

Reports in
Advance 2015

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

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Business Sessions Agenda for 195th OVYM session (2015)

Wednesday 7/29 3:30pm – 5:00pm <u>Lingel Recital Hall</u>	Thursday 7/30 10 am – 12:15 pm <u>Lingle Recital Hall</u>	Friday 7/31 10 am – 12:15 pm <u>Lingle Recital Hall</u>	Saturday 8/1 10 am – 12:15 pm <u>Lingle Recital Hall</u>	Sunday 8/2 10 am – 11 am <u>Wilkinson Theater</u>
<p>Centering Worship</p> <p>Greetings Roll Call of Representatives</p> <p>Welcome, Introductions, Letters of Introduction</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Gratitude to youth workers</p> <p>Delegates to youth business</p> <p>Review of Agenda</p> <p>Epistle Summary</p> <p>Reports: Whitewater Quarterly</p> <p>Miami Quarterly</p> <p>Initial Nominating Committee Report</p> <p>Executive Committee</p> <p>Religious Nurture and Education Committee – State of Society Summary</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Closing Worship</p>	<p>Centering Worship</p> <p>Greetings, Roll Call</p> <p>Welcome, Letters</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Reports: Quaker Heights Care Committee</p> <p>Statistician</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Proposed Budget from Budget and Finance</p> <p>Development Cmte</p> <p>Friends Music Camp</p> <p>American Friends Service Committee</p> <p>Friends Committee on National Legislation</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Closing Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:30pm – 5:00 pm</p> <p>Threshing Sessions:</p> <p>Faith and Practice – 2 drafts</p> <p>Divestment minute</p>	<p>Centering Worship</p> <p>Greetings</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Reports: Faith and Practice Committee – Planning Committee</p> <p>Quill</p> <p>Publications</p> <p>Indiana Friends Committee on National Legislation</p> <p>Web Administrator</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Closing Worship</p>	<p>Centering Worship</p> <p>Greetings</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Reports: Quaker Earthcare Witness</p> <p>OVYM Earthcare</p> <p>Friends Peace Team</p> <p>Friends General Conference</p> <p>Adult Young Friends</p> <p>Youth Secretary</p> <p>Teen Committee</p> <p>Middle Youth Committee</p> <p>Children’s Committee</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Closing Worship</p>	<p>Centering Worship</p> <p>Greetings</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Final Nominations</p> <p>Minute of Appreciation for those leaving service to OVYM</p> <p>Site for 2016</p> <p>Registrar’s Report</p> <p>2015 Epistles from the Children Middle Youth Teens Young Adult Friends</p> <p>2015 OVYM Epistle</p> <p>Closing Worship in Stout Meetinghouse</p>

2015-16 OVYM Nominations

Nominations

OFFICERS

(at end of 15 sessions)

Presiding Clerk

Rex Sprouse

Assistant Presiding Clerk

Betsy Neale

Recording Clerk

Paul Buckley

Assistant Recording Clerk

Treasurer

Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer

2015 SESSIONS	2015
Epistolary Committee	
Summary of Epistles received	
Memorial Meeting	

2016	2017	2018
RELIGIOUS NURTURE AND EDUCATION		
David Garman (1W)	Rhonda Pfalzgraff-Carlson (1M)	
Rod Dixon (1M)	Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs (2M)	
Nikki Coffey Tousley (1M)	Diann Herzog * (2W)	
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
Heather Snediker Morschek* (2 M)	Martha Viehmann* (2 M)	
Dinah Duvall (2 W)		
Richard Mitchell (2 M)		
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
Hannah Branson (6M)*	Beth Parrish (4 M)	
	Carey Bryson (2 W)	
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
Charles Moore (1M)		
Richard Mitchell (2M)		
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
	David Funck * (2 M)	
	Heather Snediker-Morschek (2 M)	
Nathan Coppock (2 M)	Emmett Olis-Cartmell (2 M)	
6 teens to be named		

2016	2017	2018
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Braddock Trust Fund	3 people to be nominated this year. Will have names by sessions.	
EARTHCARE COMMITTEE This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
AUDITING COMMITTEE		
Donita Barnes (2 M)	Bob Holada (2 W)	
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist.Treas,[-- who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)		
Paul Buckley (2M)	Fred Feitler (2 W)	
FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE		
Betsy Neale (4 M)*	Rex Sprouse (4W)*	
Lisa Cayard (3M)	Mary Garman (2W)	
	Paul Buckley (3W)	
Wilson Palmer–Invited Mmbr		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
	Victoria Burke (1M)	Gail Miller (2 M)
	Carolyn Stanley (1M) Anne Whitaker (1M)	
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
Celia Shore		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
Frank Huss	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
David Pfalzgraft-Carlson	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
Lonny Burger	Assistant Webmaster ⁶ Emmanuel Greene	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS (4)		
2015	2016	2017
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Pam Richards (1M)		
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
Josh Medlin (1W)		
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
Andrew Koehler Hardy (1M)	Adam Funck (1M)	
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
	Frank Huss	
	Ken Bordwell (1M)	

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

FLGBTQC	2015 Carrie Shaver
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE	Paul Kriese
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS	<i>Marjorie Isaacs</i>
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	Frank Huss

M = Miami Quarter; W = Whitewater Quarter; **1 or 2** = 1st or 2nd 3-year term; **P** = Partial term; * = convener or clerk; Usually 3 year-term appointment slots are limited to 2 terms.

Committees Nominated by Executive Committee (Not Nominating Committee)

Nominating Committee- (6)

2015- Ben Griffith (2M) Paul Kriese (1M)
2016- Yoshiya Togami (2M) Jamie Fota (2M)

Personnel Committee- Paul Buckley, Paul Kriese, Wilson Palmer

Naming Committee- David Garman, Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

2015 **2016**

Presiding Clerk's Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from A&N Committee), (1 from Yearly Meeting Planning), (1 at-large from YM)

Clerical Staff Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from Clerks Table), (1 at-large from YM), (1 from monthly meeting or spiritual community of CS)

Youth Secretary Support Committee (one year renewable)- **(3)** (1 from Teen Committee), (1 at large), (1 from monthly meeting or spiritual community of YS)

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

The first session of the Quarterly was held at Happy Hollow Camp during Joint Quarter Meeting. Although attendance was lighter than in past years, Friends had the opportunity to enjoy Brown County in the fall and get better acquainted with Friends outside their own monthly meetings.

At the January meeting at North Meadow, the following minute was approved on our concern with racial profiling in law enforcement:

Police use of deadly and disproportionate force against the powerless needs to be addressed and remedies sought. The recent unequal treatment of young black men in Ferguson (MO,) Cleveland (OH,) and Staten Island (NY,) degrades us all. It deteriorates the trust between citizens and law enforcement officers. We make this statement in the belief that there is that of God in every person in equal measure.

There were recommendations and discussion about the re-assignment of certain functions from the Quarterly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting brought forward by Fall Creek Meeting at the Quarterly meeting in Bloomington in April, These proposed changes are as follows:

1. The Quarterly Meetings would no longer play a role in the endorsement of traveling minutes. Traveling minutes would continue to arise within monthly meetings; monthly meetings would endorse traveling minutes for service within OVYM. OVYM would consider endorsement of traveling minutes for service beyond the Yearly Meeting.
2. OVYM (for example, through Committee for Religious Nurture and Education) would assume the primary responsibility for shepherding new meetings into the Yearly Meeting, with the Quarterly Meetings also participating as led.
3. OVYM (for example through Committee for Religious Nurture and Education) would share with the Quarterly Meetings the ministry of offering spiritual support to troubled monthly meetings.
4. OVYM (for example, through Peace and Social Concerns Committee) would share with the Quarterly Meetings the responsibility for acting as a regional body of Friends in speaking to the wider society. (This is already de facto the case. We propose that this be stated clearly in the Book of Faith and Practice.)

Friends agreed to take this proposal to their respective monthly meetings for consideration and to re-visit the proposal at the fall 2015 session at Clear Creek Meeting, Tenth Month 18.

Dinah Duvall
Clerk, Whitewater Quarter

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

After a well-attended Joint Quarterly in 2013, the attendance at the 2014 Joint Quarterly Meeting was down considerably, leaving around a thousand dollar deficit. Thanks to many generous Quakers and some special fund-raising efforts, the deficit was reduced.

This obviously led to some serious discussions about “why” and “what to do now.” At the Tenth Month MQ meeting, a decision was made to survey OVYM in an effort to better assist us in making a decision about the future of yearly Joint Quarterlies and the decision about 2015 Joint Quarterly was tabled until the Second Month MQ meeting.

That said, a good time was had by all in attendance at the 2014 Joint Quarterly at Happy Hollow Camp. The conversations were frequently deep and worship meaningful.

The survey was distributed and a number of people responded, some who were regular Joint Quarterly attenders and some who were not. The analysis did not indicate any clear-cut reason for the low attendance figures.

Second Month Meeting was held at Eastern Hills and a decision was made, after much discussion and worship, to NOT hold Joint Quarterly Meeting in 2015. An excellent workshop about fossil fuel divestment was presented by Community Meeting and an ad hoc committee was formed to look at MQ’s finances and possibly propose a minute for Fifth Month Meeting.

