategic planning process. This process will help us accomplish our mission by strengthening our programs. The AFSC has also undergone substantial restructuring, reducing its regional divisions from nine to four and working on restructuring the numerous board committees, towards the aim of making it a more efficient organization.

The AFSC's financial condition has largely stabilized, though pension obligations remain a concern. Its total liabilities and net assets through the 2011 fiscal year were \$134.5 million, about \$5 million less than 2010. The complete 2011 audit report is available online through the AFSC web site (AFSC.org).

In order to help explain Quaker values and help sustain the AFSC's faith-based and spirit-led qualities, the organization has produced an impressive booklet, *An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies*, which is available through the AFSC web site. In the words of Shan Cretin, the "booklet reminds us of the spiritual basis for our work, whether we're Friends in volunteer roles or staff or partners from other traditions."

The AFSC has been working with the Occupy movement, offering workshops on nonviolent direct action and providing a space in which to hold meetings. The AFSC endorses the Occupy movement's calls to rectify growing inequalities of wealth and power in the world as well as to rightly share the world's resources in ways that acknowledge and support the dignity and equality of all people.

Special presentations were made concerning: the AFSC's decision to endorse BDS (boycott, divest, and sanction) efforts to establish a lasting and just peace in Palestine and Israel; the Occupy movement; immigrants; and religious intolerance in Indonesia and the United States.

The AFSC continues to reflect on the nature and function of the Corporation. Deliberations continue regarding the Corporation's size, role, and terms of service. Friends emphasized the importance of the Corporation facilitating communication between the AFSC and both Yearly and Monthly Meetings. In order to promote better communication, the AFSC has established a new AFSC-Church/Meeting liaison program.

Among the most notable and spiritually uplifting dimensions of the meeting was a special program on Bayard Rustin in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birthday and the restoring of his name to *Speak Truth to Power*. (Rustin's name was removed from this important document because of Friends' concerns about the impact his well known

homosexuality might have on the organization's work.) The event included excerpts from the film, *Brother Outsider*, and a facilitated discussion with Rustin's life-partner, Walter Naegle, towards the end of acquiring a better understanding Rustin's life and work as well as some measure of redemption through reflecting on his exclusion.

The Corporation completed its regular work of naming and appointing committees and approving minutes.

OVYM Corporation members: Leslie Liszak and Jana Schroeder (Earlham MM), as well as Peter Fosl (Louisville MM); with At-Large member of the Board of Directors Marcy Wenzler (Bloomington, IN, MM) and Ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors Tom Bennett (Community MM, Fort Thomas, KY).

Friends Committee on National Legislation

OVYM was very active with FCNL during 2011. More than 200 Quakers from 34 states gathered in Washington, DC in early November 2011 to lobby Congress to cut the Pentagon and invest in preventing war, discuss strategies and tactics for advancing our legislative priorities and worship. Representatives from OVYM included Ken Bordwell, Mary Anne Curtiss, and Frank Huss.

Thinking, practicing, and doing lobbying were a theme of Annual Meeting: from Thursday's lobby day, focused on preventing war; to the skills-building workshops for beginner, intermediate, and advanced advocates; to the Saturday evening program focused on how you can talk to your senators about cutting the Pentagon budget.

"I can't remember a time in Washington, DC when I've been in a room with more troublemakers...peaceful troublemakers," said Massachusetts Rep. Jim McGovern in accepting the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace. Rep. McGovern and North Carolina Rep. Walter Jones(R) received this award for their leadership in promoting a sensible strategy to end the war in Afghanistan.

Diane Randall, FCNL Executive Secretary, challenged us to be bold, strategic, and relentless in order to realize the world we seek. She called on us to creatively imagine the possibilities for our work ahead with young adults, with seasoned Friends, and with our growing network across the country. She said, "While we often focus on what's current and the immediate legislation pending, we have to also take a long view and consider how we will sustain our witness, our Quaker lobby in the public interest."

As usual, the FCNL interns made us laugh and cry during their presentations on Saturday afternoon. They talked about their development and motivations and the things they were accomplishing in their lives. On Saturday evening, Arab-American Institute President Jim

Zogby described the Palestinian's bid for statehood recognition at the U.N. in the context of the history of nonviolent work for change in the Middle East. He challenged us to work for a U.S. policy that supports nonviolent movements for change instead of undermining them.

During the year, FCNL has worked with several OVYM monthly meetings on lobbying Congress to hold to their original plan to cut nearly a million dollars in planned future Pentagon spending.

Later this year our Annual Meeting will start with the Public Policy Institute and lobby day on November 15 & 16 followed by our meetings from November 16 to 18, 2012.

- Ken Bordwell

Friends General Conference Central Committee

Report from Representatives
Sixth Month 25, 2012

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (then known as Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite)) was one of the seven yearly meetings that co-founded Friends General Conference in 1900. Friends General Conference functions not as a "titular denomination," but rather as an umbrella organization offering spiritual support and services to its 15 affiliated yearly meetings and associations, its ten directly affiliated monthly meetings, and its one statewide fellowship. Friends General Conference is governed by its Central Committee, which adopted the following Minute of Purpose in 2009: "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."

Those not familiar with the wide range of services offered by Friends General Conference are invited to visit the website: www.fgcquaker.org.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's appointed Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee for 2011-2012 are Richard House, Shannon Isaacs, and Rex A. Sprouse. As part of their work on Central Committee, Richard serves a member of Development Committee; Shannon serves on the Committee on Discernment, Planning, and Priorities; Rex serves as Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Representative to Friends General Conference Executive Committee and as a member of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries (Deepening Subcommittee (Recording Clerk) and Meeting of Clerks and Representatives). Other Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends on Friends General Conference Central Committee include: Michael Birkel (Corresponding Member), serving on Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee; Jennie Isbell (Co-Opted Member), serving on Development Committee; Paul Kriese (Ex Officio Member), serving on Long Range Conference Planning Committee.

Last summer saw Barry Crossno fully installed as the new General Secretary of Friends General Conference, replacing Bruce Birchard, who retired after approximately two decades of service as General Secretary.

Having just completed a major capital campaign, Friends General Conference continues to struggle to achieve what has variously been called a “balanced budget” or a “sustainable budget.” Some internal restructuring of staff positions in Philadelphia has occurred, and there have been some staff cuts, but not to the extent as had originally been feared.

Particularly encouraging has been the announcement in Fifth Month 2012 that the Shoemaker Foundation had awarded Friends General Conference \$400,000 spread over two years for the next phase of Quaker Quest and the funding of the “Seeding New Meetings” project. Shoemaker will award \$200,000 for year one, and in year two FGC will receive the remaining funds with \$100,000 contingent upon completing a \$100,000 fundraising match. As of this writing, we are awaiting additional information on this exciting new opportunity and on how yearly meetings can become partners in this project.

The 2013 Annual Gathering of Friends will be held at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO, from Sixth Month 30 through Seventh Month 6.

Rex A. Sprouse

Quaker Earthcare Witness

I attended QEW’s Annual Fall Meeting and Gathering, which took place on October 20-23 in Chicago, at the Cenacle. The focus was on food and biodiversity. We welcomed three speakers **Marcia Cleveland**, FCNL’s senior environmental lobbyist; **Molly Anderson**, director of the Sustainable Food Systems program at College of the Atlantic and **Laurel Ross**, founder and vice chair of the Chicago Wilderness Consortium. The College of the Atlantic Sustainable Food System approach to food systems engaged students in examining the many social, cultural, political, ecological, and economic implications of the ways our food is perceived, produced, and consumed. From rural development to the politics of globalization, from land conservation to local food systems and social justice, students use interdisciplinary perspectives to understand, critique, and work to improve global and local food systems. The Chicago Wilderness was launched in 1996 and has grown to be a consortium of over 225 agencies and institutions united in an effort to conserve biodiversity and to raise public awareness of the abundant biodiversity of the Chicago region. I felt the presentations were very informative and inspiring.

We also had plenary presentations by Friends with expertise in various aspects of farming and food production which were followed by many lively discussions about these issues during the later worship-sharing sessions. The food issues were focused exclusively on agriculture and included the many aspects of environmental concerns that many of us are familiar with. Since next year's meeting will continue the conversation about food and biodiversity, I mentioned that we may want to include concerns about the food coming from our rivers and oceans. Many people in developing nations depend heavily on food from the oceans and overfishing, pollution, ocean acidification due to global warming is heavily decimating this food source.

In worship we spend time considering and discussing the following queries: What do we, individually and collectively, feel is needed to see us (self, other, humanity, nature, earth, all life spirit...) through these extraordinary, challenging times? What is most effective?

At the worship for business meetings we discussed proposed QEW priorities, approved changes to the Bylaws and the QEW In Practice document along with other documents about the process of reviewing of QDEW members and the process of distributing public documents. All the Standing Committees and Working/Support Groups were asked to identify two priorities for their work. The Finance and Development Committee proposed to increase the budget for staff salaries if funds are available to do so.

I met with the Outreach Committee for a few session and they want to encourage Friends to Join QEW on Facebook. You can find it at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Quaker-Earthcare-Witness/143510792334460>. I was also asked on the last day to (please....) join the Nominating Committee. I said ok, Friends can be quite persuasive when desperate!

I learned a lot more about the Working/Support Groups and found the discussions of the members of FCNL Support Working Group with Marcia Cleveland from FCNL very inspiring. The focus of the group's work has been to develop a plan to for collaboration and complementary activities with FCNL and other faith groups. Marcia Cleveland agreed to help the group members to plan and conduct a QEW lobby day. The Summer (2012) Steering Committee Meeting will be held on June 28th-30th at the Cambridge, Mass Friends Meeting. I will not be able to attend this meeting due to family obligations. A committee was formed to plan for the QEW Earthcare Center at the 2012 Friends General Conference (FGC) in Kingston, Rhode Island, July 1-7. If Friends plan to attend this year's FGC, please check out the QEW workshops.

This year QEW will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of QEW as FCUN. There will be a celebration at the Annual gathering this Fall in Chicago, on October 4-7th along with the continuing focus on Food and Biodiversity. Anyone is welcome at the annual gathering and young people are especially encouraged to attend. Some scholarships are available for young friends to attend.

You can read the complete minutes of the Fall Annual meeting at:
<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/Meetings/QEWFallMeeting/FallMeeting.html>

You can support QEW at your monthly meeting by ordering a subscription for your Monthly Meeting to the bi-monthly newsletter Befriending Creation, which has many inspiring and informative articles. You may also read them online at:
<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/Publications/BeFriendingCreation/Pub-AboutBFC.html>

Please visit the QEW table at OVYM which will have samples of all the QEW pamphlets, booklets and tri-folds, including the new tri-fold: Food for a Healthy, Just and Peaceable Planet

Submitted by Ria Collee

Bloomington Friends Monthly Meeting

Friends Peace Teams

Report to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, July, 2012

God is changing lives through Friends Peace Teams! Individual lives (our own and those we serve) and entire communities are healing and being transformed through this work.

There are three main projects of Friends Peace Teams (FPT) : Peacebuilding en las Americas (Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala plus some contacts and activity in Nicaragua and Costa Rica), the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI works in Burundi, the Congo, Kenya, and Rwanda), and the Asia/West Pacific Initiative (Aceh, North Sumatra, West Java and Central Java of Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia).

Working with local host organizations, Friends Peace Teams actively promote peace and healing in countries where the violent legacy of civil war has added to the continued poverty and injustice that sparked the conflicts. Many communities are dealing with past trauma from massacres, an abundance of weapons, crime and gang violence as a way of life, the tragedy of AIDS, and ongoing political problems. Using Alternatives to Violence Project workshops (AVP) adapted to each culture, trauma healing, developmental play, peace team delegations, and people-to-people friendships, Friends Peace Teams participate in community healing, addressing broken relationships, physical trauma, and emotional and spiritual needs.

According to the World Health Organization, the most burdensome disease in the world today that robs the most adults of the most years of productive life is not AIDS, not heart disease, and not cancer. It is depression. This is especially true in places that have experienced war, disaster, and crushing deprivation. Violence — whether war or high rates of crime — produces widespread post-traumatic stress. Seeing your children go hungry creates paralyzing guilt. Internalizing all of this can lead to a continuous cycle of paralyzing depression and outbreaks of violence. Friends Peace Teams is helping to change this cycle, one group and community at a time.

The Work of the Initiatives

In August, 2011 a successful International Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) training for facilitators was held in Burundi. Some of the ten people present from the U.S.A. have started conducting HROC workshops in the United States, mostly with immigrants. In the Congo, the peace center bought a piece of land and is planning to build a community center/peace house for rape survivors. The Bududa Vocational Academy acquired seven lots in the middle of the town of Bududa, built the school buildings, and moved there for the new school year in February 2012. During the year AGLI had 6 extended service volunteers and nine workcampers in July 2011 including three from Botswana. An AVP program was launched in Kenya with 42 newly training youth facilitators who have conducted basic AVP workshops for 1600 youth in a volatile area of western Kenya.

The Asia/West Pacific Initiative expanded beyond Indonesia this year, and if support expands, hopes to respond to requests from Nepal and Korea to support AVP workshops there. East Aceh, Langsa and Tamiang are working together to conduct regular Alternatives to Violence Project workshops to strengthen the practice of the core team of facilitators. They started a blog: htkaceh.blogspot.com. Practicing AVP cooperative agreements promotes being good parents, teachers and family and community members through a couple dozen schools as well as communities. The thousands of people driven out of Aceh during the war (1999-2000) sought new forms of power when they were attacked and intimidated by over 1,300 forest rangers, police, and military personnel. Friends Peace Teams helped them report the incident to the U.N. and Amnesty International. Then we delivered hand-sewn dolls to children and teachers. Although workshop participants are limited to 24, women have begun to travel more freely and 230 women showed up for one workshop. The trainers made 23 circles of 10 people each and proceeded. In Java, FPT opened a joint Christian-Muslim training center for nonviolence, healing and developmental play, and began working with Indonesia Yearly Meeting. Peter Watson from Aotearoa/New Zealand works with wood workers in Central Java to make developmental toys and Nicholas Rozard works with potters in Yogyakarta to make water filters. We built microbiology and ceramics labs to support the Indonesians to learn to make, test and produce water filters on their own.

Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) hired a young couple, Manuel and Viviana Garcia Avila, to coordinate AVP in Colombia where there are three regional groups (in Barranquilla, Monteria, and Palmira, near Cali) that receive funding for over 50 workshops annually. Another 2 regions are developing (Medellin and Barrancabermeja). In El Salvador, extended service volunteer Margaret Lechner (formerly of OUYM) is working with young people in villages around Suchitoto, and a Salvadoran Friend, Salomon Medina has organized a second workshop with Friends near San Salvador. In Guatemala, our full time volunteer Saskia Schuitemaker has widened contacts with groups in several regions of the country, and started work in slum areas of the capital. In Honduras, our partner group, Tejedoras de Sueños (Dreamweavers), did 11 workshops last year and has started the 12 that are planned there this year. In Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras, the work includes Community Based Trauma Healing workshops, and Val

Liveoak will offer at least 4 of these workshops in the US and 2-3 in Bolivia and Ecuador this year.

Each initiative operates somewhat independently, but all remain in contact with each other. This international cooperation, while challenging at times, is a valuable part of FPT's identity. For example, a few years ago, a Colombian AVP facilitator joined two members of our working group in Burundi to learn about the HROC program (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities). The Burundians were overjoyed to find that despite experiencing devastating violence, they had something of great value to offer others in similar situations. Now, the Colombians are eager to share what they have learned and implemented in their country, and Central Americans are hungry to learn more about working with their trauma to go on with their lives, so the HROC program has again expanded across borders.

Last October Friends Peace Team members were the main organizers of a very successful Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) International Gathering, held in Guatemala. Nearly 100 AVPers from 22 countries attended, and it was the first fully bilingual English-Spanish AVP gathering. Friends from all three FPT initiatives led workshops and shared experiences from the HROC program. The meeting also enabled a number of our country coordinators to meet each other and work together. Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) sponsored 20 of the 30 Latin American attenders.