Fifth Month Meeting was clerked by Faith Morgan at Lexington Meeting’s newly redone Meetinghouse. The ad hoc committee presented a minute about fossil fuel divestment and it was approved. A member of the ad hoc committee carried it to Executive Committee for forwarding to OVYM.

Miami Quarterly is blessed with people willing to be of service and with Quakers who are living the testimonies and challenging others to follow. It is a privilege to serve as co-clerk, along with Faith Morgan.

Veronica Frost
Co-clerk, Miami Quarterly Meeting

Audit Committee Report

The OVYM Audit Committee met Ninth Month, 24th day and reviewed the books for fiscal year 2013-2014. We were once again able to audit and reconcile all of the accounts to our satisfaction.

There was a less than fifteen dollar difference in expenses for the Yearly Session and, given all the receipts involved, we felt that was understandable.

The Audit Committee thanks you for the opportunity to have been of service.

Veronica Frost

Budget and Finance Committee Report

The committee has worked very hard on fulfilling its promise to bring forward a balanced budget for consideration this year after expressing our concern that the reserve was falling to a point of discomfort.

Before we report on our work to present a balanced budget, we must share that one of the most remarkable things we have witnessed this year is the establishment of a new fund, The Spiritual Nurture Fund, and a recovery of the money in a long standing fund, The Braddock Trust Fund. The Spiritual Nurture Fund will be used by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee to grow the spirit among us in the yearly meeting and was established by the bequest of Eileen Bagus. A newly appointed group of trustee's will begin the work of updating how the Braddock Trust Fund will be administered to do the work in our prison populations of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting region. Friends will be hearing more about the activity of both these funds in the future.

Back to the work of balancing the budget- the committee met early in the yearly meeting's budget process and recommended several ways to address a shortfall that didn't involve any reduction in our programming. First, we suggested that those of us who attend Yearly Meeting sessions become more aware of the true cost of our attendance. We encouraged the Planning Committee to have a more visible place for attendees to contribute to help cover these true costs. Secondly, there was an Ad hoc Development Committee formed at last year's sessions. This group was asked to send out a direct appeal to the individuals in our yearly meeting. The money raised by this appeal is included as income in the budget that we are presenting. Finally, at the annual budget conference held in April, the group of Friends assembled that day suggested raising the proportional share by \$5 per member to a total of \$125 per member. These tweaks have enabled us to bring what is essentially a balanced budget to this year's sessions.

There have been many interesting suggestions and discussions in formulating this budget. Certainly the Budget and Finance committee intends to continue to bring forward these discussions and education to the wider body. Items of special note are highlighted in the following budget. There are columns that recap of last year's budget, actual expenses from last year, the proposed budget for 2015-16 and finally the change in each line.

The committee always appreciates how generous Friends are in supporting the work of the yearly meeting. We cannot say "thank you" often enough!

Ben Griffith, Clerk of Budget and Finance

**2015-16 OVYM Proposed Budget
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	Changes
Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End				
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	3,176	3,176	4,176	1,000
Benevolent Fund (Table 3)	5,800	5,809	5,800	-
Peace Witness Fund (Table 4)	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Capital Fund (Table 5)	5,638	5,635	5,637	(1)
Faith & Practice Printing Fund (Table 6)	4,000	4,000	4,000	-
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)		(15,513)	-	-
Spiritual Nurture Fund		7,160	7,160	7,160
Braddock Fund		68,817	65,403	65,403
General Fund (Table 8)	35,234	43,105	42,180	6,945
Total	56,347	124,688	136,854	80,507

Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund

Starting Balance	2,176	2,176	3,176	1,000
Transfer from General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Disbursements (Kenya 2012)				-
Ending Balance	3,176	3,176	4,176	1,000

Table 3. Benevolent Fund

Starting Balance	5,800	5,806	5,809	9
Income	5	3	3	(2)
Disbursements to QM (65%=Miami, 35%= WW)	5		12	7
Ending Balance	5,800	5,809	5,800	-

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund

Starting Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Income	100	75	75	(25)
Disbursements - Peace Tax Fund	100	75	75	(25)
Ending Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	-

Table 5. Capital Fund

Starting Balance	5,633	5,633	5,635	2
Income	5	2	2	(3)
Distribution				-
Ending Balance	5,638	5,635	5,637	(1)

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund

Starting Balance	3,500	3,500	4,000	500
Transfer from General Fund	500	500	-	(500)
Distribution				-
Ending Balance	4,000	4,000	4,000	-

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 20

Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance		159		-
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (DEBT)		(15,672)		-
Ending Balance		(15,513)	-	-

Appeal Letter Income 2014-15 (becomes Other Income 2015-16)	3,430			
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**2015-16 OVYM Proposed Budget
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	Changes
Table 8. General Fund Summary				
INCOME				
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	71,120	72,221	70,575	(545)
Other Income - Appeal letter income			3,430	3,430
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	200	340	600	400
Donated Travel Costs	4,500	4,619	4,250	(250)
Sales of Disciplines				-
Total Income	75,820	77,180	78,855	3,035
EXPENSES				
Operating Expenses (Table 10)	31,970	27,059	31,670	(300)
Committee Expenses (Table 15)	11,570	8,130	9,000	(2,570)
Representative Travel (Table 22)	6,000	6,530	6,200	200
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 23)	14,500	15,810	12,060	(2,440)
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500	500	-	(500)
Donations by OVYM (Table 24)	19,850	19,850	19,850	-
Total Expenses	85,390	78,880	79,780	(5,610)
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(9,570)	(1,700)	(925)	8,645

Table 9. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	5,070	4,542	5,500	430
Campus	1,800	1,550	1,450	(350)
Clear Creek	9,400	11,512	9,250	(150)
Community	8,880	8,800	9,125	245
Dayton	1,200	1,200	1,000	(200)
Eastern Hills	1,500	1,500	1,500	-
Englewood	1,500	1,500	1,500	-
Fall Creek	1,320	1,320	1,625	305
Fort Wayne	720	720	750	30
Green Plain	250	182	300	50
Hopewell	1,320		300	(1,020)
Lafayette	1,800	1,700	1,400	(400)
Lexington	4,920	4,920	5,375	455
Louisville	7,080	7,080	7,000	(80)
Miami	4,920	5,125	5,125	205
North Meadow	4,440	4,440	4,625	185
Oxford	1,800	1,870	1,875	75
White Rose	1,440	1,000	1,500	60
Yellow Springs	11,760	13,260	11,375	(385)
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	71,120	72,221	70,575	(545)

Bold = Meetings **responding** with pledge of support for 2015-16

**2015-16 OVYM Proposed Budget
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	Changes
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Table 10. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 11)	1,860	927	1,370	(490)
Clerical support (Table 12)	250	782	190	(60)
Staff (Table 13)	26,860	23,252	26,860	-
Publications (Table 14)	2,700	1,798	2,950	250
Archives	300	300	300	-
Total	31,970	27,059	31,670	(300)

Table 11. Administration

Bank Charges	-	12	-	-
Liability Insurance	1,000	897	900	(100)
Background Checks	60	18	50	(10)
Officers' Expenses	400		400	-
Treasurer's Expenses	400		20	(380)
Total	1,860	927	1,370	(490)

Table 12. Clerical Support

Office Expenses	120	194	60	(60)
Postage	80	385	80	-
Copying	50	203	50	-
Total	250	782	190	(60)

Table 13. Staff

Compensation	25,000	21,534	25,000	-
Workers Comp	360	347	360	-
Cell Phone	450	456	450	-
Internet Access	450	190	250	(200)
Travel	400	725	600	200
Professional Development	200		200	-
Total	26,860	23,252	26,860	-

Table 14. Publications

Quill	1,500	401	1,500	-
Web site expenses	-			-
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,000	1,149	1,200	200
Directory	200	248	250	50
Total	2,700	1,798	2,950	250

Table 15. Committee Expense

Religious Nurture & Education (Table 16)	310	-	200	(110)
Middle Youth (Table 17)	330	-	50	(280)
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 18)	40	56	50	10
Religious Education (Table 19)	-	-	-	-
Teen Program (Table 20)	6,300	6,300	6,300	-
Adult Young Friends (Table 21)	1,390	82	600	(790)
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	200	200		(200)
Travel - Donated	2,000	1,355	1,500	(500)
Travel - Reimbursed	1,000	138	300	(700)
Total Expenses	11,570	8,130	9,000	(2,570)

**2015-16 OVYM Proposed Budget
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	Changes
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Table 16. Religious Nurture & Education Committee

Pamphlets, copying and printing	10		10	-
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	300		150	(150)
Resource Materials	-		40	40
Total Expense	310	-	200	(110)

Table 17. Middle Youth Committee

Joint Quarterly Gathering	20			(20)
Staff	130			(130)
Supplies and Programming	180		50	(130)
Total Expense	330	-	50	(280)

Table 18. Peace & Social Concerns

Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop	10		5	(5)
Postage	30	56	45	15
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials	-			-
Total Expense	40	56	50	10

Table 19. Religious Education Committee - combined into RN&E

Lending Library				-
RE Newsletter				-
Postage				-
Fall Retreat & Spring Workshop				-
Total Expense				-

Table 20. Teen Program

INCOME				
Contributions		18,315		-
Fundraising	500	1,427		(500)
Registration Fees	1,700	5,250		(1,700)
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	6,300	6,300	6,300	-
Total Income	8,500	31,292	6,300	(2,200)
EXPENSE				
Publicity	100			(100)
Teen Events	1,400			(1,400)
Service Trips	7,000	46,900	6,300	(700)
Cost of Fundraising		64		-
Total Expense	8,500	46,964	6,300	(2,200)
Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)				
	-	(15,672)	-	-

Table 21. Adult Young Friends

(Income)	(500)	(295)	(300)	200
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions	690	377	400	(290)
Scholarships	1,200		500	(700)
Total Expenses	1,390	82	600	(790)

Table 22. Representative Travel

Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,500	2,768	2,700	200
Additional Reimbursement	1,000	498	750	(250)
Donated Travel	2,500	3,264	2,750	250
Total Expenses	6,000	6,530	6,200	200

**2015-16 OVYM Proposed Budget
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	Changes
Table 23. Yearly Meeting Sessions				
INCOME				
Contributions	1,000	1,914	3,000	2,000
Registration	4,000	4,470	4,650	650
Room & Board Charges	13,000	12,377	12,400	(600)
Bookstore Income	1,000	917	950	(50)
Total Income	19,000	19,678	21,000	2,000
EXPENSES				
Administration	50		425	375
Adult Program	1,000	2,250	2,000	1,000
Next year's Sessions deposit	750	2,163		(750)
Teen Program	1,500	1,007	1,200	(300)
Middle Youth Program	1,400	1,375	1,500	100
Children's Program	3,500	3,117	3,000	(500)
Adult Room & Board	12,500	11,921	11,600	(900)
Room & Board Subsidies				-
Children, middle youth, teens	7,000	7,773	7,800	800
Staff and officers	2,700	2,524	2,200	(500)
Guests	700	524	525	(175)
YAF attenders subsidy	1,000	1,177	1,150	150
First-time attenders subsidy	400	708	700	300
Simple Meal Donation	300	390	400	100
Bookstore Expenses	700	559	560	(140)
Total Expenses	33,500	35,488	33,060	(440)
Net Cost of Session	14,500	15,810	12,060	(2,440)

Table 24. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries				
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Friends Music Camp	1,700	1,700	1,700	-
Subtotal	3,700	3,700	3,700	-
Major Quaker Organizations				
AFSC	2,650	2,650	2,650	-
FCNL	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
FGC	4,000	4,000	4,000	-
Friends Journal	600	600	600	-
FWCC	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Subtotal	12,250	12,250	12,250	-
Quaker Education and Outreach				
Earlham College	300	300	300	-
Olney Friends School	300	300	300	-
Quaker Heritage Center	300	300	300	-
Wilmington College	300	300	300	-
Subtotal	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus				
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200	200	200	-
Friends Peace Teams	500	500	500	-
William Penn House	200	200	200	-
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	200	200	200	-
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500	500	500	-
Quaker United Nations Office	500	500	500	-
Right Sharing of World Resources	600	600	600	-
Subtotal	2,700	2,700	2,700	-
Total Contributions	19,850	19,850	19,850	-

Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your contributions and support, which help make OVYM a rewarding place to volunteer and also makes my service on your behalf so much easier. The following five page spreadsheet balances with the checkbook and is submitted here for your information. This was a year of talking about budgets and asking for your extra financial support. Meetings and individuals donated \$18,315 toward the teen trip to Costa Rica and another \$1,427 was given during teen fund raising activities. Individuals also responded to the OVYM appeal letter, contributed \$3,430 toward our efforts to balance the budget in fiscal year 2015-16. The budget deficit for 2014-15, was almost \$8000 better than expected because most monthly meetings continue to support OVYM at the proportional share level, and some donate even more. But it was lower than expected expenses that affected the projected budget loss. We budgeted for a Middle Youth coordinator that we did not hire, Friends traveling in support of OVYM committees did not ask to be reimbursed and the Adult Young Friends are mostly self supporting, not spending their budget.

In the following tables, the first column is the 2014-2015 budget. This can be compared against the second column, which shows the actual income and expenses for fiscal year 2014-15. The Meetings that responded to that committee with their support pledge for next year are listed in bold typeface in table 9.

Table 1 shows all of the funds related to the Yearly Meeting. Tables 2 through 7 are the details of the income and expenses for those funds, except the General Fund. Table 8 is a summary of the General Fund, our main account. The rest of the tables are details related to the General Fund.

Although this is supposed to be the official report for the fiscal year, Teen Committee service trip income and expenses have not been finalized. The numbers in Table 20, and therefore Tables 1 and 7 should be available in the report I submit to OVYM Executive Committee in October. At that time all the numbers for fiscal year 2014-15 should be final.

Yearly Meeting should be about helping us to grow and strengthen spiritually. The memorial gift from Eileen Bagus is a new fund called the Spiritual Nurture Fund. Ideas on how to use this legacy to help us enrich and deepen spiritually should be directed to the Religious Nurture and Education committee.

When I was traveling in England I saw the 5 pound note with Elizabeth Fry's picture and a second drawing showing her presence in a prison. Friends who feel this call to prison ministry today now have the Braddock Fund to help with any needed financial assistance. Ramona Buck, Wilhelmina Branson and I spent many months to make this money accessible to help you in your work. Even the money lost to IRS backup withhold rules since a W-9 error in 2012 has all been recovered.

Blessings on you all in 2015-16.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer, Treasurer, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

2014-15 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End		
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	3,175.67	3,175.67
Benevolent Fund (Table 3)	5,800.00	5,808.98
Peace Witness Fund (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Capital Fund (Table 5)	5,637.68	5,634.56
Faith & Practice Printing Fund (Table 6)	4,000.00	4,000.00
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)		(15,512.66)
Spiritual Nurture Fund		7,160.09
Braddock Fund		68,817.26
General Fund (Table 8)	35,234.09	43,104.51
Total	56,347.44	124,688.41

Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund		
Starting Balance	2,175.67	2,175.67
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Kenya 2012)		
Ending Balance	3,175.67	3,175.67

Table 3. Benevolent Fund		
Starting Balance	5,800.00	5,805.61
Income	5.00	3.37
Disbursements to QM (65%=Miami, 35%= WW)	5.00	
Ending Balance	5,800.00	5,808.98

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund		
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00
Income	100.00	75.00
Disbursements - Peace Tax Fund	100.00	75.00
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00

Table 5. Capital Fund		
Starting Balance	5,632.68	5,632.68
Income	5.00	1.88
Distribution		
Ending Balance	5,637.68	5,634.56

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund		
Starting Balance	3,500.00	3,500.00
Transfer from General Fund	500.00	500.00
Distribution		
Ending Balance	4,000.00	4,000.00

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 20		
Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance		159.49
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (DEBT)		(15,672.15)
Ending Balance		(15,512.66)

Appeal Letter Income 2014-15 (becomes Other Income 2015-16)	3,430.00
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**2014-15 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015**

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	
Table 8. General Fund Summary			
INCOME			
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	71,120.00	72,220.96	1,100.96
Other Income - Appeal letter income			-
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	200.00	340.34	140.34
Donated Travel Costs	4,500.00	4,618.62	118.62
Sales of Disciplines			-
Total Income	75,820.00	77,179.92	1,359.92
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses (Table 10)	31,970.00	27,059.19	(4,910.81)
Committee Expenses (Table 15)	11,570.00	8,130.08	(3,439.92)
Representative Travel (Table 22)	6,000.00	6,529.99	529.99
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 23)	14,500.00	15,810.24	1,310.24
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500.00	500.00	-
Donations by OVYM (Table 24)	19,850.00	19,850.00	-
Total Expenses	85,390.00	78,879.50	(6,510.50)
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(9,570.00)	(1,699.58)	7,870.42

Table 9. Meeting Contributions			
Bloomington	5,070.00	4,542.00	(528.00)
Campus	1,800.00	1,550.00	(250.00)
Clear Creek	9,400.00	11,512.00	2,112.00
Community	8,880.00	8,799.96	(80.04)
Dayton	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
Eastern Hills	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Englewood	1,500.00	1,500.00	-
Fall Creek	1,320.00	1,320.00	-
Fort Wayne	720.00	720.00	-
Green Plain	250.00	182.00	(68.00)
Hopewell	1,320.00		(1,320.00)
Lafayette	1,800.00	1,700.00	(100.00)
Lexington	4,920.00	4,920.00	-
Louisville	7,080.00	7,080.00	-
Miami	4,920.00	5,125.00	205.00
North Meadow	4,440.00	4,440.00	-
Oxford	1,800.00	1,870.00	70.00
White Rose	1,440.00	1,000.00	(440.00)
Yellow Springs	11,760.00	13,260.00	1,500.00
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	71,120.00	72,220.96	1,100.96