Amazingly this work is mostly done by volunteers! The three initiatives have country or project coordinators, and The Friends Peace Team Council and a staff person in Minnesota try to hold us all together and facilitate communication between the various initiatives. This year the FPT office staff has had challenges in keeping up with the administrative and accounting requirements that support the work of our Initiatives. However, even with minimal staff, Friends Peace Teams needs money to function. In addition to keeping up with the volume of work, raising enough funding to support the accounting and reporting about the work in the field has been difficult. Looking at our donor records, most funds have come consistently from the same individuals and groups. The FPT Council committed ourselves to getting the word out and encouraging new donors. We would like to ask that all monthly meetings add FPT's core budget to their annual gifts to Friends' organizations. FPT and the Initiatives mobilize a great amount of volunteer work in the US and internationally, and donations that support the necessary infrastructure are vital to continuing it. I would be happy to speak with any of you about ways to contribute, however small or large your donation may be. If you can not contribute money but would like more information, let me know! I don't say this lightly. I really am eager to communicate with you by phone or e-mail. Please ask!

Last summer I agreed to be part of the advisory group for Peacebuilding en las Americas, and then OVYM asked me to be a representative to the full FPT Council. Unfortunately, personal events and circumstances prevented me from being very active this year. I participated in a few of the monthly (or sometimes biweekly) conference calls for both the Advisory group and the FPT Council, but have done little else. The May face-to-face

meeting was not at a time when I could attend. So, I collected information but took little action. I am looking forward to being more active this year, at least by phone.

My first task I've committed to for this summer is planning a Fall tour for Nelly del Cid, the AVP coordinator in Honduras and part of our Peacebuilding en las Americas working group. She will be traveling in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana in October (4th-22nd). She is eager to speak at public, church, monthly meeting, and school events. Her topics include the political situation in Honduras and Central America, the status of women in Honduras, violence in the county (criminal, political, and in the family), environmental issues, and the role of the US in the use of natural resources in Honduras (especially water rights and mining). Nelly has some understanding of English, but her presentation will be in Spanish, so interpreters are needed. You can help me by thinking of groups in your community who would like to host her. To arrange a visit in your community, please call me at 215-438-6433 or e-mail me at susanleebk@juno.com.

Susan Lee Barton, susanleebk@juno.com, 215-438-6433

William Penn House

William Penn House continues to successfully be an inexpensive clean and hospitable place for visitors to Washington, DC to spend the night. Local efforts include leading monthly discussion groups on timely topics and advocacy for HIV victims being able to use self-testing kits. Workcamps were held to aid people in the DC area, help Hurricane Katrina victims, and work with Native Americans in South Dakota. Penn House staff also enjoyed visiting many yearly meetings.

– Jane Stowe

Olney Friends School

It has been a quiet year at Olney Friends School – a year filled with both transitions and accomplishments. We welcomed a new head of school in July, himself new to Friends. Students and staff alike have risen to the challenge of “educating Charlie” in Friends’ ways. As a result, many unexamined practices and traditions have been newly spotlighted. Just two glimpses of the happy results: we opened the year with, for the first time in recent memory, a teacher as clerk of Faculty Meeting, rather than the head of school; and we closed the year with Charlie’s sharing a blessing from the podium at the annual Alumni Meeting – “blessing” having crept into not only his vocabulary but also his habit of thought, as the year went along. Welcome, Charlie!

We were especially proud of our students this year for their Quaker filmmaking – two short student-made films were finalists in the American Friends Service Committee’s “If I Had a Trillion Dollars...” contest about peacemaking and government spending. One also won the Judges’ Choice Award in the public service announcement category of the Bridge Film Festival. A third student-made film, while not entered in either contest due to its later creation date, likewise rings clear as a bell – in this instance, on the topic of peace and the environment. All three films were the result of an especially creative group of students, well guided by a faculty advisor deeply immersed in Friends faith and practice. The three films, “What If...,” “The Real Crime of America,” and “Revolution,” can be seen at www.olneyfriends.org.

We are pleased to share word of the Olney Friends School board’s stance taken this year against fracking. Making a difficult choice to look beyond immediate financial gains to the long-term health and well-being of students, local residents, and the land, the board minuted its opposition to the extraction of oil and natural gas on the school’s 350-acre property. In a region – the Appalachian foothills – where coal mining is still a large part of the local economy, the issues are pressing, personal, and complex. Through witnessing the local debate in the wider community, high school students at Olney Friends School this year had yet another opportunity to examine difficult national issues with local implications for the environment.

We continue to nurture Quaker life at the school. This year saw an active program of Friendly Orientation Groups (FOGs), or smaller worship-sharing groups; a diversity workshop for students and teachers by Earlham College director of multicultural affairs Trayce Peterson; the making of Tibetan prayer flags; the planting of hundreds of trees on former coal strip-mined land; and the finishing of a spirited, new 10-minute film on the school web site (www.olneyfriends.org), “Love My Olney Friends.”

Olney Friends School’s 54 students came from 12 US states and 11 countries. They were invited to dig deeply into a college preparatory curriculum including an integrated seminar-style humanities program, an immersive hands-on science program especially strong in biology and physics, and a thriving program in the arts. We grew and prepared much of our own food on our campus farm. Our mission is to celebrate intellectual vigor, provoke questions of conscience, and nurture skills for living in community.

We hold dear our ongoing connections with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. I look forward to being with new and old F/friends again this summer at Earlham College!

In peace,

Kirsten Bohl
Director of Advancement and Outreach

Executive Committee Minutes 2011-2012

OVYM Executive Committee

10th Month 1, 2011

Community Friends Meeting, Cincinnati, OH.

1. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.

The Assistant Clerk shared a passage from Rufus Jones about the “luminous trail.” Friends who had experienced recent losses or surgery were also lifted up in the Light.

2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee Representative

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Betsy Neale
Louisville	Beth Parrish sends regrets
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Acting Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Richard Mitchell

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington	Janette Shetter sends Regrets
Clear Creek	David Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Steve Angell
Acting Recording Clerk	Deborah Jordan
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	No representative

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture	David Garman
Budget and Finance	Wilson Palmer
Discipline Revision	Betsy Neale/Rex Sprouse
Nominating	Evalyn Kellum
Peace and Social Concerns	Richard Mitchell
Religious Education	Marjorie Isaacs
Personnel	No Representative
YM Planning	Dale Hayes
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	No Representative
Teen Activities	Nikki Coffey Tousley

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Carol Simmons

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	Frank Huss sends Regrets
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor	
Braddock Trustees	
Records Coordinator	Christine Snyder and Susan Hyde send Regrets
Statistician	
Webmaster	

Guests

3. Agenda Review

Friends approved the agenda as published with the addition of the need for an Assistant Recording Clerk.

4. Clerk's Table

The Clerk read a note from Ben Griffith about his need to withdraw as an FWCC Representative for the Fourth Month 17-25, 2012 Kenya conference. Three names were raised as possible representatives. Nikki Coffey Tousley will contact JP Lund, who has attended these conferences in the past and plans to attend the Fourth Month conference, to make the call(s) in the order named. He is asked to report back to the Presiding Clerk.

Committee Clerks and OVYM leaders asked to review the updated, unpublished website. The Clerical Support Staff will re-forward the link from our Web Friend.

5. Treasurer's Report The Treasurer distributed copies of the Tenth Month Report.

Checks totaling over \$7000 for Yearly Meeting Sessions have been lost in the mail. Friends are asked to check their statements and see if their OVYM check was cashed. Richard Mitchell will communicate with both the Registrar and the Treasurer to help secure some needed information. The former and current Treasurer will work to reconcile the Peace Witness Fund account. Money is starting to be disbursed for the FWCC World Conference. Friends accepted the report with thanks.

6. Items for Discernment and Action

Assistant Recording Clerk search was raised by Nominating Committee with the hope to have one in place at least by Yearly Meeting sessions. This position is a four year commitment which would follow the same rotation pattern as the Presiding and Assistant Presiding Clerks with one year as assistant, two years as Recording Clerk, and then another year as assistant. The goal is to alternate years in bringing in a new Presiding Clerk and a new Recording Clerk. Friends entered into a period of waiting worship where no names were raised; Friends were asked to go back to their Monthly Meetings with this search. There was discussion about how to prime the pump for this service and how to help the role be fulfilling.

Naming for Nominating Committee which is seriously understaffed. Friends entered into a period of silence to lift names to serve on the Nominating Committee. There are openings for one committee member to serve through the end of the 2012 annual session, one to serve through the end of the 2013 annual session, and 2 to serve through the end of the 2014 annual session. The Assistant Clerk will contact the three Friends whose names were lifted to determine their ability to serve. Ben Griffith has already agreed to serve; he will be asked to take one of the terms ending in 2014.

Earthcare Subcommittee submitted a more detailed explanation of their committee. **Friends approved** the charge with the change of asking the committee to appoint their members and inform Nominating Committee of their appointments.

Report back from ad hoc committee to review Sex Abuse Prevention Policy Deborah Jordan reporting. The policy is workable as is, even if it just skims the service. Our insurance company does not require Friends to use their DVD for the training so that will give us more flexibility in choosing materials. A Friend spoke to the importance of this policy. The Clerical Support Staff will send out a link to training materials on the web.

Concern about health and charges of committees was raised. Discussion ensued about the difficulty of finding people to serve on some of the committees or as officers of the Yearly Meeting. A working group of Richard Mitchell (convener), Betsy Neale, Evalyn Kellum, and Rex Sprouse was appointed to begin to review committee charges and numbers to see if these reflected and were appropriate for where the life of the committee seems to be. This review will include information from the visioning survey and is in preparation for possible restructuring. They are asked to report back at the Second Month Executive Conference call.

7. Religious Education

Marjorie Isaacs reported that the committee was about to be laid down since they felt there were lots of resources available to Meetings for their First Day Schools. Instead they feel called to support the spiritual growth and health of the Yearly Meeting through worship education and spiritual gift discernment. A joint meeting will be held with Advancement and Nurture to discern their different or overlapping charges.

8. Youth Secretary

Carol Simmons passed out a Teen Group Report newsletter. Social media and conference calls are also helping teens connect between events. The next retreat weekend is during Miami Quarterly in Dayton.

9. Clerical Staff

Deborah Jordan passed out the Minute Books which our Publications Coordinator just compiled. Cost is approximately \$6.80 per booklet. Meetings are asked to take 2 to 3 copies per Meeting since it will also be available on the website.

10. Advancement and Nurture

David Garman reported that the Visioning survey results are on the website; this is also the proposed topic for the winter quarter meetings.

11. Budget and Finance

Wilson reminded Friends about the letter sent by Paul Buckley requesting Meetings discuss and report back by Oct. 30th on the \$20,000 donated to various Quaker organizations by OVYM.

12. Discipline Revision

Rex Sprouse said there will be a one month delay to the usual timetable of Meetings reviewing assignments. The first assignment will come next month. The final draft of Close Relationships is included in the Minute Book.

13. Nominating

Evalyn Kellum announced their planned conference call tonight.

14. Peace and Social Concerns

Richard Mitchell reported that they are requesting a pre-Yearly Meeting workshop.

15. Personnel

The Presiding and Assistant Presiding Clerk will review this currently inactive committee.

15. Planning

Dale Hayes reported that the committee will meet in 2 weeks to come up with the theme. He asked A&N for any suggestions for workshops.

16. Teen Committee

Nikki Coffey Tousley seconded what the Youth Secretary had reported. The committee is meeting after Executive Meeting.

17. Middle Youth

Carol Simmons shared that Erik Cleven facilitated a workshop for the committee recently. The committee is looking at their mission for the new website and focusing on teaching youth how to worship and what happens in Meeting for Worship.

18. Quaker Heights Care Community

Wilson Palmer reported that it's a difficult time due to the 6% Medicaid cuts which the organization is trying to make up through outsourcing some union jobs and laying off the chaplain.

19. Miami Quarterly Meeting

Nikki Coffey Tousley reported that Dayton Friends are hosting Miami Quarter on Tenth Month 16. Englewood Friends are assisting. There are youth programs planned. The Quarter program is on the Peace Testimony. Richard Mitchell is acting Presiding Clerk.

20. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Rex Sprouse reported that the Quarter will meet at Bloomington Meeting on Tenth Month 16. The Friendly Folk Dancers will provide the program.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Next meeting 10am, 2nd Month 4, 2012. Conference call details will be sent out before then.

Submitted,

Deborah Jordan, Acting OVYM Recording Clerk

**OVYM Executive Committee
Second Month 4, 2012
Conference Call**

Friends gathered in the virtual space of the conference call.
Friends entered into a period of silence. The Assistant Clerk shared a poem from Omar Khayyam.

1. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	No Representative
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Betsy Neale
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Steve Angell representing
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting	
Bloomington	Janette Shetter
Clear Creek	Jane Stowe
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Diann Herzog representing
Yearly Meeting Officers	
Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese sends regrets
Assistant Clerk	Steve Angell
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Assistant Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative

Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

Wilson Palmer
No Representative

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture
Budget and Finance
Discipline Revision
Nominating
Peace and Social Concerns
Religious Education
Personnel
YM Planning
Children's Program
Middle Youth
Teen Activities

David Garman, Ben Griffith
Wilson Palmer
Betsy Neale
Evalyn Kellum sends regrets
Jane Stowe
Diann Herzog
No Representative
No Representative
No Representative
No Representative
Nikki Coffey Tousley

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support
Youth Secretary

Deborah Jordan
Carol Simmons

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc.
Friends Music Camp

Wilson Palmer
Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor
Braddock Trustees
Personnel Committee Representatives
Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees
Records Coordinator
Statistician
Webmaster
Friends General Conference Central Committee.

2. Nominating Committee

Diann Herzog reported that Terre Holada is willing to serve as Assistant Recording Clerk. Friends approved.

3. Friends World Committee for Consultation

Steve Angell reported that Howie Baker will represent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at the Friends World Committee for Consultation meeting in Kenya, as Ben Griffith is unable to attend.

4. Names for Nominating Committee

The Assistant Clerk reported that no names are available at this time to serve on Nominating Committee. Steve Angell will follow up.

- 5. Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education Joint Committee Meeting**
David Garman reported on the joint meeting of the Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education committees. The joint committee recommends that the first choice would be to merge Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education into one committee. The second choice would be to schedule one planning meeting each year for the two committees to set direction. Friends agreed to accept the recommendation to merge Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education into one committee, and present the recommendation at Yearly Meeting sessions. The Assistant Clerk requested that the two committees report at the fourth month 2012 Executive Committee meeting on the charge of the merged committee. Also needed is a recommendation for who will carry the concern of the sexual abuse policy, currently administered by Religious Education.
- 6. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Blogsite**
Deborah Jordan raised the issue of the viability of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Blogsite, noting that the re-designed web site is updated on a timely basis. Friends agreed that Deborah Jordan should post a note on the blogsite referring Friends to the website. Deborah Jordan will contact Lonny Burger about a possible back-up person to update the website.
- 7. Discipline Revision Committee**
Betsy Neale proposed that the name of the Discipline Revision Committee be changed to Faith and Practice Committee. Friends approved. Betsy reported that after the Tenth Month 2011 Executive Committee meeting, the Discipline Revision Committee developed the following charge: The purpose of the Faith and Practice Committee is to review and, as needed, prepare draft revisions to the OVYM *Faith and Practice* and present these to the yearly meeting for action. Friends approved.
- 8. Treasurer's Report**
Wilson Palmer reported that he is concerned about the accuracy of the numbers related to the Yearly Meeting session, and how they are allocated and reported. The Assistant Clerk recommended that Wilson consult with Paul Buckley on this detail. The reported indicates that the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting fiscal year is progressing as planned. Regarding the Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial Fund, Erik Cleven, Rachel Ernst and Howie Baker are eligible to share the fund of approximately \$4500. Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.

The meeting ended with a brief period of silence.

The next meeting of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee will occur on Fourth Month 7, 2012 at the Earlham School of Religion, with budget review open to all at 10:00 AM and business meeting at 12:00 noon.