Bold = Meetings responding with pledge of support for 2015-16

2014-15 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	
Table 10. Operating Expenses			
Administration (Table 11)	1,860.00	927.00	(933.00)
Clerical support (Table 12)	250.00	781.88	531.88
Staff (Table 13)	26,860.00	23,252.09	(3,607.91)
Publications (Table 14)	2,700.00	1,798.22	(901.78)
Archives	300.00	300.00	-
Total	31,970.00	27,059.19	(4,910.81)

Table 11. Administration			
Bank Charges	-	12.00	12.00
Liability Insurance	1,000.00	897.00	(103.00)
Background Checks	60.00	18.00	(42.00)
Officers' Expenses	400.00		(400.00)
Treasurer's Expenses	400.00		(400.00)
Total	1,860.00	927.00	(933.00)

Table 12. Clerical Support			
Office Expenses	120.00	194.11	74.11
Postage	80.00	384.99	304.99
Copying	50.00	202.78	152.78
Total	250.00	781.88	531.88

Table 13. Staff			
Compensation	25,000.00	21,533.84	(3,466.16)
Workers Comp	360.00	346.80	(13.20)
Cell Phone	450.00	456.00	6.00
Internet Access	450.00	190.00	(260.00)
Travel	400.00	725.45	325.45
Professional Development	200.00		(200.00)
Total	26,860.00	23,252.09	(3,607.91)

Table 14. Publications			
Quill	1,500.00	401.44	(1,098.56)
Web site expenses	-		-
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,000.00	1,149.18	149.18
Directory	200.00	247.60	47.60
Total	2,700.00	1,798.22	(901.78)

Table 15. Committee Expense			
Religious Nurture & Education (Table 16)	310.00	-	(310.00)
Middle Youth (Table 17)	330.00	-	(330.00)
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 18)	40.00	55.80	15.80
Religious Education (Table 19)	-	-	-
Teen Program (Table 20)	6,300.00	6,300.00	-
Adult Young Friends (Table 21)	1,390.00	82.17	(1,307.83)
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	200.00	200.00	-
Travel - Donated	2,000.00	1,354.53	(645.47)
Travel - Reimbursed	1,000.00	137.58	(862.42)
Total Expenses	11,570.00	8,130.08	(3,439.92)

2014-15 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	
Table 16. Religious Nurture & Education Committee			
Pamphlets, copying and printing	10.00		(10.00)
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	300.00		(300.00)
Resource Materials	-		-
Total Expense	310.00	-	(310.00)
Table 17. Middle Youth Committee			
Joint Quarterly Gathering	20.00		(20.00)
Staff	130.00		(130.00)
Supplies and Programming	180.00		(180.00)
Total Expense	330.00	-	(330.00)
Table 18. Peace & Social Concerns			
Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop	10.00		(10.00)
Postage	30.00	55.80	25.80
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials	-		-
Total Expense	40.00	55.80	15.80
Table 19. Religious Education Committee - combined into RN&E			
Lending Library			-
RE Newsletter			-
Postage			-
Fall Retreat & Spring Workshop			-
Total Expense			-
Table 20. Teen Program			
INCOME			
Contributions		18,315.00	18,315.00
Fundraising	500.00	1,427.00	927.00
Registration Fees	1,700.00	5,250.00	3,550.00
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	6,300.00	6,300.00	-
Total Income	8,500.00	31,292.00	22,792.00
EXPENSE			
Publicity	100.00		(100.00)
Teen Events	1,400.00		(1,400.00)
Service Trips	7,000.00	46,900.00	39,900.00
Cost of Fundraising		64.15	64.15
Total Expense	8,500.00	46,964.15	38,464.15
			-
Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)	-	(15,672.15)	(15,672.15)
Table 21. Adult Young Friends			
(Income)	(500.00)	(295.27)	204.73
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions	690.00	377.44	(312.56)
Scholarships	1,200.00		(1,200.00)
Total Expenses	1,390.00	82.17	(1,307.83)
Table 22. Representative Travel			
Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,500.00	2,768.00	268.00
Additional Reimbursement	1,000.00	497.90	(502.10)
Donated Travel	2,500.00	3,264.09	764.09
Total Expenses	6,000.00	6,529.99	529.99

2014-15 OVYM Treasurer's Report 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015

2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual
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Table 23. Yearly Meeting Sessions

INCOME			
Contributions	1,000.00	1,914.00	914.00
Registration	4,000.00	4,470.00	470.00
Room & Board Charges	13,000.00	12,376.50	(623.50)
Bookstore Income	1,000.00	917.04	(82.96)
Total Income	19,000.00	19,677.54	677.54
EXPENSES			
Administration	50.00		(50.00)
Adult Program	1,000.00	2,249.75	1,249.75
Next year's Sessions deposit	750.00	2,163.00	1,413.00
Teen Program	1,500.00	1,007.07	(492.93)
Middle Youth Program	1,400.00	1,375.44	(24.56)
Children's Program	3,500.00	3,116.81	(383.19)
Adult Room & Board	12,500.00	11,921.01	(578.99)
Room & Board Subsidies			-
Children, middle youth, teens	7,000.00	7,773.00	773.00
Staff and officers	2,700.00	2,523.72	(176.28)
Guests	700.00	524.00	(176.00)
YAF attenders subsidy	1,000.00	1,177.00	177.00
First-time attenders subsidy	400.00	707.50	307.50
Simple Meal Donation	300.00	390.00	90.00
Bookstore Expenses	700.00	559.48	(140.52)
Total Expenses	33,500.00	35,487.78	1,987.78
Net Cost of Session	14,500.00	15,810.24	1,310.24

Table 24. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries			
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	-
Subtotal	3,700.00	3,700.00	-
Major Quaker Organizations			
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	-
FCNL	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	-
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	-
Subtotal	12,250.00	12,250.00	-
Quaker Education and Outreach			
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	-
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	-
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	-
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	-
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus			
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	200.00	-
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	-
William Penn House	200.00	200.00	-
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	200.00	200.00	-
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	-
Quaker United Nations Office	500.00	500.00	-
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	-
Subtotal	2,700.00	2,700.00	-
Total Contributions	19,850.00	19,850.00	-

Statistical Report

MIAMI QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	ENG	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/13	31	74	10	25	23	11	41	59	41	15	93	423
Correction by addition							1	1				2
Births/Adoption												0
Request of Parent(s)												0
Convincement		2			3		1				1	7
Children accepted as adults							1	1				2
Transfers to				1			1					2
TOTAL GAINS	0	2	0	1	3	0	4	2	0	0	1	13
Correction by subtraction				1	2							3
Deaths	2	3					1				2	8
Removal by request								2			1	3
Children becoming adults								1				1
Transfers from			2	1			1	1				5
Loss of contact								1				1
TOTAL LOSSES	2	3	2	2	2	0	2	5	0	0	3	21
Net gain or loss	-2	-1	-2	-1	1	0	2	-3	0	0	-2	-8
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/14	29	73	8	24	24	11	43	56	41	15	91	415
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	0	3	3	0	1	0	21	7	0	1	0	36
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	0	5	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	1	13
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	0	0	0	1	1	2	6	0	0	1	2	13
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	2	9	1	0	0	0	5	4	4	0	6	29
Members and Regular Attenders 26-34	4	9	4	5	5	0	6	8	3	2	10	56
Members and Regular Attenders 36-64	19	35	10	8	11	4	53	33	15	5	39	232
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	12	25	5	9	10	3	18	26	20	6	33	167
Resident Membership – Adult	18	47	5	18	20	0	32	43	32	12	47	274
Resident Membership – Associate	0	9	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	3	8	28
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	12	3	1	4	7	5	13	9	0	29	94
Non-resident Membership – Associate	0	5	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	0	7	19
United Meetings	*			*								2
Budget members	14.5	73	8	12	24	11	43	56	41	15	91	388.5
Worship attendance – adults	9	39	12	12	18	0	28	26	14	8	32	198
Worship attendance – children	0	6	1 ²²	1	2	0	6	8	6	3	3	36
Regular non-member attendance	3	12	5	2	0	0	25	12	5	1	12	77
First Day School (children)	0	6	1	0	11	0	6	7	6	3	3	43
Friends in school/college	0	7	3	0	0	0	3	1	7	0	8	29

WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/13	79	68	13	6	11	15	37	12	241	664	717
Correction by addition		6							6	8	3
Births/Adoption									0	0	1
Request of Parent(s)									0	0	0
Convincement									2	9	11
Children accepted as adults									0	2	0
Transfers to			2						2	4	1
TOTAL GAINS	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	21	16
Correction by subtraction									0	3	12
Deaths									2	10	3
Removal by request									6	9	14
Children becoming adults									0	1	0
Transfers from									5	10	12
Loss of contact			2			1			3	4	28
TOTAL LOSSES	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	24	69
Net gain or loss	0	6	0	0	0	-1	0	0	5	-3	-53
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/14	79	74	13	6	11	14	37	12	246	661	664
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	17	7	3	1	0	0	6	3	37	73	64
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	8	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	13	26	29
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	5	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	10	23	28
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	24	10	0	0	0	1	2	0	37	66	89
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	30	16	4	2	2	5	5	2	66	122	127
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	35	49	8	5	8	9	16	6	136	368	376
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	30	22	1	3	2	4	14	1	77	244	225
9 Resident Membership – Adult	58	55	13	4	9	8	29	7	183	457	
Resident Membership – Associate	7	4	0	0	0	2	2	3	18	46	
Non-resident Membership – Adult	10	15	0	2	2	4	6	2	41	135	
Non-resident Membership – Associate	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	23	
United Meetings											2
Budget members	79	74	13	6	11	14	37	12	246	634.5	647
Worship attendance – adults	43	35	5	9	7	8	18	2	127	325	334
Worship attendance – children	5	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	12	48	46
Regular non-member attendance	20	8	123	5	0	4	0	0	38	115	126
First Day School (children)	8	2	1	0	0	0	4	0	15	58	57
Friends in school/college	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	32	42

Middle Youth Committee Report

The Middle Youth Committee, consisting of Rachel Gill, Victoria Burke, Richard Mitchell, Charles Moore, and Carey Bryson, met during annual sessions and conducted business via email this year. We organized programs for middle schoolers during yearly meeting and joint quarterly. The number of youth that we served in 2014-15 has been small, which makes group dynamics challenging. At Joint Quarterly it is my understanding that only one middle youth attended and with the help of Carol Simmons they participated in activities with the small number of teens that were in attendance. It should be noted that attendance at the Joint Quarterly Meeting was low for adults as well.

During yearly meeting in 2014, we had larger number of middle youth than in 2013, due to several boys moving up from the Children's program. This led to a younger-aged group but it was helpful that many of participants knew each other well. One of the programming choices was a talk from FCNL about how our tax dollars are spent and the disproportionate amount is spent on the military. This seemed to make a big impression on our group and came up regularly over the course of the meeting and was included in our skit for the talent show. Moments like these make working with our youth programs inspiring.

Staffing for our programs has strayed from the ideal. We were not able to have a staff member for joint quarterly but low attendance meant that one was probably not needed anyway. We prefer to have staff who are not also members of the committee but for OYVM 2014 when no one else was available Rachel Gill stepped into that roll just as she had in 2013. It is difficult to find people interested in working with this age group who are available for five days in the middle of the summer.

The creativity, energy, playfulness, and good humor of this age group are infectious. Their introspection, generosity, and pure spirits touch us deeply. Through our service we experience the joy of nurturing the yearly meeting's youth and the joy of growing and learning from them. If you would like join us our committee would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Gill, clerk

Teen Committee Report

The year is marked by a teen group with few active teens and thus few activities were held. Despite this, planning for the summer service trip has energized and revitalized the teen committee and we expect the renewed organization and spirit will lead to an active and productive new year.

The secretary and a few teens did attend the joint quarterly meeting held at Happy Hollow in October.

A few teens and the teen secretary also attended the Quake that rocked the Midwest at Evanston Meeting in Chicago over the Martin Luther King long weekend in January. This gave our group of teens contact with teens from other Yearly Meetings.

The majority of the effort of our teen committee has been devoted to planning the yearly service trip which, this year, will take the teens to Monteverde, Costa Rica. The complexity of the planning for a trip which will take the group out of the country led to weekly conference-call meetings and occasional face-to-face meetings of the teen committee to work through the details of fund raising and organizing the service trip. We have been fortunate in having as a tour agent, Sarah Stuckey, who is a Quaker based in Costa Rica but who has a connection to OVYM being the granddaughter of Roy Joe Stuckey of Campus meeting. Attendance on the trip was opened up to Young Adult Friends as well as teens and at this point sixteen young Friends are planning to attend. The trip promises to be an exciting adventure and a deeply enriching experience.

Peter Hardy and David Funck

Adult Young Friends Report

As a new committee, we are still finding our way. We made a financial contribution to an interbranch Young Adult Friends gathering that took place last winter at Community Friends. One committee member helped organize that gathering, and another attended. We have offered to assist AYFs from OVYM attend Quaker or Quaker-related events. As of this writing we don't have specific plans for the 2015 Annual Sessions, but expect to facilitate opportunity there for AYF social and spiritual activities.

Josh Medlin, Co-clerk

Planning Committee Report

After a somewhat difficult year last year, the Planning Committee started this year with an experienced group of members and good leadership. Martha Viehmann and Heather Snediker-Morscheck shared co-clerking responsibilities. Dinah Duvall continued her work as recording clerk, and Kay Wheeler, Carol Simmons, Richard Mitchell, and Kate Anthony all continued their service from previous years, along with registrar Eric Wolff regularly attending. Paul Kriese continued in an advisory capacity although he

was not able to attend meetings. Martha represents the Middle Youth and Carol represents the Teen Committee. With so many experienced hands, the process went smoothly from the beginning.

As is our typical practice, this year's committee first met on the last day of last year's Yearly Meeting session, to review our impressions while they were still fresh of what went well and what might be improved. We considered details of the food, the acoustics, pizza at the Afterthoughts Café as well as more generally how the Spirit worked through all the presentations and activities. We also began reviewing evaluations from attendees. When we met again in the fall, we did a more detailed review of the evaluations. Most of the reviews were very positive, giving us a feeling of success and optimism in starting the process again for the coming year. In that meeting, we agreed to rearrange the schedule somewhat, so that people who could only come for the weekend would have the opportunity to participate in a workshop. Prayerful consideration led us to this year's theme "Transforming the World with Love." We arrived at suggestions for plenary speakers and assigned people to contact them and started discerning ideas for workshops and workshop leaders. With all of this accomplished in September, we felt that our planning process was well in hand and farther along than it had been other years at that point.

We are very pleased with how well our Plenary Speakers represent our theme of transformation. Eileen Flanagan will speak to us on Love, Power, and the Work of Transforming the World. After transforming her own life at midlife, she got involved with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), where she has learned to integrate spiritual practice and effective activism. Eileen will speak about this journey and what she has learned about acting out of that life and power that can transform the world. Ross Hennesy's Plenary speech will be titled Thou Preparest a Table Before Me: Cultivating Courage through Community. He serves as Assistant Director for Quaker Voluntary Service, helping young adults explore the intersection of mysticism and activism. He will help us explore the tension between inward seeking and outward activism in order to lead lives of creativity and courage, embodying love.

The Planning Committee met again in January and March to complete our many tasks, including finalizing workshops and workshop leaders and communicating with all of them, finding worship sharing leaders and developing worship sharing queries, coordinating with Earlham about space and equipment needs, dormitories, food service, arranging for Living Witness presentation, arranging intergenerational activities and service project and many others. Our co-clerks were wonderful at keeping us focused and keeping us in communication between meetings so that many problems could be resolved. Kay Wheeler for the second year did an excellent job of pulling together an amazing amount of information in to a streamlined and very readable schedule. Our last meeting as always was in June, a walk through to view all the facilities and work out any last details of space and equipment needs. We felt blessed to have a committee that works so well together and is so Spirit led. Our only concern is that we had no new members this year and some members will be rotating off the committee. So we ask that Nominating Committee think carefully about sufficient new members for the next committee to provide that balance of experience and new energy that will provide continuity in the future.

We eagerly anticipate gathering for our 195th Annual Sessions and look forward to your feedback and

helpful suggestions on the evaluations to start our planning again.

Website Administrator's Report

The past 12 months have been busy ones for the OVYM Website. Weekly updates keep the calendars and other information current. We've also continued our same-day turn-around for requested updates that have included changes to Monthly/Quarterly Meeting leadership, new job openings, announcements, forms updates, and meetinghouse photos.

The website was completely rebuilt in January. New functionality includes a topic search feature. The new menu system expands to show additional information about an area when your hover over the menu item. Clicking on the menu item still takes you to the associated area of the website. Just below the menu bar, we added the Annual Sessions Theme, *Transforming the World with Love*, and a short paragraph about us beneath that.

The screenshot displays the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact Us', 'Find a Meeting', 'Quaker Job Openings', 'Events Calendar', 'Latest News', 'Officers/Staff', and 'Youth Programs'. Below this is a search bar. The main header features the OVYM logo and the text 'Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Home', 'About Us', 'About Quakers', 'Community Pages', 'Ministries/Youth Programs', 'Publications/Forms', and 'Links'. The 'About Quakers' page is active, showing a title 'About Quakers' and a main text block: 'Quakers seek to experience God within ourselves and in our relationships with others. We believe that the Divine spirit continues to reveal new truths to us. Quakers are committed to living lives that outwardly attest to our inward spiritual experience.' Below this is a quote: 'Our faith is expressed in action, working to improve the lives of individuals to improve the world.' There are two columns of text: 'About the Quaker Faith' and 'Quaker History'. To the right is a large image with the text 'CONNECT WITH US.' and a Facebook link. At the bottom left, there is a section for 'UPCOMING EVENTS' with a 'NEWS HEADLINE' section.

The OVYM Handbook was also completely rebuilt and published on the website on in January. The new version will be maintained going forward, but the original 2010 version of that document remains available on the website for historic purposes.