Submitted,
Deb Kociszewski
OVYM Recording Clerk

**OVYM Executive Committee
Fourth Month 7, 2012
Earlham School of Religion**

1. The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.

The clerk shared the ninth query from the 1978 edition of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline

2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	No Representative
Community	Frank Huss
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	No Representative
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Andy Garrison, Steve Angell sends regrets
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Richard Mitchell
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting	
Bloomington	Janette Shetter sends regrets
Clear Creek	Jane Stowe
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Terre Holada
Hopewell	Donita Barnes sends regrets
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Officers	
Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Steve Angell sends regrets
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Assistant Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	No Representative

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture	
Budget and Finance	Wilson Palmer
Earthcare	No Representative
Faith and Practice	Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale
Nominating	Diann Herzog
Peace and Social Concerns	Jane Stowe
Religious Education	
Personnel	No Representative
YM Planning	No Representative
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	No Representative
Teen Activities	Nikki Coffey Tousley

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Carol Simmons

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	Frank Huss
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor	
Braddock Trustees	
Personnel Committee Representatives	
Records Coordinator	Christine Snyder sends regrets
Statistician	Frank Huss
Webmaster	

Guests	Dennis Troth, Budget and Finance Fred Feitler, Budget and Finance
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3. Clerk's Item

Miami Quarterly Meeting has welcomed Englewood Friends Meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Wilson Palmer presented the proposed Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 2012-2013 budget. He called attention to the budget item for the clerk's expenses, noting an increase of \$300 (the total would increase to \$800). The Teen Program has requested an increase of \$500 (the total would increase to \$6300). Friends Music Camp has requested an increase of \$200 (the total would increase to \$1700). It is proposed that we create a separate table for accounting for fundraising by the teens, so that they can accumulate unused funds for activities in future years rather than having the money go into the general fund for any one year. Friends accepted the report and approved

the proposals presented in the Treasurer's Report. The Budget and Finance Committee will now calculate and communicate the proportional share to meet these budgeted expenses.

5. Friends World Committee for Consultation Conference

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting delegates to the Friends World Committee for Consultation Conference in Kenya requested input on the yearly meeting's expectations for their trip. Rachel Ernst, Erik Cleven and Howie Baker will represent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The representatives are encouraged to share the value of unprogrammed Friends meetings, as the unprogrammed tradition is a small minority of Friends worldwide. Friends also encourage the representatives to bring back an observation of the situation in Kenya with attention to the state of the Peace Testimony. Friends encourage the representatives to bring their experiences to monthly meetings. Friends agreed to hold our representatives in the Light.

6. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Committee Charges

Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale, Evalyn Kellum and Rex Sprouse serve on a working group charged with reviewing Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting committee structure with an eye toward recommending a more effective structure. The group has met twice and recommends that its work involve the evaluation Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting committees and appointments in terms of their being essential to the operation of yearly meeting and the spiritual advancement of yearly meeting Friends.

7. Quaker Heights Board of Trustees

Friends considered the slate of the Quaker Heights Care Community Board of Trustees and Officers. Friends approved the slate.

8. Youth Secretary Report

Carol Simmons reported that the teens have held several successful retreats, with one shared with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting teens. The retreats have provided a place of healing and acceptance. Six Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens attended the Quake That Rocked the Midwest. Two Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings teens will attend the Pilgrimage to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The annual Service Trip will take place in Washington, D.C.

9. Clerical Staff Report

Deborah Jordan reported that all is well. Deborah reported that the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting blog has been laid down. She requested that Friends with technological specialties, such as Skype, contact her. Friends expressed appreciation for the job that Deborah does.

10. Statistician

Frank Huss reported that the statistical report spreadsheet has been provided to Budget and Finance. There has been a gain of 6 friends and a loss of 20 for a net loss of 14.

11. Advancement and Nurture

The merged committee of Advancement and Nurture with Religious Education will hold a meeting April 21, 2012 at Community Friends. A new name for the combined committee is expected.

12. Faith and Practice

Rex Sprouse reported that the Faith and Practice committee met on second month 25, 2012. The committee gained clarity that the section of Close Relationships, part 2 needs to include what has been planned for Close Relationships part 3. There will not be a document sent to monthly meetings in the spring of 2012, but one will be brought to yearly meeting sessions.

13. Nominating Committee

Diann Herzog reported that the Nominating Committee plans to travel to monthly meetings to meet friends and seek gifts.

14. Peace and Social Concerns

Peace and Social Concerns has arranged for a workshop on aging at the yearly meeting sessions. The committee is working on a pre-meeting workshop, possibly on the Occupy movement. The committee plans to have a letter writing table at yearly meeting and will offer information on topics of peace and social concerns.

15. Yearly Meeting Planning

Carol Simmons reported that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has met at Wilmington College and will bring a proposal to the yearly meeting sessions.

16. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Session Subsidies

Friends agreed to extend the practice of providing yearly meeting subsidies to Young Adult Friends and first time attenders for one additional year to cover the 2012 yearly meeting session. Friends agreed to publicize this action as widely as possible.

17. Teen Committee

Nikki Coffey Tousley reported that the committee intends to offer overnight gatherings at the quarterly meetings, as opposed to a full week-end retreat. It was noted that the teens are planning a music concert at the May, 2012 Miami Quarterly Meeting at Yellow Springs. The committee will plan significant fund raisers to offset the cost of the annual service trip.

18. Friends Music Camp

Peg Champney reported that the 2012 Friends Music Camp will have 2 great-grandchildren of the Braddock family in attendance. Applications are being received at a pace greater than 2011, so it is anticipated that camp will be full. The leadership transition plan for the camp is proceeding well.

19 Miami Quarterly Meeting

Richard Mitchell reported that a number of Friends attended the Miami Quarterly

Meeting at Lexington in February. The Quarter is encouraging Friends to visit and stay with other Friends, and come early to Quarterly Meeting sessions.

20. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting,

Rex Sprouse reported that Whitewater Quarterly Meeting will meet on April 15, 2012 at Fall Creek Monthly Meeting. That session will consider and review the State of Meeting reports. They will host Micah and Faith Bales, who are active in the Occupy movement. Child care is provided, and limited overnight accommodations are available.

21. Friends General Conference

Rex Sprouse reported that registration for the 2012 Friends General Conference has opened. It will be held at the University of Rhode Island.

22. Response to Divisions in Neighboring Yearly Meetings

The Sixth Month 2012 Executive Committee agenda will include an item seeking a way to a loving and appropriate response to Friends experiencing pain over divisions and unhappiness within Indiana Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting.

Friends approved the minutes.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

The next meeting of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee will take place Sixth Month 7, 2012 at North Meadow Circle of Friends.

Submitted,
Deb Kociszewski
Recording Clerk

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
Sixth Month 2, 2012
North Meadow Circle of Friends**

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

The clerk shared a reading from John Punshon's book, Encounter with Silence.

2. **Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
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Miami Quarterly Meeting

Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Deborah Jordan
Dayton	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer
Englewood	John Lawson-Myers
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Ben Griffith
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Steve Angell sends regrets
Yellow Springs	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Richard Mitchell

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington	No Representative
Clear Creek	Dave Garman
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	Terre Holada
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Elaine Troth
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk	Paul Kriese
Assistant Clerk	Steve Angell sends regrets
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Assistant Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	No Representative

Standing and Special Committees

Religious Nurture and Education	Dave Garman
Budget and Finance	Wilson Palmer
Earthcare	No Representative
Faith and Practice	Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale
Nominating	Evalyn Kellum
Peace and Social Concerns	Richard Mitchell
Personnel	No Representative
YM Planning	Dale Hayes
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	No Representative
Teen Activities	Nikki Coffey Tousley

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Carol Simmons sends regrets

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	Wilson Palmer
Friends Music Camp	No Representative

Guests	Erik Cleven and Rachel Ernst, FWCC representatives to the World Gathering; Fred Feitler, serving on Budget and Finance
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3. Treasurer's Report

Wilson Palmer reviewed the report, reminding Friends that Sixth Month 30 is the end of the fiscal year so remaining Meeting contributions and any committee expenses should be submitted by then. Three Meetings have responded to the Budget and Finance letter to date with their pledges for next fiscal year; other Meetings are asked to submit their covenant pledges by Sixth Month 15 or their proportional share amount will be used in the budget line.

4. Friends World Committee on Consultation World Gathering

Erik Cleven, Howie Baker and Rachel Ernst shared some of their experiences at the FWCC World Gathering in Kenya. Erik found the World Gathering a place for real conversations amidst the diversity of Friends. Although the unprogrammed worship seemed more of an addendum being scheduled first thing in the morning, many Kenyan Friends said this experience made them want to try to incorporate more silence in their worship. Along with a renewed sense of the Spirit, Erik shared that "The Religious Society of Friends," through translation(s), came out as "Those Who Shake in the Winds of the Spirit." Erik read a report from Howie Baker who shared the many connections he made with young adult Friends around the world. The Friends there liked the silence and wished to bring silence into their regular practice, but they also challenged him to bring some of their practices back to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Assuming they didn't know, Rachel Ernst went prepared to teach far away Friends about their Quaker roots and

George Fox, but instead, she was schooled by their deep knowledge of all things Quaker. Along with losing her luggage, she lost many preconceived notions and left with gifts of clothing, personal articles and a rejuvenated Spirit.

5. Discerning our role in Friends' conflicts

The Executive Committee spent time discerning issues and suggestions regarding neighboring Yearly Meetings' conflicts around affirmation of homosexuality and yearly meeting authority over Monthly Meetings, among other issues. The Executive Committee will see to it that time is spent at Yearly Meeting sessions to open this discussion to the wider body of Friends. The Executive Committee also encourages Monthly Meetings to be aware of other Monthly Meetings around them experiencing sensitive situations and to offer support in whatever way the Monthly Meetings feel comfortable. Friends affirmed that as a Yearly Meeting we do not wish to interfere with the workings of other Yearly Meetings. We wish to extend help and support with Friends dealing with pain over these and other issues.

6. Name for a newly merged committee

Ben Griffith presented that the newly merged committees of Advancement and Nurture and Religious Education wishes to be named Religious Nurture and Education Committee. Friends approved.

7. OVYM Survey

Ben Griffith reported that the Religious Nurture and Education Committee wants the Yearly Meeting to consider having a visioning session focused on the sustained vitality of all our youth programs. (see attached)

8. Travel Minutes

Travel minutes previously approved by their Monthly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting for Rex Sprouse and Diann Herzog McFarland were approved. Paul Kriese will add his signature to the travel minutes.

9. Planning Committee

Dale Hayes reported this year's theme: "Love One Another as I Have Loved Thee" Next year sessions will be at Wilmington College and may be there every four years.

10. Clerical Staff

Deborah Jordan reported advanced reports are due June 15.

11. Faith and Practice

Betsy Neale reported that the committee will be bringing to Yearly Meeting the fourth draft of Part 2 of the section on close relationships. Approval of the first part will be sought at Yearly Meeting sessions.

12. Nominating Committee

Evalyn Kellum reported that the committee expects to have all positions filled by Yearly Meeting ready for approval. The committee recommends that the Epistle person and the

person responsible for the Yearly Meeting Sessions report to Friends Journal be combined into one person and one report. Approved.

13. Peace and Social Concerns

Richard Mitchell reported that there is a pre-session workshop about Friends and economic justice, the occupy movement, and the growing economic class divide.

14. Youth Committee

Nikki Coffey-Tousley reported on the upcoming service trip to Washington DC.

15. Task Group on Committees

Richard Mitchell presented the report and recommendations(see attached). One recommendation was that committees review and revise their charges. Friends approved.

16. Quaker Heights Friends Home Inc.

Wilson Palmer reported that financial problems are still the most worrisome concerns. Administrative staff has been reduced, but not the nursing staff due to the home's overriding focus of *Love Made Visible*. The board is looking at providing more short term rehab care and adding a new wing for that purpose.

17. Miami Quarter

Richard Mitchell reported that Miami Quarter met two weeks ago and discussed State of Meeting reports in small groups. They also discussed the conflicts in nearby Yearly Meetings.

18. Whitewater Quarter

Rex Sprouse reported that Whitewater Quarter met in April and heard State of the Meeting Reports. Micah Bales was the guest speaker and discussed the Occupy Washington and Occupy the Church. Joint Quarterly Meeting will be at Happy Hollow 10/13 and 14. The current thought on costs is \$50.00 per person with a maximum of \$150.00 per family.

19. Friends General Conference

Rex Sprouse read a letter about a \$400,000 two-year grant from the Shoemaker Foundation. Part of that is dependent on matching funds. The purpose of the money is for seeding new meetings and promoting *Quaker Quest*.

20. Clerk's final words to Executive Committee

Friends approved the assistant recording clerk, recording clerk, and clerical support collaborating on the final minutes. Paul Kriese expressed thanks and appreciation to all Friends for their support during his time of being clerk, especially to Ben and Deborah.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: 10-6-12 at Community Friends Meeting

Closing Worship

Respectfully Submitted by Terre Holada, Assistant Recording Clerk and Deborah Jordan, Clerical Support

(APPENDED REPORT)
REPORT ON SURVEY DISCUSSIONS 2012
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? SHOULD WE UNDERGO VISIONING?

Following is a report and recommendation from Advancement and Nurture Committee for Executive Committee's consideration. The recommendation for consideration is found in the last paragraph of this report. Also appended to the report is a suggested list of forwarded concerns that has arisen from discussions surrounding the OVYM Survey for further consideration by the appropriate committees or bodies.

Brief History of the Survey

When Ben Griffith retired from acting as presiding clerk of Yearly Meeting, he approached the Advancement and Nurture Committee (A&N) and identified to them many of the issues and concerns that came up during his service that didn't have any clear venues or time for corporate discernment. He proposed and drafted the OVYM survey to post on Survey Monkey (internet survey service) and solicited editorial support from the committee. The survey was then distributed via the Internet to all of our meetings in late 2010; results of the survey were presented to the 2011 annual session of the yearly meeting. Some discussion was conducted on the floor of sessions and the question was posed whether it might be time to undergo a Visioning. Since then several meetings and both Quarterly Meetings have continued this discussion under the care of A&N. All this was done in an effort to more clearly discern any calling to undergo a new visioning process.

The survey had 268 total respondents. This was a remarkable number of responses. (Survey results can still be accessed by visiting the OVYM website.) Though most of the questions were "multiple choice" response, most questions also left space for Friends to more fully respond with an open written response. There was no intent to ever use the survey results for decision making though it was intended to spark discussion and self-examination by the yearly meeting body. To this end the survey has already been a useful and successful tool.

Highlights of the Survey Results

Some results from the survey must be highlighted because some are somewhat surprising and others bear witness to concerns that our body carries but has had no clear venue for threshing. Some of these highlights to mention are (in no particular order):

- Fostering a traveling ministry and more meeting intervisitation were deemed as something the Yearly Meeting should be doing for the monthly meetings. It was ranked as the most important thing we should be doing.
- Help meetings find new and better ways of outreach
- Concern for Middle Youth staffing
- Recognition that Young Adult Friends need more integration/programming and are vital to our future
- Concern about some of the Yearly Meeting structures and procedures
- Concern about Quarterly Meeting Structure
- Support for increased use of technology/electronic communication, but concerns about

alienating those who do not have access or ability, quality of Spirit-led decision making via conference call, and the inherent flaws of email discussions especially when disagreement arises

Where Do We Go From Here?

In the latest A&N (and Religious Education Cmte members) committee meeting, we once again met to try to discern how best to forward the work of the survey. We noted that an adhoc committee is already dealing with one concern of studying how to streamline the number of stewardship positions that Nominating Committee must fill. When we considered if the Yearly Meeting was called to undergo a formal visioning, hesitation arose about whether this would be a wise use of our body's energy. What call, if any, had we heard at the survey discussions? We wondered if the particular results from each section of the survey might be channeled to the proper committee or body for any further discussion or consideration for possible action. Our committee is certainly willing to make sure these results get properly channeled and encouraged for further openings. Appended is our suggested list of forwarded concerns.

Our Recommendation to Yearly Meeting

We did feel as if one concern was perhaps an overarching concern, one that our Yearly Meeting as a whole might profitably delve into deeper. This broad concern deals with our youth groups, in particular our Middle Youth staffing and under-programmed Young Adult Friends, but certainly not to exclude examining anew our Teen and Young Children programs. It is so difficult for these programs to generate the kind of intentional care from our wider Body on an on-going basis. Maybe it is time for us to corporately engage these programs with an open listening heart to discern where the Spirit might be leading us with the rising generations of Friends. As one Friend pointed out at one survey discussion, when Friends have been at their best (historically speaking) and indeed when any group exudes vitality and Divine spark, it is usually the young people that are leading the way. There is a widespread yearning among the young in our Society today to find a real and honest religious experience. Maybe it is time to help them seek by listening to them and their openings of what God would have us to do. *It is our recommendation that the Yearly Meeting examine our commitment and direction concerning our youth groups to find new vision, clarity, and understanding.*

Appended List of Forwarded Concerns

Advancement and Nurture-Religious Education committees merging together to form the new Religious Nurture and Education committee

- Fostering meeting intervisitation and studying how we might foster a Traveling Ministry
- Helping Monthly Meetings with outreach
- Helping Monthly Meetings with FDS programs

Miami and Whitewater Quarterly Meetings

- Study the structure of Quarterly Meetings and their relationship to Yearly Meetings and Monthly Meetings

- Look at the possibility of annual Joint Quarterly Meeting retreats like Happy Hollow

Clerks Table

- (Form an ad hoc committee to) examine how best to use technology to help conduct our business and to protect those who may not have internet access from being left out of our discussions

Budget and Finance Committee

- Look at changing fiscal year policy (currently forming annual budgets based on July 1- June 30 calendar)
- Continue to monitor the Covenant Proportional Shares budgeting process

(APPENDED REPORT)

Task Group on Committees

Report to OVYM Executive Committee, 6/2/12 (Draft #2)

Assessment. Most of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's (OVYM's) committees are currently active and effective. We want to be careful not to try to fix what is not broken. The Nominating Committee has a process that is working well. The fact that it has sometimes not been able to fill all the committee positions has been due in part to the fact that in the past some of our committees have been perceived as dysfunctional.

The pool of Friends available for committee service may be smaller than it has been in the past. For example, an increasing number of women are in the work force. The YM has a number of older Friends who are no longer able to serve. All of us are very busy.

We wish to explore the possibility that our committees might be staffed by fewer Friends and continue to be both representative and effective. We recognize that several of our committees have functioned shorthanded but nevertheless have been very effective. In addition, we recognize that some of our committees do not need to be nominated.¹

We recommend that:

1. Each committee revise its charge² so that it reflects the committee's current practice. The charge shall include a recommended number of members for the committee and a description of how members are to be selected (for more on this, see recommendation # 4 in the following). We urge that the committee prioritize and winnow its goals. In reviewing the committee's duties, we urge Friends to discern and prioritize those duties that do the most to advance the Committee's overall objectives and the well being of the Yearly Meeting (YM) and constituent monthly meetings (MMs). In particular, we urge the committee to consider eliminating duties that are 1) too specific, 2) too ambitious, or 3) not germane to the committee's objectives. The revised charge shall be sent to the Task Group on Committees (richard.mitchell@insightbb.com) by October 1, 2012. The Task Group on Committees stands ready to assist each committee with this review of its charge.
2. Each committee review its charge annually and revise it as necessary. We urge each committee to discern annually those activities that are of highest priority for advancing its objectives and the well being of the YM. The Report of this review shall be sent to the Clerk of YM and the clerical support person by October 1.
3. The Clerks of two Yearly Meeting Committees, Peace & Social Concerns and Earthcare, be nominated by the Nominating Committee. The nominated Clerk, working with other committee members, shall annually, by June 1, identify and suggest the terms of service of all other committee members, based on individual's declared interest in the work of these committees. The membership of these committees, like all other YM Committees, shall be approved by the YM in session.

4. Each committee respond to a set of “Queries on Committee Size” developed by this Task Group on Committees. The goal of the queries is to help the committee determine the number of members, terms of service, and mix of membership types it needs to be effective. Responses shall be sent to the Task Group on Committees (richard.mitchell@insightbb.com) by October 1.

“Queries on Committee Size” (initial draft)

- Would the committee be more effective if some of its members were appointed for longer periods of time?
- Would the committee be open to self-nominating some of its own membership (subject to approval of the nominees at YM sessions)?
- Is there a role for committee members who would be appointed for brief terms (e.g., six months, one year, etc.) perhaps with the understanding that they would be appointed to help with a specific task?
- What can be done to ensure the committee can be frequently refreshed with new members and fresh ideas?
- What can be done to ensure that the committee is representative of the diversity of the YM?
- What is the minimum number of committee members that need to be nominated by the Nominating Committee?
- What is the minimum number of committee members that are needed for the committee to complete its work without excessive burden on any member?

Citations

1. Both the Clerical Staff Support Committee and Clerk’s Support Committee no longer need to be nominated. Members are determined by status as a YM officer or by nomination by the person being supported.
2. The Committee Charges can be found in Section 3.6 of the *OVYM Handbook*, which is available on the YM website at <http://quaker.org/ovym/Documents/OVYMHandbook.pdf>

State of the Meeting Reports

Bloomington Monthly Meeting

April 2012

Throughout this past year, Bloomington Friends Meeting has provided a faith home for incubating the personal and corporate leadings of its members and attenders.

We shared our thoughts, prayers, and leadings with each other through our monthly query discussions; in worship sharing; and in discussion groups on topics such as “Praying With the Psalms,” “Bridges to Contemplative Living,” and Bible study. “Joys and sorrows” were shared at the end of meetings for worship. Fellowship opportunities included pitch-in lunches on the second First Day of the month, as well as the wonderful Christmas party in December where the First Day School presented a play about William Penn. The annual event known as Evening of the Arts gave us a chance to share talents and handiwork that might otherwise remain unknown to the meeting family. Young Friends have started to organize their own social gatherings, and another wonderful meeting retreat, attended by Friends of all ages, was held at Bradford Woods this past autumn. Two used book sales a year benefit our library and bring well-used volumes into more hands. In addition to our monthly newsletter, published in both electronic and print versions, our Meeting website has been completely redone to help keep us connected with one other, while the meeting Facebook page is in the process of being rejuvenated.

It has been a fruitful year of exploration and reflection as children continued to grow and mature, enriching the life of our Meeting. We have approximately 21 children between 2 and 18 who attend at various regularities. Our youngest members in the nursery join the whole Meeting for Worship for the first quarter hour, often offering vocal ministry as they are led. Our elementary, middle youth, and teens also join in worship for the first 15 minutes and our teens stay for the entire Meeting for Worship the first First Day of the month. On the third First Day, all students interview a member of the Meeting hearing first-hand testimonies and expressions of faith and action. On the fifth First Day of a month, there is an inter-generational activity after the rise of the Meeting, now led by the teens and usually of a musical nature. This year, the First Day school focused on Quaker History. Elementary aged children are reading, acting out, drawing and discussing the history through the accounts of children. They particularly “enjoyed” acting out George Fox and his followers going to jail for not adhering to the religious practices of the 1650s. The middle youth and teens studied various figures in Quaker history and discussed envisioning our future following the practice of Elise Boulding. At the end of Meeting each week, the First Day School classes share their activities with the Meeting as a whole. We are grateful for the dedication and love of teachers in First Day School, especially our beloved nursery teacher, Alice Leake, who has been serving in this capacity for over 40 years.

We joyfully welcomed two new Friends into membership, while we sorely miss our long-time member, Lib Buck, who died last spring; but we still feel the Light she brought to our meeting. We also miss several Friends who moved out of town. Some visitors have

become regular attenders, enriching our corporate worship and fellowship. Meals, visits, transportation, and other support have been provided when assistance was needed.

After careful Quaker discussion in the form of queries, a threshing session, and meetings for worship with attention to business, plus many earnest discussions in our homes, we decided to have a local architectural firm lead us in an evaluation of our meeting's physical space and help us to consider possibilities for renovations, repairs, and updating our facility to serve our First Day School needs, improve accessibility, and address lead contamination and air circulation issues.

Our Meeting has provided three people to work at Community Kitchen on the 4th Saturday of every month. Some of us attend peace vigils at Bloomington Courthouse Square as we did on 3/21 when we marked the 9th anniversary of the beginning of the war in Iraq and held signs saying "Not Again in Iran." Many individual Friends have been involved in other peace activities – for people and the earth – as their faith is a way of life, nurtured and upheld by Quaker values.

It has been a year of thanksgiving, as we realize the precious Light that each person's presence brings.

Campus Friends Meeting

The queries from Wilmington Yearly Meeting are as follows:

What is your meeting doing to bring your meeting into unity with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and the Gospels?

In what ways do the activities of your meeting reflect the spirituality of your meeting?

Coming into Unity with the Divine:

Campus Friends meet in expectant open worship for the Holy Spirit to lead us into unity. We receive and hold all vocal ministry in the Presence and Light of Christ as we strive to listen with open ears. Feeling a oneness with each other in the love of God, trusting that all vocal ministry comes from the same Source, we value equally what everyone has to share. As we celebrate our theological diversity, we trust the Holy Spirit will lead us into closer fellowship with each other and with the Divine as we grow in our ability to recognize the love of God at work amongst us.

Activities of Campus Friends Meeting:

The ***structure of our monthly meeting*** reflects our belief that all are called to ministry and that as a community we can discern and follow God's leadings. ***Monthly Meeting*** when asked by members and/or attenders appoints a clearness committee to help sort through personal issues. ***Ministry & Counsel*** actively encourages all Friends to speak when led and to participate in monthly meeting activities. ***Monthly Meeting*** appoints two or three Friends to serve on a circle of care to pay particular attention to those in the meeting who need individual care due to age, health or financial constraints.

Last winter Campus Meeting began a *book discussion club* which provides a supportive, welcoming atmosphere to share and question our theologies. The query for *our fall retreat* challenged us to discern as a community, whether God is calling Campus Meeting to specific ministry, and if so, to identify it. It became clear that our corporate ministry is care for one another. We recognize the importance of continued support for individual ministries: faithful witness against war; ministry with the Clinton County Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army; participation in local environmental concerns; a bread ministry to five local pantries; liaison with FCNL and many others. Because we value our membership in the world-wide family of Friends, we delight in hearing from visitors who wish to share a particular leading or experience. Our *monthly fellowship meals* provide the opportunity to do exactly that.

As individuals and as a monthly meeting with membership in two yearly meetings, we strive to live into the reality that at all times we are in the Presence of the Living Christ.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

Approved 4th Month 2012

As we gather for worship on first day mornings, we can observe many differences. Some arrive at the Stout Meetinghouse by car, while others arrive by foot or bicycle. Some grew up in the meeting half a century ago, while others are attending for the first time. As we settle into worship, these differences diminish and we rediscover what brings us together.

This year our membership stayed relatively consistent. While we did not have weddings to celebrate, we were also spared the grief of acknowledging the passing of a member or attender. However, some treasured friends moved away and we miss them. Our Ministry and Oversight Committee continued its practice of making annual contact with members and attenders near and far. This led to some transfers of membership and we wish them well in faith communities closer to their new homes.

Many in our meeting feel nourished by joining others for worship and social justice work. We joined with the two other meetings in Richmond for our annual summer worship time. This was our year to plan the worship, and we are grateful to the member who brought a prepared message. The three Friends Meetings and the Church of the Brethren joined together for a Christmas Eve service. For the first time, members of other meetings joined us for our annual winter solstice labyrinth worship and reflection time. Our high school member is active in the Richmond Three Meeting Young Friends in addition to OVYM Young Friends.

Members and attenders continue to work for a better world through volunteering with Open Arms Ministries which provides basic needs to Wayne County residents and through service on the boards and committees of Quaker organizations such as FCNL, OVYM, and AFSC. Members and attenders came together for another workday at the Cope Environmental Center. We were moved to send minutes to our state legislators

about not including marriage discrimination in the Indiana Constitution and to our federal legislators about government spending.

Small groups continue to provide spiritual nurture. Our mid-week worship group meets weekly, while our book group and writing group meet monthly. Our annual retreat addressed the theme of "Sabbath".

We continue to explore how to nurture and encourage young and old via religious education. There are always those who step up with new ideas and energy, driven not by numbers as the measure of success but rather addressing the question: Are we creating a loving and safe place? Interest in our spiritual welfare inspired a series of second hour discussions on vocal ministry, enabling us to explore its history and practice; how vocal ministry can nourish the meeting; and how we receive and respond to ministry that makes us uncomfortable. We celebrate the range of speakers and messages that have been shared during worship.

We are small and lively. People come and go and a few stay and make their home with us. One of the ongoing gifts to our meeting is that we attract Earlham School of Religion and Earlham College students as well as many traveling F(f)riends to be with us for a day, month, year, or longer. We continue to be a place for the convincement of seekers to join the Society of Friends. We aspire to be a community that welcomes travelers and sojourners.

Community Friends Meeting

Community Meeting has experienced the continued blessings of many active members and attenders who give deeply of their time and energy to make the meeting a welcoming place of worship. We rejoice that our young adults and teens are very active in the life of the meeting, and that our new attenders include young adults and families with children. We also lift up our beloved meeting elders in grateful support as they face the challenges of aging and some difficult health concerns, and pray that the rest of us will be able to take on the many responsibilities that these elders carried so faithfully over the years.

We have strengthened our process for welcoming newcomers by preparing a good packet of materials to share, and we have given out about 30 packets to visitors and newcomers. Instead of the Quakerism 101 classes, we are now offering two sessions, twice a year, on the foundations of Quakerism. We joyfully welcomed Debbie Harris into membership this year, and we have many new attenders, some of whom are in the process of requesting membership. Our new attenders are very active in the meeting, and have brought new vitality and rich diversity to our meeting community. We are greatly enriched by the diversity in spiritual experiences of our members and attenders, and we welcome the variety of ways that these experiences are expressed in spoken ministry.

We held a Quaker Quest full day workshop in the fall, which stimulated much spiritual energy in the meeting. The resulting discernment process about our leadings to do

inreach and outreach has been very rich. We also have learned to feel more comfortable talking with seekers about our own experience of the Quaker way. The meeting found strong clearness for committing to ongoing inreach sessions to deepen our spiritual connectedness and community, and Adult Education Committee has scheduled a monthly Second Hour with queries to encourage deeper sharing about our spiritual journeys.

The meeting has lifted up and supported the work of meeting members who have leadings for prison ministry and music ministry. The meeting hosted a Salt and Light event held by FWCC in preparation for the FWCC World Conference in Kenya, and one of our members attended this event as a representative of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Last fall, Adult Education facilitated a very well-attended book discussion on *Quakerism, a Theology for our Time*, by Patricia Williams. This group met twice a month for several months.

The work of our committees continues with great dedication and generous gifts of the spirit. However, we have noted this past year that there has been somewhat less coordination and communication among committees, and occasional frustration in organizational and planning efforts. Many of us struggle to balance responsibilities of full time work and family obligations with the work of the meeting. As noted by one active but weary committee member, “through all difficulties we have persisted and experienced growth in awareness of what is possible, and what each of us as individuals can contribute to the group.”

Religious Development Committee has continued to provide intergenerational activities each month to help adults and children get to know one another. Five or six children participated regularly in First Day School, learning about Quaker testimonies, and three teens attended the teen group, which focused on the New Testament. The annual Christmas play, “Christmas in the Trenches”, was directed and narrated by our teens. Six meeting teens traveled to Oklahoma for the OVYM teen service trip last year, with financial and spiritual support from the meeting community. Two of our teens are currently attending Olney Friends School. Teens have been actively involved in wider Quaker events, such as attending the FGC Gathering and the Quake that Rocked the Midwest. One of our teens will be going on the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage next year. These experiences have deepened the teens’ connection to their Quaker faith and to the wider Quaker community.

Peace and Social Concerns committee continued to organize and provide a monthly dinner for up to 40 formerly homeless mentally ill people at Tender Mercies. A major event was hosted at the meeting in December on how to lobby members of Congress effectively. As a result of the committee’s outreach to other historic peace churches and organizations in Cincinnati and Kentucky, over 20 people attended this event in spite of being at a busy time of year. Following the training, two informal groups within our monthly meeting began engaging in the lobbying process with local representatives to Congress. The committee has also focused attention on the impasse in our federal legislative process due to a series of Supreme Court decisions, culminating in Citizens United. The meeting approved a minute regarding Citizens United and forwarded it to

FCNL. The meeting also approved a minute in support of Occupy Cincinnati, grounded in our experience of the divine in all persons.

The Meetinghouse and grounds continue to be lovingly cared for by our caretakers and House and Grounds Committee. A major project was repairing and painting the walls and ceiling in the basement playroom, so our children now have a clean and safe place to play. Along with the Friends in Unity with Nature Committee, another major effort is the ongoing project of caring for the woods on the meeting property by removing invasive honeysuckle and ivy, and planting native trees and wildflowers. FUN Committee also continues to focus our attention on growing the local food economy, and the meeting again supported the printing of a local food guide. Our beehives produced honey last fall, and the honey extraction process was a joyous community-building effort!