In February, we republished the Travel Report, Travel Advance, and Expense Report forms for updates to the instructions for IRS, legal, and other information. A hearty "thank you" goes to Wilson Palmer for his due diligence and hard work in editing this information for currency and accuracy. Please note that all of the forms on the Forms page have been built so that you can download them to your computer, fill

them in, and save them with the information you entered. This allows you to email the filled-in form rather than having to print a hard-copy for regular mail.

Statistics of visits to the website remain high, though lower than in 2014, with increases in visits in June and July (during the run up to Annual Sessions) and trending down during the autumn and winter months.

The OVYM Face Book page was created last August to carry announcements of coming events and other information. The Face Book page is accessible from the Find us on Face Book button that's located on the right side of each page under the page's theme image. Several people have already *liked* our Face Book page, which provides them with information about newly posted announcements.



Lonny Burger
Website Administrator

Administrative Secretary Report

It's a joy to work with Friends in our yearly meeting. The seed ideas that have stayed with me recently are being discerning, willing, and good enough. I look forward to seeing us gathered for our annual sessions. Please let me know if I can be of service to your committee or Monthly Meeting in between times.

In the Light, Deborah Jordan

Personnel Committee Report

Annual Reviews were performed on the Administrative Secretary and the Youth Secretary. Both are performing their duties very well.

Paul Buckley

Faith and Practice Committee Report

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

Work of the Yearly Meeting, 2014-2015

At the 2014 sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting two documents were accepted for a year of seasoning. Quaker Testimonies, draft 2; and Peace, draft 5 were published in the 2014 Minute book. They are being brought to the 2015 sessions for consideration for final approval. These texts appear below.

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2014-2015

This past year the committee continued to develop and revise texts for the section of *Faith and Practice* on Quaker testimonies. In the fall we developed a 3rd draft of the text on Integrity. This draft was circulated to monthly meetings, and from their responses the committee developed a 4th draft of this text.

The committee also developed the 1st draft of a text on Simplicity, which was likewise distributed to monthly meetings for their consideration. From their responses the committee has developed a 2nd draft on Integrity.

Thus, at this summer's OVYM sessions, the Faith and Practice Committee is presenting two documents for consideration and threshing: Simplicity, draft 2; and Integrity, draft 4. These documents appear below.

Procedure and pace of the Faith and Practice revision

The committee brings to the Yearly Meeting a concern about the pace of the revision of our *Faith and Practice*. As most Friends are aware, our Yearly Meeting has been engaged in this task since about the year 2000. Our current pace is to review about two pages of text per year and to take several years, often through 5 drafts, before approving any text.

The table of contents with which the Faith and Practice Committee is working is three single-spaced pages of topics. Many of these topics are not included in the 1978 OVYM *Book of Discipline*, and must

be written ‘from scratch.’ Other topics can be found in our prior edition, but it is certainly possible that we will choose to make some revisions to that material. Following our current procedure it seems probable that we will not finish this revision for many years, even decades, to come. Thus, *Faith and Practice* revision will become a permanent, ongoing task of the Yearly Meeting.

The committee does not believe that this is the intention of the Yearly Meeting. Our *Faith and Practice* is a valuable resource for monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, Yearly Meeting, and individual Friends. We would like Friends to have this resource much sooner. Therefore, we will bring to these Yearly Meeting sessions a proposal to expedite the process of revising our *Faith and Practice*. The committee is developing this proposal at the time of publication of the *Reports in Advance*.

In closing Once again we thank Friends for their participation in the work of *Faith and Practice* revision this past year. We appreciate Friends’ patience and faithfulness with this task. We look forward to a productive year in 2015-2016. Monthly meetings can again expect assignments for their review.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee

Quaker Testimonies

2nd Draft
2014-05-31

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come;
that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then
you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one;
whereby in them ye may be a
blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you. (George Fox)

Quaker spirituality is grounded in a direct relationship with the Divine. Quaker testimonies are visible manifestations of our corporate spiritual relationship, flowing naturally from a shared experience of God’s call. They are not rules we follow or things we do in order to get close to God; they are the fruits of faithfulness. As we follow the guidance of the Inward Light, our lives become simpler and our relationships characterized by integrity, equality, and peace. We are drawn into loving community with each other and with all of creation. We become patterns and examples, because testimonies are outward and public acts – shared expressions of the beliefs of the whole community.

For the first 300 years of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers expressed their inward spiritual relationship through various outward behaviors. These included ministry under the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit; distinctive manners of dress and speech; and the rejection of professional clergy, outward rites and rituals, and what they termed “the world’s recreations and pastimes.” Such corporate witness could be dangerous. In times of persecution, publicly identifying with the Society of Friends exposed some to scorn and harassment, fines and imprisonment, even death.

What we now call testimonies have evolved over time. For example, Quaker plain dress, which initially only meant avoiding unnecessary ornamentation, later hardened into the classic gray uniforms for men and women. In the middle of the nineteenth century, most Friends came to see that wearing “plain clothes” was merely a way to enforce outward conformity rather than an expression of an inward spiritual relationship. Today some Friends wear distinctive plain clothes as a personal witness, but most have returned to our earliest understanding of plain dress by adopting a simple, modest appearance.

Continuing revelation also results in new testimonies. For many years, individual Friends felt a personal concern for humanity’s relationship with the natural world. More recently, monthly meetings and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting came to see that this is more than a personal witness. Sustainability is a corporate spiritual imperative, in other words, a Quaker testimony.

The origin of our contemporary concept of “Quaker Testimonies” can be found in the mid-twentieth-century writings of Howard Brinton. He proposed that over time Friends had come to realize the social implications of our religious beliefs, and this had resulted in the development of four corporate testimonies – community, harmony, equality, and simplicity. In the intervening years, this list has been modified and expanded in a number of ways by different groups of Friends. In Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, the Quaker testimonies are generally understood to be simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and sustainability. These are broad categories, not an exhaustive list of the ways in which we witness as a religious society. Each will be addressed in a subsection below.

While living our testimonies can be a source of joy, the Spirit has often directed Friends to challenge the customs and standards of the wider society. Faithfulness may require us to act contrary to comfortable and familiar ways. It can lead us into action we would rather avoid, but if we are true to our calling as Friends, we can do no less.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee

Peace

5th Draft

2014-08-01

What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war...

James 4:1-2 (RSV)

I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars...I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strife were.

George Fox, 1651

Our principle is ... to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all. All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever, and this is our

testimony to the whole world.

Declaration to Charles II, 1660

May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.

John Woolman, *A Plea for the Poor*

Through continuing revelation, Friends testimonies against war and for peace have evolved over the centuries. At first, Friends simply refused to participate in war or military service. Over time, Quakers came to understand that mere opposition to war was insufficient and were led to work for peace. Our peace testimony has led us individually and corporately to work for the abolition of practices rooted in violence and coercion and to sow the seeds of peace in our lives and in the world.

We live in a society that glorifies war. Friends seek to follow the teaching and example of Jesus in rejecting the use of coercion and violence. We believe that God calls us to live together in the covenant of peace envisioned by George Fox. Our path is grounded in deep spiritual listening for the guidance of the Inward Teacher, in humility and openness to multiple perspectives.

Living this way requires patience, perseverance, and courage, and often results in legal, social, or financial sacrifices. When faced with military registration and conscription, many Friends claim conscientious objector status or refuse any cooperation with the military. Some refuse to pay war taxes or restrict their incomes to avoid the assessment of such taxes. Some Friends voluntarily place themselves in harm's way in order to witness for peace and against oppression and the use of violence. Friends also encourage governments to refrain from military responses to international conflicts and other acts of violence. Quaker organizations like the American Friends Service Committee and Right Sharing of World Resources contribute to building a more peaceful world.

If violence and war are to be avoided, whether between individuals, groups, or entire nations, their sources must be recognized. The seeds of conflict are in our hearts. Fear, greed, and intolerance wound the human spirit and obscure the Inner Light given to each person. Quaker peace witness seeks to heal these wounds by answering that of God in each person with courage, compassion, and justice.

We believe that God has called us to lead lives of non-violence, seeking creative alternatives to resolve conflicts when they arise in our lives. The path of peace is in many ways at odds with the world around us and may lead us to act in ways that challenge the values of the dominant culture. On occasion, it may also require patience as we lovingly hold the tension of an as-yet-unresolved conflict, awaiting a transformation of mind and heart within others and within ourselves.

Friends seek to foster a future rooted in peace and freed from historical cycles of violence, resentment, and strife. We have a responsibility to nurture the spirit of love in all, but especially our young people, teaching them to practice non-violence in their own lives, to stand against coercion and intimidation in all forms, and to stand for mutual respect and peace.

Over the centuries, the Inward Light has guided Friends to oppose slavery, to end the death penalty, to improve conditions in prisons, to feed and clothe victims on all sides of wars, to empower the disenfranchised, the outcast, and the stranger. This work continues. As our understanding of God's leadings for us grows, new expressions of our peace witness will emerge, develop, and mature.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee
Integrity 4th Draft 2015-06-20

Above all, my beloved, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your 'Yes' be yes, and your 'No,' no.