Our meeting newsletter has been faithfully published and sent out primarily by email. The newsletter is now complemented with wonderful sketches and photos of our community members and activities. Community Committee continues their much-appreciated ministry providing hospitality and organizing our refreshments every week, in addition to planning special opportunities for fun and community-building such as coloring Easter eggs with natural dyes and pumpkin-carving parties!

Meeting for worship remains the center of our shared spiritual community. We are frequently blessed with spirit-led ministry, and we are learning to listen with open hearts to the varied expressions of one another's experience of the divine. We are grateful for the love and power in the deep center of all things that holds us all together on this spiritual journey.

Dayton Friends Meeting

Fourth Month 2012

Dayton Friends Meeting shares in deep and fulfilling worship experiences grounded in a depth of wisdom and spiritually rich practice. We gather in space rented from the Brethren and make that space a welcoming place for worship and fellowship. Our meetings for business are conducted in a climate of spiritual care.

While we continue to have concerns about our long-term future, we are also given hope by the attendance of families with children and by our relationship with Englewood Friends Meeting, which has recently joined OVYM. Still, we have many members who are older, retired, or facing retirement. Some of these members have already moved out of the area and others plan to do so in the coming years. Some remain in Dayton but are less able to participate in all aspects of the life of the meeting. Our financial resources are also affected by this change in our demographics.

Much of our energy is focused on the pastoral care of our members. We have had members with health and personal concerns, and our prayerful support is important to them. We also celebrated the life of Reed Smith with members of his family and people

from the Dayton community at a memorial service, laying him to rest next to Marjorie in Woodland Cemetery.

We provide First Day programming for children when they attend. The children who occasionally attend span a wide age range and bring joyful energy to the meeting. We have several young adults who are still well-connected to Quakerism and are pleased to see them moving from the base they have formed in the meeting to new and rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Two of our young adults currently attend Earlham College.

We find time for study and fellowship. We have held a number of second hour discussions that have enabled us to share experiences and work in which individual members are engaged. In these sessions, we come to know each other better and see the ways in which the spiritual life of the meeting helps to nourish work that extends beyond our membership. We celebrate Christmas and Easter together, sharing a meal as well as worship. We occasionally meet together with Englewood Friends for worship and to share meals.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has focused on writing letters on issues of concern. We continue to provide food and service to a local homeless shelter on a monthly basis.

We are concerned about the long-term future of the Meeting, but are thankful for the presence of the Spirit in our midst. We share deep affection for each other and together hold in the light all who suffer, while also taking joy in each other and the gift of all creation.

Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting

How do we see the Spirit acting through our Meeting? How do we as a Meeting open ourselves to the nurturing the Spirit offers?

In The Man Who Planted Trees, French novelist Jean Giono tells the story of a man who plants acorns in a barren landscape. From the acorns comes a forest. Birds and flowers return. Streams once again run clear and pure. We appreciate how the story witnesses life attracting life. Just as in the story life leads to more life, so in our meeting we see how our awareness of the Spirit's presence among us leads to further spiritual openings. As we live up to the Light given to us as a meeting and as individuals, we are given more.

During the past year we saw how a few members' and attenders' ministry and concerns became a meeting ministry under the guidance of the Divine Spirit. We were challenged by an attender's concern for social justice issues. Her subsequent departure from the meeting led us to reflect on who we are and on the Spirit's presence in meeting life. As a small meeting we lack the energy of a larger, more age diverse meeting. We understand

that we cannot tackle large peace or social justice activities but that we can do small acts with love. For example, we saw that we could support the ministries of individual members. One opportunity arose through a member who counsels residents at the Jimmy Heath House in downtown Cincinnati. The Jimmy Heath House provides stable housing to those struggling with alcoholism and other afflictions associated with homelessness. Our member's ministry inspired a spiritual leading among others in the meeting to share God's love and bounty by providing the Heath House residents with a home-cooked lunch once a month. We share this meal and fellowship with the residents. Providing food is important, but being present to these men struggling to end their alcoholism is more important. We gain a deeper appreciation of their circumstances and their struggles as unique individuals. Furthermore, we are all fed by God's love as we work to nourish the residents physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We are deeply aware of the Spirit's presence among us in Meeting for Worship. The singing which opens our worship continues to be a powerful medium for experiencing the Divine Presence. Our expectant waiting during worship does not always lead to vocal ministry; nevertheless, the silence is full and we leave spiritually refreshed. Each meeting for worship ends with our clerk asking if anyone has joys, concerns or a last message to share. This chance to share or to ask for prayers unites us with each other and with the Spirit and affirms the holiness of our time together.

Finally, we are blessed by the regular presence of three new attenders who tell us that we have been very welcoming. We see such welcoming as further occasion to share God's love. Attenders also appreciate our freedom from dogma and our acceptance of those seeking God and an understanding of their own spiritual lives. While we are profoundly aware of the Spirit's presence among us, we also know that the Presence makes demands on us with which we all struggle at one time or another. New attenders feel free to share their struggles with faith because those established in the meeting share theirs. This, too, we believe witnesses our desire to open to the Spirit.

Englewood Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

This report is being written at a time when the Meeting is grieving the loss of a young member of our Meeting. David Steele's life was celebrated on April 21, 2012 at our Meetinghouse and was attended by over 120 family members and friends. Friends continue to provide ministry and support David's parents, Jim and Connie Steele and his sister Hannah. Many have stated over the years that Englewood Friends is a place for healing as we sense God's presence with us and a love for one another in the Spirit. Early this year we also mourned the passing of long time member Lois McCormick. Lois left her humor and her husband Jim for us to care for and provide for his Spiritual needs.

The recent acceptance into Miami Quarterly Meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has been a blessing to our Meeting and we expect our involvement to increasingly grow with our new Friends General Conference friends. We feel welcomed, accepted and loved by

Friends of Miami Quarter. The last several years have tested our faith concerning our affiliation with Indiana Yearly Meeting, as we have been compelled by the Spirit to look deep into how we view God's meaning in the life of our Meeting. This has resulted in the Meeting spending an excess of energy on the turmoil which exists in IYM. We still have some hurdles to overcome before we settle our dealings with IYM and we ask our new body of Friends to hold us in the Light as we begin to lay those struggles to rest.

Englewood Friends is small with a current membership of nineteen members with a diversity that is welcomed and embraced. We are accepting and affirming of all people. Our ministries are varied and active among Meeting members and attenders. We serve the homeless of greater Dayton by preparing one meal per month for St Vincent's Homeless Shelter in cooperation with Dayton Friends. By the time this report is submitted, we will have sponsored a Concert with Carrie Newcomer with all proceeds going to the Dayton International Peace Museum. Several college students among our membership have been provided assistance with their costs of tuition. Ministry of music is evidenced by several members who share their talents during the fifth Sunday when the calendar accommodates. Many ministries were evidenced while caring for members in need during times of illness and loss of family members. We truly live into the Quaker belief in the Ministry of every member.

Our Meeting has welcomed several new members and attenders recently. The younger people are having a profound effect on the Spiritual life and the energy level of the Meeting. The "Friendly Grounds Coffee House Open Mic Nights" have been held regularly since last August. This is a time for sharing our readings, music, dramatics, comedy and ourselves with others. We invite all Friends as well as the Englewood community to share this time with us.

We look to the future with hope and a strong sense of the Spirit within our meeting. Change is inevitable yet we will continue to seek God's will for our ministries in the Meeting, in the wider Society of Friends and humankind.

Approved fifteenth day, fifth month, two thousand and twelve.

Fall Creek Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
4-15-12

Fall Creek Meeting feels to us like an oasis of spiritual freedom. There are diversities of experience and expression but one Spirit uniting all. Through patience, faithfulness and love, we have been able to find opening together into deep worship. There is often vocal ministry, shared by nearly everyone at some time. It is heard and accepted with open hearts and minds; when worship is in silence, it leaves us feeling humbled, renewed and in awe. We often linger in sweet silence after we rise from worship, not wanting to leave the state we are in. Both members and attenders take the groundedness, hope and energy from meeting for worship into various services to the world.

One of the things we feel sets us apart as a meeting is our weekly fellowship after worship. Nearly everyone stays for a meal on First Day. It is where we engage as a community, conversing and listening as a whole, carrying on our experience of loving concern for one another that we find in meeting for worship. Our great joy in one another defines who we are.

We continue to examine ourselves by reading and discussing the Queries before each Meeting for Business. Our answers indicate a steady growth in understanding of both our Quaker principles and in knowing ourselves as spirit, both individually and communally. It is an honest inventory of both our strengths and weaknesses.

We are blessed that God has provided a variety of gifts and talents to Fall Creek Meeting and that both physical and spiritual needs are attended to. We are still a community of mostly commuters, and realize that we are not reaching out to people close to us. We feel that outreach is important, but haven't found the time and energy to focus on it. We have come to understand that our particular witness is in Being; being-ness is our center, as contrasted to having an identity based in doing-ness.

We have the sense that we are maturing as a Friends meeting and that we are growing into one another and into God.

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting

April 2012

We at Fort Wayne Friends have spent the last year busy and active in both the community and at the meeting itself. We regularly have 10-12 people in our circle on Sundays. We have also begun to hear the welcome sounds of children; both sets have been attending with their fathers. This presents a welcome challenge for us to provide First Day School lessons for these young people.

During the past year, we have joined with Plymouth Congregational Church in serving meals to the local homeless shelter (Interfaith Hospitality Network). At Christmas time, the local Friends assisted in purchasing supplies for recently released jail inmates, and provided clothing for a local woman who is caring for her grandchildren. Many of us were able to attend a retreat in the fall at the Episcopal Center near Syracuse Indiana, where we fellowshiped and shared our respective spiritual journeys.

The most recent occurrences are the addition of Fred Feitler to our membership. Fred, a long time Quaker who currently resides in Auburn with Mary Anna, has also agreed to be clerk of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. Kris is gladly relinquishing those duties. We continue to listen to the still small voice within ourselves and pray for God's guidance in the coming year. We are saddened with the unsettled situation at Indiana

Yearly Meeting, and pray that all may be heard and understood in this difficult time. May God's grace shine upon all of you.

Kristine H. Connerly, Departing Clerk, Fort Wayne Friends Meeting

Green Plain Monthly Meeting

Green Plain Monthly Meeting has a very small membership and many of the members reside in other states. However, contact is maintained with all the members during the year. They are asked to share any thoughts and concerns that they might have at any time. A summary of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting reports and events is provided to all the members. The members that reside in the area maintain the Meeting House and grounds. The non-resident members serve the Meeting in other capacities.

Caroline Taylor
Clerk

Hopewell Friends Meeting

Our meeting has made great strides this year in attendance and participation. We have had the joy of welcoming the return of many Friends as well as the new membership of a long-time attender. Our meeting remains a small circle, but our commitment and devotion is ever increasing.

The fall found us outside, hosting a bonfire event that proved to be a homecoming for many. In the winter we again supported local families in need, and throughout the year we have supported Friends with personal, family, and financial struggles. This spring we look to the improvement our our Peace Garden and Labyrinth.

Friends have continued the exploration of world religions during second-hour. After finishing our study of the Qur'an, we read and discussed the Torah and look forward to a presentation from a local member of the Jewish community. We continue our studies with a look at the many-faceted Buddhist experience.

Hopewell Friends Meeting continues to be more than a quaint building far out in the country. We are a supportive, caring community who seek the Light, wherever it may lead.

Lafayette Friends Meeting

The spiritual life of Lafayette Friends Meeting has focused on community. To begin, we are pleased to say that we have a fine new wheelchair ramp. Although discussions of the ramp had progressed at the usual Friendly pace for some time, immediate action was taken when we learned of a new Friend in our community who would not be able to attend meeting without a ramp. One of our members who is a contractor coordinated the effort to build a handsome ramp and sidewalk that meet guidelines for handicap accessibility. Further revisions to the yard and a garden are planned. Unfortunately, our new Friend had a health setback. We had Meeting for Worship at the hospital to cheer him and his wife and hold them in the Light, but sadly he has now died and we have attended his funeral instead of welcoming him up the ramp.

A new feeling of vitality has come with the addition of several new members and attenders. Our meeting has been especially enriched by Erik Cleven, who has made peace his profession by working on his PhD on ethnic violence in Kenya, in Political Science here at Purdue. He has helped us broaden our knowledge of Quaker history as well as the wider world of Friends. The meeting is holding Erik in the Light as he goes to the 2012 World Conference of Friends in Kenya. A minute has been added to that effect.

An initially less happy event occurred when an older member decided to leave the meeting because she felt that the Meeting was not speaking to her spiritual needs. Once she left us, she discovered that she has a calling to succor the members of the retirement community in which she lives by simply listening to them. It is a marvelous calling and we are happy for her and will hold her work in the Light.

The Meeting House has apartments for students both upstairs and in the basement. One of our tenants is very ill. Her mother is here from South America and we have been having meeting for worship at the home of one of our members to allow the family both space and quiet. We are, of course, praying that our tenant's health will improve.

The Meeting has come together over financial matters several times. We have a tenant who is substantially behind in her rent and we are concerned both for her well-being and for the income needs of the Meeting. We continue to grapple with the question of how to encourage her to meet her financial obligations to the Meeting without being punitive.

In addition, we are concerned that the contributions of our members were not sufficient to cover the expenses of the Meeting in 2010, even though Friends have been quick to rise to the occasion when a specific need has arisen. We are considering ways to prevent such a shortfall in the future.

We also have a concern about the annual assessment levied by Yearly Meeting. Although we value the work of Yearly Meeting and accept our obligation to support it, some attenders have been reluctant to become members because they cannot pay the assessed amount and do not wish to burden the Meeting by joining. In spite of the fact that

meetings can pay less than the per member assessment estimated by Yearly Meeting, the \$100 per member amount is daunting to students and people on low or fixed incomes. We feel that membership should not be based on income nor should anyone be made to feel less than fully part of the community because they cannot pay what they may feel is their fair share. We continue to seek ways to honor the spiritual and practical contributions of our members, to encouraging financial contributions, and to assure less affluent Friends that all are valued in our midst.

Lafayette Friends Meeting has continued its ecumenical activities by participating in the Lafayette Urban Ministry's efforts, which focus on indigent care in the Lafayette area. We serve a bimonthly Sunday lunch with the Church of the Brethren at the gathering hall at the Trinity United Methodist Church to folks in need. (Other churches are responsible for the rest of the Sundays and social services serve meals during the rest of the week.) We share other activities as well, including hosting the Friendly Folk Dancers with Church of the Brethren and a concert by Tom Neilson with the Unitarian Universalists.

The Meeting has also extended a hand to the Friends of the Farmers Institute Meeting whose membership has dropped and whose historically important buildings are in danger of falling down. The Farmers Institute was a boarding school started by the Greenfield Meeting that offered classes from first grade through the first few years of college, and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Once the county took over public education and the college-level teachers became the first faculty at Purdue, the Greenfield Friends sold their old meeting house and met at the Farmers Institute classroom building. A number of us attended a clean-up day last fall and we have offered to participate in a "Quaker Fair" next fall. Quaker Fair was an annual fall festival/fund raiser that the Farmers Institute held until recently. Western Yearly Meeting would like them to lay down their meeting, and we have offered to sit with them in Meeting for Worship once a month to bolster their attendance. It seems that we will be able to make good on our offer: just last Sunday the Farmers Institute Friends had their first newly organized meeting for worship in their old meeting house. They chose to start on Easter so they could celebrate both the Resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of their meeting. As the Farmers Institute has been too small to support a minster, when they meet they have silent meeting for worship as we do, and their meeting house is a welcoming place with a very loud clock.

Michele M. Tomarelli,
Lafayette Friends Meeting Quarterly Recorder

Lexington Friends Meeting May 2011 – April 2012

During the past year, Lexington Meeting continued to be a vibrant, spiritually-centered Meeting. We have maintained this center in spite of the challenges and distractions of conflict among us, our struggles to find ways to minister to Friends going through extremely difficult situations, and a major fundraising campaign.