James 5:12

Let your lives and conversations preach, that with a measure of the spirit of God you may reach to that of God in all.

George Fox

Fear is a common obstacle to integrity.

Philip Gulley

When we place truth at the center of our lives, we live with integrity. A life of integrity arises from discerning divine truth as best we can and lovingly acting in accordance with that discernment. Integrity is expressed in being truthful, honest, and transparent; living so that we will not have to be untruthful in the future. These outward signs grow out of ongoing, inward work. Such faithfulness leads to wholeness, to the integration of body, mind, and spirit.

We are limited beings, who often hear the voice of God only faintly. Impatience may tempt us to follow our personal desires. Shame, pride, or insecurity can lead us to seek worldly approval. It takes patience and humility to stand still in the Light and to wait for clarity before we act.

We do not have to travel this path alone. Our meeting communities provide encouragement, strength and companionship in our everyday lives. They can also help us discern the rightness of a

perceived leading and provide support and accountability when clearness has been reached. In similar fashion meetings embody integrity when Friends practice discernment together.

When we follow divine guidance, we find the strength and nourishment to be faithful and to speak and act in accordance with truth in all relationships and in all parts of our lives., Integrity is our way of life.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee
Simplicity 2nd Draft 2015-06-20

[Requiring that] we must be all in one dress and one colour: this is a silly poor gospel. It is more fit for us to be covered with God's Eternal Spirit and clothed with his Eternal Light, which leads us and guides us into righteousness.

(Margaret Fell Fox, 1700)

Too many of us have too many irons in the fire. We get distracted by the intellectual claim to our interest in a thousand and one good things, and before we know it we are pulled and hauled breathlessly along by an over-burdened program of good committees and good undertakings.

(Thomas R. Kelly, 1941)

Central to the Friends' testimony on simplicity is the injunction to seek first the kingdom of God.

(Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, 1985)

A life centered on listening to and following the Inward Teacher is characterized by simplicity. This simplicity flows from our direct relationship with God and leads us to maintain humility of spirit and to forego over-indulgence, ostentation, and stressful busyness.

The world we live in entices us with distractions. Friends are advised to guard against self-indulgence, extravagance, or obsession with anything else that would lead to neglect of our spiritual lives. Friends recommend simplicity and moderation in our social gatherings, weddings, funerals, and public occasions.

The practice of genuine simplicity is itself simple, and attempts to establish strict norms for simplicity can become distractions. For example, simplicity does not require the rejection of modern technology; indeed, the avoidance of practical technology can lead to the unnecessary complication of one's own life and the lives of others. Simplicity is the natural character of a centered life, not an end in

itself. Friends can be tempted to self-righteousness when we reckon our own simplicity to be superior to that of others. Each Friend is encouraged to seek Divine Guidance so that our outward behavior best reflects our inward focus on Divine joy.

Practicing simplicity nurtures our spiritual lives, strengthens our interpersonal relationships and benefits the larger world. By observing and encouraging simple tastes in apparel, furniture, buildings, and manner of living, we do away with unwholesome rivalry. This is helpful for our children who may feel pressured to define themselves and others by their possessions. Teaching our children the basis and practice of simplicity helps them to focus on the fundamentals of respectful relationships. When we curb our impulse to consume, we also strengthen our witness to care for the earth and to act for social justice. Focusing on the Inward Teacher frees us to live simply; living simply frees us to deepen our relationship with God.

Earthcare Committee Report

Our committee continues to concern itself with the global ecological crisis created by the corporate-growth economy and consumerist culture we all live within. We face the discouragement this growing crisis often brings by gratefully grounding ourselves in the divine Presence manifest in all creation. In this spirit outdoor worship and worship-sharing were central to our May 23 retreat in Oldenburg Indiana, as they have been in previous years.

We continue focusing on the global climate crisis, encouraged that Pope Francis has recently emphasized the compelling moral dimension of this growing world-wide change. Causing us particular distress is extreme fossil fuel extraction, such as hydro-fracking and mountaintop removal coal mining. While contributing to climate change, these industries also significantly harm local human and non-human communities

We have learned more about the desecration of blowing up mountaintops for coal, destroying stream watersheds and causing serious water pollution. During this past year several of our committee members have taken part in Earth Quaker Action Team's non-violent direct action campaign with PNC Bank. Early this year PNC announced that they were withdrawing their loans to mountaintop removal companies, validating five years of work by EQAT. Our display table provides photos and some history of EQAT's actions, supplementing our keynote speaker Eileen Flanagan and last year's speaker George Lakey.

Also related to climate change, we have enthusiastically joined with Miami Quarterly Meeting's proposal of a minute that, if adopted, will commit us as a yearly meeting to divest all investments in fossil fuel extraction companies. We would be joining Community Friends and Miami Friends meetings, who have already divested, as well as the growing world-wide divestment movement.

We continue to invite ourselves and all yearly meeting members to rediscover ourselves as members of the land communities we live within, as well as those distant ecosystems we draw upon for our

sustenance. Out of the wonder and gratitude that come from this we want to nurture, both as individuals and as Friends communities, this living creation which also nurtures us. As our sustainability minute of 2002 states, we seek not only individual lifestyle change but deep societal change, in order that all living beings might flourish.

We ask Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to consider endorsing the following statement, “Facing the Challenge of Climate Change.”

Bill Cahalan, clerk

Dear Friends worldwide,

The Statement below was developed by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Friends Committee on National Legislation for their joint presence at events during the UN Climate Summit in September 2014.

A number of fellow Quaker organizations wished to add their name, including FWCC which sent the Statement out to Quaker communities worldwide. As a result we continue to receive signatures, which we add to the Statement, uploading the most recent versions onto the QEW and QUNO websites.

Three concerns have arisen in this process. Some meetings have asked us to give the Statement longer life by making it non-date specific, so that it can continue to be seen as relevant. Others encouraged language that was less anthropocentric. Still others felt that to be truthful we should more strongly acknowledge the grave dangers we face from climate change.

We have attempted to do this, while holding to the core message that Quaker organizations and Meetings have already upheld and signed.

If you wish to add your Meeting to this Statement, please contact Lindsey Cook as suggested at the end of the Statement.

If you do not wish to sign, but wish to use this material as a base for a Meeting-specific Statement, you are most welcome, but please take off the signatures.

In peace and with gratitude,

QEW, QUNO and FCNL
January 2015

Facing the Challenge of Climate Change
A shared statement by Quaker groups

January 2015

“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”

William Penn, 1693

As Quakers, we are called to work with the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples.¹ We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations.

We call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic climate change (climate change due to human activities) to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that the current rise of greenhouse gas emissions is leading to an unprecedented rate of increase in global average surface temperature of extreme detriment to the Earth’s ecosystems and species, including human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic global climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act urgently.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited material growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion. We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth. We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

¹ Kabarak Call to Peace and Eco-Justice, 2012, p. 1

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
Westtown Monthly Meeting, Pennsylvania, USA
Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Princeton Friends Meeting, New Jersey, USA
Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)
Northampton Friends Meeting, MA, USA
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, UK
Cookeville Monthly Meeting; USA
FWCC- Asia West Pacific Section
Quakers in Aotearoa New Zealand
Croton Valley Meeting, NY, USA
Netherlands Yearly Meeting, USA
Newtown Monthly Meeting, USA
New York Yearly Meeting, USA
Memphis Friends Meeting, USA
Miami Friends Meeting, USA
Quakers in Australia
EcoQuakers Ireland
Living Witness, UK
Quakers in Britain

Please contact Lindsey Cook at lfcook@quno.ch if you need more information, or wish to add your Quaker group.

Quaker Heights Care Community Report

This has been a year of celebrations and challenges. Our first celebration was receiving HUD funding so that we were able to break ground last fall for the Rehabilitation wing. This building project is on schedule for completion in late summer, and the grand opening shortly thereafter.

it may improve life for our dementia residents.

We celebrated the outcome on the Ohio Department of Aging Nursing Home Family Satisfaction Survey. We scored HIGH! Quaker Heights Care Community received a score of 90.1, with the State average score 85.8. We believe we are very good in caring for our residents, and it nice to have their families confirm this.

We, also, celebrated our ability to return health care insurance to our employees after a year when we could not afford to do so.

We celebrated working with Earlham College and Friends Service for the Aging. Sydney McBride will join us as Quaker Heights Administrator in Training Fellow. This program has been made possible with a grant from Friends Services for the Aging and in collaboration with Earlham College. Sydney McBride graduates this spring from Earlham College with a major in biochemistry with a focus in health care. During her time at Quaker Heights, she will be working with Wendy Waters-Connell learning all aspects of nursing home administration. At the end of her year with us, it is expected that she will take the nursing home administrator exam and become a licensed nursing home administrator.