Meeting for Worship draws many of us to the Meeting. On most First Days, several Friends speak. Over time, vocal ministry is widely shared. There are, nevertheless, deep silences, and the messages often speak to our individual or collective conditions. Several Friends mentioned that the Worship feels like a safe space. We are pleased that newcomers sometimes offer ministry.

Most Friends feel that our Meeting is very welcoming to newcomers. There is often a sense of happy companionship in the room. In general, we like one another; we are friends. Friends enjoy the time of sharing after the rise of Worship during which each Friend may share ‘highs’ and ‘lows’ from the past week or a message that was not ready during Worship. This sharing helps knit us as a community.

Unfortunately, this sense of welcoming is not felt by all. Several Friends feel that there is an “in-group” in the Meeting, which is difficult to penetrate and which exercises too much control over the Meeting. The Care and Nurture Committee, working with our Clerks, has mediated conversations among Friends who differ on this issue. Reconciliation has occurred in some instances but not in others.

During 2011, our Meetings for Worship with attention to Business were often quite contentious and in the opinions of many, not worshipful. The contention is around issues of openness. Our Clerks worked hard to improve our processes and to ensure that some issues were seasoned in committee before being brought to Business sessions. When the Meeting seemed on the edge of becoming contentious, our Clerks asked us to return to silence. In 2012, this work has blossomed. Our Meetings for Business in 2012 have been much less contentious and occasionally worshipful. Without exception, Friends praised our Clerks for the difficult work they have accomplished.

In response to sexual abuse that occurred in one of our families, our Ministry and Worship Committee formed an ad hoc committee on sexual abuse of children. A member of the affected family participated actively with the committee in the planning and presentation of a series of half-day workshops on sexual abuse that were well-attended by adult Friends. We heard from outside experts and participated in deep sharing, enriched by several Friends’ sharing their experiences of sexual abuse.

We have become aware of the pervasiveness and long-lasting impact of sexual abuse. We encourage other OVYM Meetings to address this issue. In 2012—2013 we plan to explore how we as a Meeting can best address this issue in central Kentucky.

We are blessed to have a number of teenage Friends actively involved in our Meeting and in OVYM teen and middle youth programs. Highlights of the year included the teen presentation of an original play about the Nativity written by one of our parents and participation in Yearly Meeting teen programs. Friends are particularly grateful for one family’s inspired and long-term work on behalf of our youth. We are concerned that this work needs to be more widely shared among us. We are also blessed to have an increasing number of young children with us. We are delighted that they are beginning to get to know one another and want to be together.

A stimulating adult discussion group meets weekly before worship. Topics this year have included the testimonies, personal peacemaking, human rights, clerking a Quaker committee, the Beatitudes, meeting for business, vocal ministry, and poetry, including poems by Lexington Friends.

Our Care & Nurture Committee has conducted a number of Clearness Committees for persons facing difficult life decisions and one Clearness for membership. They have initiated several Quaker Eights groups that meet monthly for potluck supper and getting to know one another better. Our Ministry & Worship Committee held two multi-week workshops called “Discovering Quakerism” for new attenders.

A less happy responsibility of the Care & Nurture Committee, often working with the assistance of our Clerks, has been to mediate conflicts between Friends. In spite of significant time and tears, some of these conflicts have had the unhappy result that Friends have stopped attending meeting. Departed Friends have been assured that they are loved, missed, and welcome to return. We work with Friends on both sides of conflicts with the goal that all involved feel safe and supported.

The economic recession continues to impact our meeting. Members and attenders have had difficulty finding work. The Meeting collects food for members of the Meeting community. A special needs fund provides loans and grants to members of the Meeting community in need. Individual Friends support other Friends in various ways.

We have suffered a number of deaths this year. Three Friends have lost their fathers and one has lost her mother. One of the fathers died unexpectedly in a farm accident. We also shared the grief of the parents of five-month-old Rye Bessinger-Willder who suffocated in her sleep. Ray Wilkie, a lifelong worker for peace and social justice, also died unexpectedly. Ray was an intellectual but humble seeker who explored many religious paths during his long life. He worked tirelessly to get Friends’ light out from under our collective bushels and onto our local paper’s editorial pages.

We celebrate life transitions and achievements of our Quaker community: birthdays, sport victories, graduations etc. are marked with cake, Quaker applause, and/or song. A particular highlight occurred in October, when Hannah Lynn Hopkins (b. 9/29/12) was brought to Meeting.

Lexington Friends supported a Meeting attender in her resistance to our nation’s continuing refurbishment of weapons of mass destruction and preparation for building new nuclear weapons. She served time in jail for her civil disobedience at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Members of meeting attended her trial and wrote her in prison.

Our Peace & Social Concerns Committee has been re-invigorated with new members. It facilitates monthly letter-writing on topics of social concern. The Committee initiated meetings with members of our congressional delegation and their staffs. Friends from Berea and Louisville Meetings have joined Lexington Friends at several of these meetings.

Some members are frustrated there is no peace or social justice project in which the entire Lexington Quaker community participates. That said, many Friends are involved in local peace, justice, and environmental organizations and those that promote interfaith understanding. We also participate in a local coalition that mobilizes churches to address issues of local injustice.

Our run-down Meetinghouse continues to require quite a bit of our labor. Friends are grateful for a few Friends who faithfully carry out numerous maintenance tasks and routine cleaning. We continue to move toward renovation of the building. We closed fundraising campaign with \$394,000 raised in 3-year pledges. This is short of our \$500,000 goal, but given the relatively small size of our meeting, we are very pleased to have raised this sum. We are thankful to Richard Barnes who trained and guided us through our fundraising process and to a fundraising committee that worked very hard. We are also thankful to OVYM Friends and meetings who made contributions. We are currently revising our renovation plan in order to execute it with the resources we have raised. We hope to find way forward to begin the renovation in the summer of 2012.

We are a small but diverse group of people seeking to create a community that fosters spiritual growth. Our goals and tasks are many. As the period of this State of the Meeting report ends, we must recommit ourselves to standing still in the Light and finding that Divine Center from which we can know the way forward.

Approved at Meeting for Business, May 6, 2012

Friends Meeting of Louisville

Fourth month 2012

Our meetings for worship on the surface seem mostly quiet, but underneath there is much bubbling within individuals. With the passing of Joan Thomas, a founding member of Louisville Meeting, her husband, Lee Thomas has been grappling with grief. Other Friends have also lost family members which affected not only state of mind and heart, but also participation in the life of the Meeting. We learned that sometimes efforts to be supportive to those who are ill, are more challenging to the afflicted than helpful. Sometimes holding another in the Light is the best response. We seek to discern how best to support those in need.

Some folks in our Meeting are concerned that we have no written mission statement and vision. Others seem unconcerned. Some believe that decisions of the Meeting should be made largely by sense of the meeting led by the Spirit. Others think that most decisions should be delegated to committees and individuals and then accepted by the Meeting as a whole. OVYM's Advancement and Nurture Committee responded to our need for clarity on decision making. With that meeting with them we understood that this is not new or unique to our Meeting. Some want our love and care for those needing emergency relief in the world to be expressed through the Meeting's financial resources. Others think that we need to focus on growing our Meeting, that the meeting makes enough charitable contributions and that individuals are free to respond as their consciences and budgets allow.

In the last year our Meeting took possession of two nearby homes: the one across the street by gift, the other, which is behind our Meetinghouse, by purchase. The purchased home was an unexpected opportunity that seemed a possible answer to some of our space concerns, that we shouldn't let pass. To date, it has become the location for First Day School for our young people—a nice space where extra noise does not overwhelm Meeting for Worship. The gift home houses a person who watches out for the properties, mows the grass, and does repairs to the houses as requested. Some wonder if we are still considering an addition to our Meetinghouse or if this arrangement is the alternative. We hope to sort out our needs, our leadings with a visioning process.

Our meeting for worship with attention to business continues to meet monthly at First Hour at 9a.m. before our regular worship time at 10:30a.m. There are challenges with running too close to the 10:30 hour or carrying unsettling interactions or decisions into unprogrammed worship.

Our First Hours have also included Jan Arnow's Peacemaking curriculum, studying and sharing about Douglas Steere's Quaker Spirituality, considering David Swanson's When the World Outlawed War, and Terry Taylor sharing about peace making in other religious traditions. Weekly Friendly Bible Study and monthly Women's Worship Sharing Group meet in the evening mid-week. They attract some folks who seldom attend Meeting and benefit not only those who attend, but the Meeting as well, for these opportunities for learning and sharing draw us into fellowship with each other and with the Spirit.

Some challenges that we have are: participation in and support of most of our committees; representation on the OYVM Executive Committee; representation to Quarterly Meeting; and good regular communication with those who do not gain Meeting information through our e-mail newsletter.

Despite our challenges, we seem to be attracting more young adults and young families. The families from Burundi continue to come to worship. In the fall we had an enriching Salt and Light program conducted by folks from FWCC (Friends World Consultation Committee). One of the facilitators was the former Quaker pastor to those families in the African refugee camps. The reunion was joyous. Translators that we engaged gave us all an opportunity to communicate more fully. This program required much organizing and effort; we are thankful for the dedication, communication and hospitality of those who helped it happen.

Chris Harmer has returned from the Peace Corps in Mali and has helped us look at ourselves, our vocal ministry and participation in Meeting by sharing reflections on the Meetings in Europe and Africa that he attended. As we considered what to include in this report several queries arose: What can we do to become unmixed blessings to our Meeting? How do we uphold each other in reaching for higher standards? How do we let our spiritual needs be known—so that we can know each other in the Spirit and have our needs met?

Miami Monthly Meeting

Religious Society of Friends

We have a loyal group of Friends meeting each Sunday for business, spiritual lessons, or sharing worship with Quaker Heights residents. We meet in an historic white brick meeting house or a red brick meeting house across the street depending on weather conditions.

For our business meetings we have a period of silent worship after which the clerk opens the meeting for business. This business meeting is held each month. All members are supplied with a report carefully, prudently compiled by Bill Hoch who has been our treasurer for 16 faithful years. This year he is turning the responsibility over to Peg Schorreck. We try to make our business decisions in the light and hold to the principles of the way.

Milton Cook our clerk attended the Quarterly meeting in Cincinnati reporting that the good attendees supported holding quarterly meetings at retreat centers rather than meeting houses.

We have allowed the Women's Lions Club to meet in our red brick meetinghouse sharing our facilities with others.

We had a workday April 9th to maintain the grounds around the meetinghouses conducted by willing spirited friends.

The Religious Education Committee proposed using the Pendle Hill Pamphlet on Inward Peace. "Why I am a Quaker" by Rufus Jones, and "The Quaker Doctrine of Inner Peace" by Howard Brinton and his "Guide to Quaker Practice" have been out study guides for First Day School. We have meaningful discussions on these subjects.

We offered the facilities of the Red Brick Meeting House for an overnight shelter for Spoke and Revolution Youth Cycling, riding from Mississippi to Niagara Falls, NY following a slave route. They sponsor recycled bikes for kids in need.

Assistant Clerk Lawrence Burger attended Yearly Meeting at Earlham College, Richmond Indiana, gave a Webmaster's Report and participated in discussions of the revision of Faith and Practice.

We approved tuition assistance to Hanna Salmon studying Equestrian Management at the University of Louisville. We sponsored Katie Rose Stone attending nursing school in Tasmania, Woodie Stone at University of Cincinnati, Zachary and Travis Cook, David Furnas and Will Nowel.

We had our annual worship and picnic meeting at Fort Ancient July 17th and were joined by other meetings in the area.

Our treasurer Bill Hoch talked to the gas company and got a 10% reduction in the cost of natural gas for the coming year.

Lawrence Burger, Assistant Clerk, attended Quarterly Miami Meeting in Dayton as our representative. He gave us a report on that meeting.

Each Christmas we include Quaker Heights in our worship program including singing and reading the gospel story of Christmas.

Seth (Bud) Furnas long time and faithful Friend died April 25, 2011. He was remembered by a beautiful memorial service at our White Brick Meeting House May 2. Monimia Hoak Barker died January 9, 2011. She was Eula McDermott and Benton Hoak's sister attended Miami Meeting as a child.

North Meadow Circle of Friends Spring 2011- Spring 2012

This past year North Meadow has attended to its own needs for edification and nurture. Every month, we look forward to several different activities that bring us together to learn and grow. We have gradually watched the Bill Moyers interview with Joseph Campbell, which has led to some insightful dialogue. As the DVD series draws towards a close, a discussion group was formed to read Ben Pink Dandelion's *A Very Short History of Quakerism*. The Adult Religious Education committee is also planning a *Quakerism 101* course later this year. The meeting continues asking one member or attender a month to share their spiritual journey after meeting for worship and a pitch in meal. Almost all of us have shared our spiritual journey once... and we are starting to hear "round two," and finding we are not at the same place we were a few years ago. Another beloved tradition has been the potluck and worship sharing held at a different house each month.

We have stabilized a consistent Children's Religious Education program with usually two children, and sometimes five. It has been rewarding to see how the children have settled into the community and can sit during the last ten minutes of meeting with much less noise than a year ago. Last month the meeting had an inter-generational food and music evening. The young ones had a good time playing string instruments, percussion and singing.

Last year the meeting house underwent a major renovation to make our meeting house more accessible and to use less fossil fuel. We installed a geothermal heat system, an ADA approved bathroom with composting toilet and have moved the library and the Children's rooms to the first floor. This year the work on the property continues in less dramatic, but no less important areas. We have held work days to do landscaping and most recently to paint the kitchen. These working parties have been fruitful times for our community to enjoy fellowship one with another.

Our meeting for worship always gathers quietly and reverently and continues to see stable attendance. The messages given during meeting are coming from a broader and more diverse portion of the meeting and are deep and rich. From the depths of silent worship many in our community find the spiritual refreshment and nurture that inspires them in lives of social ministry. North Meadow has members and attenders who are working to abolish the death penalty in Indiana, provide services to LGBTQ youth, stop our governments military meddling, teach parenting skills to incarcerated women, introduce non-violent conflict resolution to men in prison, and help boys and young men transition to life after release from prison.

North Meadow continues to buy shares in a community supported agriculture program and provide fresh vegetables to Crane House and the Damien Center. We also maintain a food pantry and used clothing collection for people in our neighborhood.

North Meadow Circle of Friends is undergoing a period of discernment about our future. As we consider if and how to share the gifts of our Religious Society with the wider community, we are looking at the Quaker Quest model. The Meeting completed a series of worship sharings this last summer and autumn on various aspects of sharing the gifts of Quakerism. These culminated in a retreat one evening and the following afternoon at the Peace Learning Center. During this retreat, the meeting community looked back on our past and forward to envision our future. Next week we will gather again to discern together where the meeting is going with regard to intentional growth and outreach.

Oxford Friends Meeting

Our Meeting for Worship remains small in number but rich in friendship and love. We are like a family, and as such have much to celebrate:

Our children have increased in number this year, with the addition of the Murray family. Ian, Caleb and Jillian have joined Rita in our First Day School program, to the delight of Rita and the enrichment of us all. Our First Day School teachers have been challenged and rewarded as they have creatively engaged the eagerness and interests of our children. Topics addressed have been the history of Bible, the Underground Railroad, Aesop's fables, 17th Century Quakers, Quaker testimonies, and Midrashes of Bible stories. Friends look forward to the children's report of the First Day School activity each week at the rise of Meeting. Adults and children have delighted in presenting a Nativity play as well as plays involving significant events and figures in Quaker History. Some children have begun staying for the duration of Meeting for Worship and blessing our gathering with their presence and occasionally with vocal ministry.

Our Meeting's home, the Campus Ministry Center, has undergone change this year as we bade a loving farewell to former director Harry Bolen and welcomed the enthusiasm and energy of the new interim director, Rebecca Bowman Woods. The financial crisis facing

the CMC causes concern, and we have helped out with maintenance and cleaning needs.

The work of our Meeting has focused on peace and social concerns in the Oxford area. Members have filled school bags and health kits for Church World Service, raised money for the CROP hunger walk and for the MS walk, participated in Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice, environmental and ecumenical forums, the Empty Bowls fundraiser for Oxford's local food pantry, and are helping with a Habitat for Humanity house. Several of us have been involved in the opening of the MOON coop and support its struggle to get started. After concern was expressed about the visit of the Westboro Baptist Church to Miami University, we posted the following in the Oxford Press last fall: ***Oxford Friends Meeting (Quakers) affirms the rights of the LGBTQ community and God's love for all. We welcome everyone to worship with us 10 a.m. Sundays at Campus Ministry Center, 16 S. Campus.***

Our members have expressed care and concern for one another as some have experienced disappointment in professions and careers, health crises, and other heartbreaks. Nancy McDowell is no longer able to attend worship; we have made some efforts to visit her in the nursing home. We were blessed by the presence of Muriel Blaisdell and Cynthia Kelley, two Pastoral Friends, who sojourned with us for a couple of months.

Worship is the heart of our meeting. Vocal ministry appears to be a little more frequent and richer this year. The time for sharing thoughts after worship continues to be fruitful. Our Second Hour adult discussion topics have included learning more about life in present-day Palestine, pastoral Friends, end of life issues, travels to Kenya and Rwanda, mindfulness practice, wealth inequality, and FCNL priorities.

As a Meeting family, Oxford Friends continue to nourish our sense of community and deepen our friendships by regularly eating together at three planned potlucks per year, plus monthly "Meetings for Eating" at local restaurants.

We still struggle to provide resources for introduction to Friends, and to make our presence more visible within the community. Outreach continues to be a concern for us. The suggestions of the Murray family have helped us focus on these needs.

Many of our members are active in Yearly Meeting Committees and Sessions, and we appear to be "the cradle of clerks" for the yearly meeting. As we move forward into the year, we look to the Light to nurture us and continue our growth as individuals, family members, and Friends.

(Approved, 5/13/2012; Sandra Ward-Angell, presiding clerk)

White Rose Meeting

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We meet the first and third First Day of each month for fellowship and worship. We are presently at three regular attendees. Three of our members make up the Ft. Wayne Worship group, and they on occasion meet with us in Wabash, and we on occasion join them in Ft. Wayne.

Due to the activities of each, we do not meet some of our scheduled days by mutual agreement. The size of the meeting does not easily allow participation by the meeting itself in many activities, but we believe the commitments of the individuals to their various organizations takes the place of these responsibilities, which are usually fulfilled through the meeting. We remain, each in our own way, active in Christ's and Quaker's affairs.

Murray Cox, Clerk

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting

The Meeting has a trust relationship with the new Antioch College; the Meeting has primary use of Rockford and schedules the building's use by Yellow Springs Havurah and other groups. The formal arrangement between the College and the Meeting concerning Rockford Chapel still needs to be worked out.

Our children's group continues to learn through the "Godly Play" and "Faith and Play" curriculums and our middle school youth's strong interest in music is being encouraged. Our children join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes and then enjoy time outdoors, frequently in the College's Glen Helen Nature Preserve, under the care of nurturing adults. The number of families with children has increased substantially in the last year; we frequently have ten children and youth on First Day.

Our adult religious education program is well attended. One was led by Steve Roberts who is spear heading an ecumenical Yellow Springs Peace Week that will be timed to include the UN International Day of Peace on September 21. Another, led by Cheryl Keen, a board member of the new Quaker Volunteer Service Program, focused on the formative value that service has been in our lives.

Fellowship in the meeting community, the topic of another forum, brought forth ideas that have led to a richer community life. Now, in addition to some simple meals in Friend's homes, we have a monthly lunch at a local café, a monthly walk in Glen Helen Nature Preserve and a monthly inner journey group that writes and reflects on spiritual prompts. A one-day retreat was held last fall and one is being planned for this September. An inter-generational talent show, held before Meeting for Worship, drew a large crowd with Friends ages 7 through 70 (and beyond) performing,

Carl Hyde continues to lead an ecumenical group witnessing against the death penalty during Ohio executions, and a number of Quakers continue the steadfast interdenominational witness against war each Saturday.

Membership and Pastoral Care Committee has continued to prayerfully approach out-of-contact members. As a result 13 adults and 3 associate members have elected to leave our membership rolls, while many others have affirmed the continuing importance of membership.

Paul Beck and long time member Jane Brown were married under the care of the Meeting during our 11:00 Meeting for Worship; a joyous hour! We lost our beloved elder member Richard Eastman in the fall and a memorial meeting was held with many family and Friends in attendance. Melissa Daniels joined by conviction, and Laura Hyde, an associate member since early childhood, became a member. Isaac and Adam Snediker-Morschek were received as associate members.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Robrish
6th day, Fifth Month 2012

State of Society Report
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
2012-06-26

In reviewing this year's State of the Meeting reports, members of Religious Nurture and Education Committee were struck by the diversity of personalities, voices, and styles of expression within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. In these reports, some meetings share many of the details of their experience of the past year, while other meetings express themselves quite briefly and succinctly. This may in part reflect that the past year has indeed been more a time of both milestones and deep trials for some meetings than for others. Some reports tend to emphasize spiritually motivated activities, while others tend to stress their general spiritual condition. Some meetings express themselves in overtly Quaker language, while others tend toward more business-like diction.

It is clear that not all of our constituent monthly meetings have a large number of Friends in attendance at a typical meeting for worship, and the goal for meetings is on the quality of the community and not numbers. However, some meetings appear to be truly struggling because of low numbers of active members and attenders, while other meetings seem to be experiencing growth. Many meetings report both active religious education programs and a range of community-building events and activities. Some meetings are currently enjoying the presence of many children and teens, while others have serious concerns about the future due to the absence of an up-coming generation.

One recurring theme is that visitors feel that that several of our meetings are particularly welcoming. This is very encouraging, both as an indicator of the spiritual warmth of a meeting and as a foundation for potential growth. We note with great pleasure that two meetings have joined our yearly meeting in the past year, which serves as an example of the above.

It was encouraging to read that some meetings who have faced significant trials or conflicts this past year have dealt with these issues openly, have sought to listen to the Light reflected through one another, and have proceeded with the measure of Light given to them. This has not always pleased everyone involved, but it seems to reflect a high level of integrity and maturity.

Many mentioned that meeting for worship is still the heart of the community with one Meeting's reminder that "As we live up to the Light given to us as a meeting and as individuals, we are given more."

Memorial Minutes

Lib Buck



Though she traveled worldwide with her family during her lifetime, beloved Friend and member of Bloomington Monthly Meeting, Lib Buck, once told a reporter: “Our greatest contribution, though, is listening. Everybody has a story.” Her family and friends knew that God had full use of Lib’s ears and her time in willing and joyful service for everyone, including those considered “unloveable.”

Elizabeth Koop was born on April 4, 1923 in Iowa City to Eleanor and Walter Koop. She spent most of her youth in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She met her future husband, Roger C. Buck, while both were students at the University of Minnesota. They were married on September 4, 1948. The couple moved to England after finishing their degrees and Roger, funded by a Fulbright Fellowship, continued his studies at Oxford University. Afterwards, they moved to the Gold Coast in Africa, now Ghana, where Roger taught philosophy. They returned to the United States in 1952 and lived in college and university towns. Roger was given a tenured position in Bloomington in 1959 in the newly formed Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University. The Buck family grew to include daughters Elizabeth Lee and Susan, and sons Roger “Rocky”, and William “Wally”. Bloomington was home for the following 52 years.

Lib began attending Bloomington Monthly Meeting and became a member of the Religious Society of Friends. She began visiting inmates in the local jail with Friend and well-known community advocate, Haines Turner. Her passion for restorative justice issues led her to work tirelessly to improve conditions in the jail and to recruit others to this special ministry. She helped to found and establish several rehabilitation programs in Monroe County, such as the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, Community Justice and Mediation Center, and New Leaf/New Life. In 2000, she received the community’s top volunteer award at the time, the J.C. Penney Golden Rule lifetime service award. In 2007 she received the Haines Turner Award for her lifetime activities in restorative justice.

In her home meeting, Lib was active over the years as a member and clerk of many committees. When she was on the Committee for Ministry and Counsel, the group met at her home. Always ready to learn, Lib attended the most recent series of Quakerism 101 sessions. She attended meeting for worship faithfully and showed a loving interest in

individuals of all ages. She was a keen supporter of new attenders and in many instances instrumental in their becoming members of the Religious Society of Friends. The treasures of her later years were her grandchildren: Stephen Jones, Austin and Amara Kearney, and Katrina and Phillip Buck.

Lib died peacefully on a warm Saturday, June 1, 2011 with family and friends nearby. Mentioning her passing in an editorial in the June 25 edition of the Herald-Times newspaper, it was noted, "She was a champion for people who needed an advocate. She will be missed." She lived cheerfully and saw God in everyone.

Richard Allen Day

Richard Allen Day, longtime member of Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting, died in Blacksburg, VA on January 12, 2012 after a long illness. He was born April 4, 1931 into a Quaker family on a farm near Newton, Iowa. He began his education in a one room school, completed a bachelors degree at Iowa State University and a PhD in chemistry from M.I.T. He was a professor of Biochemistry at the University of Cincinnati for 46 years, mentored numerous graduate students and conducted research which resulted in many publications, patents and inventions. His life was pleasantly driven by curiosity and scholarship. His interests included gardening, music, travel in Central and South America, archaeology, astronomy, (resulting in the book, Nibiru Rediscovery, A Lopsided Mars and Ancient Longitudes) His biography is listed in Who's Who in America. In all his endeavors he was a gentleman and a gentle man, a good person in every way.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents Clarence Hodson and Della Mendenhall Day. He was lovingly devoted to his family: wife, Lyn Tibbits Day of 56 years; children Eric and his wife Nan Gray and Sylvia and her husband Kaushik Roy, and grandchildren Gordon Day, Graham Day, Geetanjali Roy and Arundhati Roy. He is also survived by his brother Charles Day and wife Kathy, sister Gladys Wager and cherished nieces and nephews.

Richard Payson Eastman

Richard Payson Eastman died October 5, 2011 at Friends Care Community. He was 91. The second of four children, Richard was born August 5, 1920 in Springfield OH, the son of Robert and Ethel Eastman. Richard was strongly influenced by his father who originally came to Dayton to work for Arthur Morgan as a structural engineer on the conservancy district dams and later taught at Antioch College under Morgan. Robert ended his career in 1970 after serving 20 years as Clark County Engineer. Similarly Richard completed his working life by serving 24 years as Greene County Engineer.

An excellent student, Richard was on the honor role throughout junior and senior high school and participated with Boy Scout Troop 15. After graduating from Springfield HS, he attended Antioch College. His first coop job was with the Chicago Daily News at \$15.00/week. In 1942 he was drafted into Civilian Public Service as a conscientious objector and sent to the Mancos, Colorado CPS camp to work on an earth fill irrigation dam. He was later transferred to Germfask, Michigan and then to the Philadelphia Jaundice Unit, he contribution to the research was his failure to contract the disease.

At Antioch, Richard met Wilberta (Billie) Raecher. They married July 8, 1945 in a Quaker wedding held in the Methodist Church in Billie's tiny home town of Wesley, NY. The couple lived in Philadelphia until Richard completed Civilian Public Service in June 1946. Although many people only knew Richard's career as an engineer, his work life was highly varied starting as Midwest Field Secretary for Friends General Conference (Quakers) for four years. He then worked one year with Arthur Morgan at Community Service, Inc. When that ended the Eastmans bought the Yellow Springs Bakery from Al Anderson in 1951 and made whole wheat bread and rolls. When the bakery didn't provide enough income for a family that had grown to five, Richard bought a union card and became a laborer. As a union laborer, and later a carpenter, he worked for several construction companies on projects including the Springfield airport and I-75.

In 1956 Richard started at International Harvester Co. as a plant equipment designer. Company educational benefits allowed Richard to complete his Antioch College engineering degree in 1958, twenty years after starting, his wife and four children in attendance. He continued working at International until 1967 when he was hired by Antioch College to teach Civil Engineering. What started as a one-year interim position became five, including one year as Acting Dean of Students in 1969-1970 at the height of the Vietnam War and turbulent times at Antioch.

Following his time at Antioch, Richard worked one year as Acting Executive Secretary for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Dayton. In 1973 he was appointed Deputy Greene County Engineer, and then Greene County Engineer in January 1974 to fill the remaining term of his predecessor. Richard Eastman was subsequently reelected to that position until he retired in December 1996 at age 76. While County Engineer he was passionate about preserving covered bridges and played a major role in creating the Little Miami Bike Trail. He was known in engineering circles for creative resolution of conflicts between disputing parties.

One reason for Richard's varied career was the Eastmans' value for community. Early in their marriage they had made a commitment to living in one place, even if Richard would have to change jobs or even careers. Richard and Billie were part of founding the Vale, an intentional community, located just outside Yellow Springs where they have lived since 1955. Throughout his life, Richard has been active in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) serving in many capacities over the years. He served six years on the Board of Friends Care Community, during which time the Assisting Living and Independent Living units were built. On a different note, Richard and Billie were active

folk dancers and kept the Community Folk Dance alive for many years. He and Billie also facilitated a long-running Course in Miracles study group until the week before his death.

Richard loved his family deeply. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Billie; by four children: John (and Terri) Eastman of Yellow Springs, Rachel Newmann (and Bill) of Olympia, WA, David (and Jean) Eastman of Cincinnati, and Roy (and Heidi) Eastman of Yellow Springs, by ten grandchildren and their spouses, and thirteen great grandchildren. He was known for some pithy sayings. When his first great grandchild was born, he said, "I don't think being a great grandfather will be much different than being a grandfather.....but, what gets me is the thought of being the father of a grandfather."

Amanda Fraser



Amanda H. Fraser died on March 29, 2012, in Richmond, Indiana, where she lived for some 45 years and became a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting. Mandy was born on December 16, 1922, in Montclair, New Jersey, to Raymond Webster and Amanda Chase Hilles. Mandy's family was Quaker, in the old traditions of Orthodox Friends, which included a total abstinence from music. This may surprise many of her friends, since Mandy and music are inseparable in their minds. Mandy frequently spoke of Frankford Meeting, in northeast Philadelphia, in which she grew up and which she remembered with fondness.

A house without music need not be a house without love of beauty. In Amanda's family, this took shape as a love of poetry. She memorized many poems as a child and recalled reciting in unison them with her father, often with gusto.

Mandy first grew to love music while a student at Germantown Friends School, from which she graduated in 1940. It continued in her years at Smith College, from which she graduated in 1944 with a major in English. She also sang under Ifor Jones in the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Her love of song grew to include a love of stage, and she was active in Richmond's Civic Theater and in the Whitewater Opera, where she often sang in the chorus. At Earlham she enjoyed singing under the leadership of Leonard Holvik.

After college Amanda married Herbert Fraser and reared their son Peter. Herb and Mandy remained a loving couple throughout their long marriage, a relationship that was charged with affection, song, and humor. They lived in various places before settling in Richmond, including Princeton, New Jersey, St. Louis, Missouri, and a two-year stay in Colombia, which Mandy remembered with appreciation.

Mandy worked for many years in the Acquisitions Department of Lilly Library at Earlham College. This work situated her among books, for which she had a great esteem.

Amanda's service among Friends was manifold. She served in many capacities at Clear Creek Friends, teaching First Day School, helping with hospitality, and serving on Ministry and Oversight. She was often a representative to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, which she attended regularly. She was also a frequent attendee at the Annual Gathering of Friends General Conference and served on the FGC committee that produced *Worship in Song*.

Mandy's concerns for a better world took multiple forms of expression, particularly with the Dayton office of the American Friends Service Committee and with the League of Women's Voters

Mandy is also remembered for her vocal contributions to meeting for worship. Often she quoted poetry. In part this was a result of her own reticence to speak her own words during worship. She confessed that she often felt that her own words would be inadequate, but the great words of the past were of enduring worth. Her love of poetry went beyond love of beauty alone. For Mandy, the great poets, especially those of the late nineteenth century, captured and conveyed the spiritual quality of life. For her, their poetry was a touchstone by which she could test and discern the value of the present. The language of poetry held out a vision for a fuller, richer, inward life and called its readers to embark on the great journey of the spirit.

These are some words that will always remind us of Mandy, not only because she spoke them in meeting but also because they encapsulate her spiritual ideals.

From Tennyson's "Ulysses"

I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades
For ever and forever when I move.

From Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood"

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,

And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home.

From Whittier's "The Meeting"

And so I find it well to come
For deeper rest to this still room,
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control;
The strength of mutual purpose pleads
More earnestly our common needs;
And from the silence multiplied
By these still forms on either side,

The world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

We at Clear Creek will miss our friend Amanda.

William Bowman Guthrie, Jr.

William Bowman Guthrie, Jr., 73, died February 26, 2012 in Louisville, Kentucky. Born in Indianapolis November 30, 1938, the son of William B. Guthrie, Sr. and Laura D. Guthrie, Bill grew up in Park and Putnam counties in Indiana. He graduated with a B.A. from Wabash College, received an M.A. from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in English Literature from Vanderbilt University. He taught English at Carroll College in Wisconsin and Towson State College in Maryland before moving with his family in 1972 to Wilmington, Ohio, where he was a member of the English Department at Wilmington College until his retirement in 2002. In Wilmington he and his family were active in Campus Friends Meeting, where Bill became a member. In 2005 he and his wife, Caroline, moved to Louisville, Kentucky.

A memorial service under the care of Campus Friends Meeting was held in Wilmington, Ohio on March 10, 2012. The service was a joyful remembrance of Bill's life and its profound impact upon colleagues, students, family members and friends. He is survived by his wife Caroline, two sons, William F. Guthrie (Ellen Epstein), and John R. (Jennifer) Guthrie, three grandsons, Adam, Caleb and Tyler, two brothers, George D. (Catherine) and Joseph D. (Wanda) as well as an extended family of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Lois McCormick

Lois McCormick died January 7, 2012. She was a long time member of Englewood Friends Meeting and the former Dayton Fairport Avenue Friends. Lois had an amazing spirit about her that helped her reach out to others. She taught Sunday School for many years and also led a clown ministry for children for several years. Lois and her friend Beverly Buckingham shared their clown ministry with children in many different settings. The clown ministry allowed Lois to share her wonderful sense of humor and the Love of God with many people. Lois had a great enthusiasm for life and showed it in so many ways. When she was 60 she returned to college and completed her degree in Bible Studies at Cedarville College. Lois was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was married to her husband Jim McCormick for 57 years. Lois is survived by her husband Jim and her son Joel and his wife Kathy. Lois left as her legacy her loving husband Jim and 5 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Nancy McDowell

Nancy Parker McDowell of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, died on 6/4/2012 at the age of 95. Nancy had been living in Oxford, Ohio, where she moved in 2007 to live with her daughter, Caroline Baker. There she had also attended Oxford Friends Meeting.

Nancy grew up in a large Quaker family near Baltimore. She attended Westtown Friends School and Goucher College. Shortly after college, she spent a year teaching at the Friends Girls School in Ramallah, Palestine. There she kept a journal and wrote letters home, and these became the basis for her book, *Notes from Ramallah, 1939*, published in 2002. After her return to the U. S., she met and married James McDowell. They and their young family moved to Richmond, Indiana, in 1951, and Jim began his career in teaching psychology at Earlham College. They immersed themselves in the life of the young Clear Creek monthly meeting. Once their children were in school, Nancy worked part time at Earlham, eventually becoming the art slide curator. The arts were an important focus, especially theater, as well as gardening, hiking and camping, folk dancing, singing, and storytelling. Nancy also treasured the farm where her family spent the warmer months of the year. Clear Creek Friends have fond memories of many summer picnics and other gatherings there. Nancy loved children and young people and enthusiastically supported their interests and activities. She was, by all accounts, a wonderful grandmother. At Clear Creek she is remembered, among other things, for her work in the children's Christmas pageants, where she served as playwright, director, and general impresario. Nancy's creative spirit found expression in many other ways as well: drawings, paintings, poems, stories, and songs. Her zest for life was contagious.

Nancy loved to learn of other lands, cultures, and histories. She and Jim once led college students on a program to Scotland. In her seventies she hiked solo in the mountains of Norway. In 1997 she traveled to Ireland with a group from the Jung Society, visiting key sites from myths and legends she had studied. She continued these annual tours for six years, well into her eighties. Her joy in learning led her to pursue a master's degree in her

retirement. In 1986 she graduated from the Earlham School of Religion where her thesis topic was the mosaics of Ravenna, Italy.

A poem of Nancy's that was published in *Friends Journal* in 1983 captures much of her spirit: her sense of wonder at the beauty of life, her fondness for children, and her passion for imagination.

To Raise a Child

Dress the child in crimson.
No hue can match her gaiety,
But this will do.
No melody can shape her laughter,
For the song
Of the glad voice
Is exquisite and strong

Give her a gift of memories;
Weave the warm cloak
Of idle, quiet hours, familiar things.
Let her know some spot where beauty sings.

Engrace her mind
With tales of truth and fantasy,
Rich and multitudinous scenes
Of wide variety.
Unleash imagination;
Let her know
The hand that rests unseen in hers,
The breath, the very blow
Of Hallowed name.

Then she may turn and wonder,
Look and learn,
And know the world of untouched things
Is full of ecstasy
As wings.

We miss our dear Friend Nancy McDowell.

Robert Eugene McFarland

April 10, 1963 – September 18, 2011

Robert McFarland was a long time attender of Fall Creek Meeting. He was a convinced Friend who found purpose, meaning and peace in Friend's worship, study and business practice. He added much to our discussions, fellowship and worship and enjoyed attending Quarterly Meeting when he was able and appreciated contact with the wider body of Friends.

Robert served as greeter, warmly welcoming regulars and visitors and often shared the history of Fall Creek Meeting with those who were interested. He was also an enthusiastic and helpful host for Quaker and non-Quaker events at the meetinghouse. He was a gifted musician and shared his gift with us, often quietly playing acoustic guitar during gatherings and between activities. He especially enjoyed playing for the children of the meeting, encouraging and delighting in their curiosity about his guitar. He left behind many guitar picks.

Robert was a sweet and gentle soul, sensitively attuned to all of God's creation. He was always ready to laugh and to love and maintained a positive spirit in the face of debilitating illness. He trusted in God at all times and will be forever loved and missed by Fall Creek Friends. He now knows his true worth.

Sterling P. Olmsted

Sterling P. Olmsted, 96, died November 6, 2011 in Rexford, New York. Born in 1916 in East Hartford, Connecticut, Sterling graduated from Rollins College in 1936, taught briefly at the Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky, and then studied at Yale University where he received the Ph.D. in 1940. In 1939 he joined the faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, where he taught English and chaired the Department of Language and Literature.

In 1942 Sterling married Barbara Starr of Cambridge, Ohio and soon after, he was drafted into the Army Air Corps. The young couple lived in New Mexico and Texas until Sterling was mustered out in 1945. Profoundly aware of the implications of the atomic bombings in 1945, Sterling worked tirelessly for the rest of his life toward building a warless world. He was instrumental in organizing a Nuclear Freeze Group in Wilmington, and participated in the Nuclear Freeze march in New York City in 1982.

After the war he resumed his position with Rensselaer Institute, where his accomplishments included publication of textbooks on technical writing and English composition as well as a series of studies on the humanities in engineering education. The American Society for Engineering Education now gives an annual Sterling Olmsted award in honor of that work.

In 1968 the Olmsteds, with their daughter Ruth, moved to Wilmington, Ohio where Sterling joined the faculty and administration of Wilmington College to serve as dean, then provost, and teach courses in writing, literature, global issues and peace studies. After his retirement in 1980 he published an anthology of his own poetry and a series of Nonviolence and Social Change Sourcebooks. The most recent one, on the writings of Gandhi, was published in 2011 by the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center.

After worshiping with the Schenectady, New York Friends Meeting, Sterling and Barbara became active and valued members of Campus Friends Meeting in Wilmington. Through academic and Quaker connections, Sterling traveled to England, India, Mexico, Costa Rica and Kenya. He served on the general committee of Friends Committee on National Legislation and attended its annual meeting until the last three years of his life.

In the mid-90s the Olmsteds began dividing their time between Wilmington and Troy, eventually moving permanently to Rexford, New York where Barbara died in 2004. In 2011 Sterling moved to Eddy Village Green, where he died a few months later. Memorial services after the manner of Friends were held in Troy, New York and, on December 18, 2011, in Wilmington, Ohio. Both Barbara and Sterling's ashes have been scattered at the Wilmington College Arboretum, where a bench and plaque will honor them. Sterling is survived by his daughter, Ruth Olmsted, his son-in-law, Larry Syzdek, his brother-in-law, Robert Starr, and several nieces and nephews.

Ruth Coppock Palmer



August 21, 1918 – September 7, 2011 Ruth was born in Central City Nebraska, the youngest child of Homer and Mabel Cary Coppock. Homer was headmaster of Central City Friends College. When Ruth was 3 years old her parents moved their 5 children to a new home 2 blocks south of the University of Chicago so Homer could start a new job as minister of Chicago Monthly Meeting. Mabel took in boarders on the third floor to help meet expenses. These extra "family members" expanded Ruth's horizons, provided

adventures and one taught her to play the piano. Ruth enjoyed playing the piano and singing all her life.

Quaker activities were central to the Coppock family, including monthly and yearly meetings, AFSC and other Quaker organizations. Ruth remembered Rufus Jones was a visitor in their home, as well as many others who became leading lights in Quaker circles.

As a teen, Ruth and her sister Anne became early members of the new 57th Street Meeting. The silent worship was a change from Chicago Monthly Meeting where their father was the minister. Ruth worked 1/2 days in author Marjorie Hill Allee's home. Ruth helped her father and brother Cary build Hickory Knoll cottage at Dewart Lake in Indiana (near Quaker Haven Camp).

In 1940 Ruth graduated from Earlham College and continued to be a proud supporter of the school throughout her life. She had a variety of jobs before, during and after Earlham. During World War II a Civilian Public Service team (conscientious objectors) was assigned to Chicago's Alexian Brothers Hospital. Some of these young men lived up Ruth's Young Friends group, including Russell Palmer, whom she married in 1945. Ruth and Russell were married for 66 years.

The first year of their married life was spent in Missoula Montana where Russell was a smoke jumper, while Ruth worked as a secretary. After a short stay in Ohio near Huntington West Virginia, Ruth and Russell lived many years in the Philadelphia area. Money was usually tight but Ruth was frugal and resourceful as David, Ralph, Wilson and Patty filled the home. Ruth sewed, knitted, hooked rugs and reupholstered furniture. She organized and packed for camping trips which were less of a vacation for her than the rest of the family. The children were raised in a loving, secure and intellectually stimulating environment. During those child rearing years, Ruth earned a teaching certificate from West Chester State Teacher's College. She usually worked as a substitute teacher. Her favorite years were teaching third grade at Downingtown Friends School.

Ruth and Russell regularly attended Quaker Meeting. Ruth taught First Day school, played the piano and served on committees. As a couple they were members of Goshen and Gwynedd Meetings in Pennsylvania, Chester River Meeting in Chestertown Maryland and Eastern Hills Meeting in Cincinnati Ohio. Also, they actively enjoyed and maintained their family connections by visits and letters.

Ruth was a great reader of fiction and non-fiction. She had a wide field of intellectual curiosity. Books by Ira Progoff and Carl Jung interested Ruth, as well as other books on psychology, philosophy, and new age theology. There was always a Friends Journal article she had saved that she wanted to discuss. Ruth enjoyed swimming, tennis, gardening, square dancing, acting, art projects **and taking classes. Russell loved to travel and after retirement the driving vacations lengthened to trips all over the United States. Ruth enjoyed visiting far flung friends and family.** There were also trips to Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, New Zealand and through the Panama Canal. When she was 60, Ruth learned to sail.

At age 48 Ruth suffered the first of her hospitalizations for depression caused by bi-polar disorder. During the first recovery, Ruth discovered a dormant artistic talent. Most people who knew Ruth in the second half of her life knew of her watercolor paintings. Her pictures grace the homes of family and friends. Ruth was proud when strangers purchased her art.

In her memoirs Ruth wrote: "A psychiatrist...started me back to art by asking 'What did you really enjoy?' In those depressed years it had an important function in helping me believe in myself." "In pursuing painting skills I acquired 'seeing' capabilities." "Many artists and teachers have inspired and aided me with knowledge of line, color, values and composition. Doing and criticism are the best learning aids. I feel that artistic expression is my contribution to living in this world, in close touch with the Power greater than ourselves."

After a seven year decline due to small vessel dementia, Ruth died peacefully at the age of 93.

David Steele



David Steele, a member of Englewood Friends Meeting, passed away on April 14, 2012. David lived only 35 years but there were so many defining moments squeezed into his way too short life. David's life was marked by a quiet courage and exceptional grace, despite living with serious health challenges that began at the age of 8, when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

David graduated from Milton-Union High School with honors in 1995 and attended Wright State University. In 2000 he moved to the Washington DC area to work for the US Air Force as a web designer. During that time he earned an associate degree in information technology from Northern Virginia Community College with honors. He retired in July 2011 due to a recurrence of the cancer.

Throughout all of David's health problems he took everything in stride, never complaining, striking out in anger, or asking "Why me?"

David had a gentle, quiet way about him. He never spoke harshly about others, even when he was the target of inappropriate comments or stares. The most you might get out of him would be a rolling of his eyes and a shaking of his head.

David lived his life with kindness, strength, courage, and love.

We, at Englewood Friends, will miss David greatly. We cannot put into words how utterly special and important he was to us. And we cannot possibly describe the love, grace, perseverance, and courage he taught us by just being himself.

Joan Thomas

Joan Ellwood Thomas passed from this life 9th month 22nd day 2011 at the age of 82 in Louisville, Kentucky. Her early life was in New York. She entered Swarthmore College at 16 years of age. She married Lee Thomas, a businessman, and they had four children Margaret, Stephen, Rees and Glenn.

When they came to Louisville they attended the Friends Worship Group. They were founding members of Louisville Monthly Meeting in 1962 which at that time met at Neighborhood House, a community center in the Portland neighborhood of the city. The Meeting later moved to its current location on Bon Air. Some of us remember how Joan often knitted at Meeting for Worship.

In 1966 Joan entered the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She and her children would spend their evenings after school and classes around the dining table studying their respective subjects. Joan practiced medicine for 20 years in western Louisville and was active as a volunteer and donor to the Center for Women and Families, Home of the Innocents, Girl Scouts, and other organizations. Buildings at the Center for Women and Families and the Home of the Innocents are named after her to honor her contribution.

In 2004 the Louisville Urban League presented to Joan and Lee Thomas the Arthur M. Walters Champion of Diversity Award. Joan was astonished to get the recognition because they had made an effort to be inconspicuous.

Joan Thomas is survived by her husband of 62 years, Lee Thomas, 3 children, 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Ray Wilkie



(1926 -2012) Raymond (Ray) Wilkie, beloved member of Lexington Friends Meeting, died peacefully on February 21, 2012. He was 85 years old. He is survived by his wife, Martha Griffin Wilkie, a brother, a daughter, and two sons. Ray was a native of Lexington, KY.

He held AB and MA degrees from the University of Louisville, a PhD in Anthropology from Yale University, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kentucky. After teaching at Purdue University, he returned to Lexington to work at the Veterans Administration Hospital as a staff psychologist and later as an educational psychology and counseling professor at the University of Kentucky's College of Education.

He was a licensed clinical psychologist and a member of the American Psychological Association. An avid reader and learner throughout his life, he was a scholar of Thomas Merton, a University of Kentucky Donovan Scholar, and the leader of a Great Books Study Group. A social activist throughout his life, Ray was persistent in advocating for peace and justice and for persons oppressed. He was past co-chair of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, a member of the ACLU, and a co-member of Sisters of Loretto.

Ray came to Lexington Friends Meeting shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001. He was a lifelong friend of Lad Simpson, longtime member of Lexington Meeting. With Lad's encouragement, Ray came to meeting after 9/11, seeking others who shared his concern for peace and for global and interreligious understanding.

Ray was a religious and spiritual seeker. Lexington Friends thought of Ray as a one-man interfaith movement. He enriched our adult education discussions with the depth of his knowledge in religion, philosophy, and psychology. He loved Martin Buber, Thomas Merton, Wendell Berry, and the Sisters of Loretto. He worked tirelessly with members of our Outreach Committee to get Friends' light out from under our collective bushels and, in the form of op-eds, onto the Lexington Herald-Leader's editorial pages.

Lexington Friends deeply miss Ray for his love of Quakerism and our meeting, his thoughtful contributions to our discussions, and his sincere ministry.