Our great challenge is how to keep up with the changes in how society wants nursing home care delivered. Over the past few years our government has reduced payment to nursing homes for Medicare and Medicaid residents. Despite less reimbursement, we continue to give excellent care, and this requires appropriate staff to provide this care, thus we have had to do very tight budgeting. There is a push to keep elders in their own homes for longer periods of time, so we are seeing elders admitted older, frailer, and for a shorter time period. Additionally, hospitals are releasing their patients in an acute state, so that is not possible for many to return home immediately. They need additional acute or rehabilitation care in a long term setting. Staff and doctors have had to be educated to care for this different nursing home population. As a result of frequent admission and discharge of residents (in 2014, 194 persons were admitted to our nursing home, and 202 persons were discharged), we have had difficulty keeping our beds fully occupied, and this in turn has resulted in lowered income that has our finances in the red. We need the help of all In OVYM to refer residents to Quaker Heights.

We are also challenged by what new residents want in their nursing home. For example, many desire private rooms (currently all of our rooms are semi-private). The new rehabilitation unit will have private rooms, and we may convert some of our nursing home beds to private rooms. The question for us is -- what is the right mix of semi-private rooms to private rooms for our facility? In the next few months we will be engaging in discussions and looking to experts to help us define just what we should be preparing for to meet the short and long term needs of the elderly community. We welcome your input, your support and your prayers.

Eugenia Mills, Past Presiding Clerk, Board of Trustees

Friends Music Camp Report

Friends Music Camp is excited for its 36th summer session. We have a solid base of returning campers this year and are looking forward to welcoming many new campers as well. Because of our host school's budgeting needs, we had to increase our rates more than usual this year; therefore, enrollment is down and requests for scholarships are up. We are thankful for the yearly meeting's financial support as well as the support of our individual donors, all of whom enable us to help deserving campers attend FMC.

As always, this year's campers come from across the country, with one from Costa Rica as well; our current camp families, as well as our wider Quaker network, has continued to reach out to families. The campers will be taking lessons on over twenty different instruments altogether. They will participate in large ensembles such as chorus, musical theater, band, orchestra, and jazz band, as well as a number of smaller groups. Our concert entitled "Musicians for Justice and Peace" will benefit the Glen Helen ecology center as it has for the past number of years.

Despite our reduced number, FMC continues to be a strong community comprised of adults and young people who care about music and about each other. Our community comes together through music and through our time together in collection, our quiet time of worship and reflection. Our campers grow in confidence musically through a very supportive audience and teachers. Many campers perform for the first time at FMC. Our staff are at a very high level musically and enjoy each others' company as they perform together in staff recitals. Last summer, the attendance at our staff concerts was very high, full of local residents who come to enjoy the music.

Our alumni network is important to us, and informal connections continue to be made through social networks and in-person meetings. One source of great delight and fellowship has been the continued friendships between adults who were once campers at FMC together. We hope to use these networks even more strongly in the future to continue to grow support for music camp. Plans for alumni networking and more fundraising are in the works and need as much support as possible for our continued growth.

Finally, there is a proposal on the table this year to consider a move to Earlham College. We have strong ties to Olney Friends School and have developed a good partnership with them over the years. For a variety of reasons, including the construction of a new performing arts facility at Earlham, the time was right to look into a potential change. We have not made a decision yet and will not until we have had time for much discussion, thinking, and worshipping together at FMC 2015. We have already had some electronic and in-person conversations with our staff, camp families, and board, and are looking forward to seeing where continued conversation leads us this summer.

Friends Music Camp appreciates for the yearly meeting's continued sponsorship and support of our musical growth and our community.

Drea Gallaga, co-director

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

Regretfully, Peter Fosl and I were unable to attend the ASFC conference this year. Our flights were both cancelled due to snow, ice and temperatures below normal.

In the Light,

Pam Richards

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Delegates Frank Huss, myself Ken Bordwell, and Julia Thompson attended the FCNL Annual Meeting and Public Policy Institute November 18-22, along with more than 430 Quakers and like-minded activists. It's a time for faith-based action and for many, an annual tradition. At this yearly event, FCNL chooses an issue that is particularly timely and particularly likely to be sensitive to our influence as citizen lobbyists. We are thoroughly backgrounded on the issue, trained in lobbying, and then we go to Capitol Hill to meet with our elected legislators. As the deadline for a report from the somewhat controversial Iran nuclear observation negotiations was fast approaching, FCNL selected support of U.S. diplomacy with Iran as a far better way towards security than making threats and increasing sanctions. Senators and representatives across the political spectrum thanked the group for their advocacy, and before the day was out, more than dozen legislators were preparing new statements in support of ongoing diplomacy. Specifically, my wife Mary Anne and I spent over an hour and a half with an influential member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who seemed very interested in our background and in the facts FCNL had assembled.

Following the Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day, the entire body of the FCNL met to approve members of our General Committee and to set our legislative priorities for the next Congress. They also set the budget and laid out plans for advocacy work in the next year.

The many speakers over the weekend included Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.), Israeli General Uzi Eilam, Retired Lt. Col. Lawrence Wilkerson (former aide to Colin Powell), and Parker J. Palmer about the Quaker contribution to healing the heart of democracy.

As always, the program assistant (intern) speeches on Saturday night left a powerful impression. A very positive aspect of the weekend was learning about how FCNL is rapidly expanding its capacity to hire and support young adult Friends so that the mission can continue on a solid footing through the coming decades.

The FCNL General Committee, of which the OVYM delegates are members, sets new priorities every two years as a new Congress takes office. The current priorities are for the 114th Congress, the Congress

which assembles in January of 2015 and continues through 2016. Based on ever-changing political realities and on the input from hundreds of Quakers over the last year, these priorities were approved by the assembled Friends:

Please read the FCNL website and open any emails you may receive from FCNL; it's our Friendly presence on Capitol Hill and a great source of ideas for political action on the local level as well. FCNL's researchers and lobbyists have much more influence if our elected representatives know they represent the discernments of a large number of engaged constituents!

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Bordwell

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

FGC is the organizational aspect for many Unprogrammed Programs in the US and Canada. It provides workshops, meeting a summer gathering, books and other devotional materials for Unprogrammed Friends. FGC sends out people to help Meetings do their spiritual work more efficiently. FGC is in the midst of major organizational and religious reprogramming and leadings. It is trying to become more able to reach others that they have yet to reach. Their New Meeting program, seeks to spark Interest where none had been before. Their Quaker Quest program allows already established Meetings explore who they are and why they are where they are at present.

Paul Kriese

William Penn House

William Penn House is the best kept secret in DC: affordable housing near a Metro stop, down the street from the Library of Congress and the Folger Shakespeare Museum, and a few steps from a major market area in DC. Wm Penn House is a meeting place for people in DC who want a private place to engage in important issues of the day. Across the street from A Congressional Building Wm. Penn is also in the center of national legislative realities. Bunk beds, communal breakfast and a morning Meeting for Worship make Wm. Penn House a perfect place for Quakers and others to meet and greet and eat.

Paul Kriese

Executive Committee Minutes 2014-15

October 4, 2014 Business Meeting

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:	Rex Sprouse
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Stephen Angell (prevented)
Recording Clerk:	Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:	(vacant)

Committee Clerks

Ad Hoc Fundraising:	Fred Feitler
Auditing:	(no clerk)
Budget & Finance:	Ben Griffith Fred Feitler
Children's Program:	Hannah Branson (prevented)
Earthcare:	Bill Cahalan (prevented)
Faith & Practice:	Betsy Neale Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth:	Rachel Gill (prevented)
Naming:	Betsy Neale
Nominating:	Ben Griffith
Peace & Social Concerns:	Richard Mitchell
Religious Nurture & Education:	Diann Herzog (regrets)
Teen Activities:	David Funck Peter Hardy (prevented)
Yearly Meeting Planning:	Heather Snediker Morschek (prevented) Martha Viehmann (prevented)

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami:	Veronica Frost (prevented)
Whitewater:	Diann Herzog (regrets)

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington:	Marcia Ankrom
Campus:	Linda Sears
Clear Creek:	David Garman (regrets)
Community:	Deborah Jordan
Community:	Frank Huss

Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills:	(prevented)
Englewood:	(prevented)
Fall Creek:	Diann Herzog (regrets)
Fort Wayne:	Terre Holada
Green Plain:	(prevented)
Hopewell:	(prevented)
Lafayette:	Anne Pellegrino (Regrets)
Lexington:	Betsy Neale Richard Mitchell
Miami:	Lonny Burger
North Meadow:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford:	(prevented)
White Rose:	(prevented)
Yellow Springs:	Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Admin. Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Others

Quaker Heights Care Com. Liaison: Frank Huss

Statistician: Frank Huss

Web Administrator: Lonny Burger

1. The meeting opened with a period of worship during which our dear Friend Eileen Bagus, who died on October 3rd, was remembered.
2. The proposed agenda was reviewed and **approved**.
3. **Treasurer's Report** (Wilson Palmer)

The Treasurer noted that some of the teen activities were not included in the fiscal report presented at the 2014 annual sessions. The numbers in the current report are final for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The fiscal report was **accepted**.

It is early in the fiscal year, so there is not a lot to report, other than the costs and income from the annual sessions. There is a substantial discrepancy between the number of beds the registrar believed were occupied each night during the sessions and the number for which Earlham charged the yearly meeting. There is likewise a much smaller difference in the billing for meals. This resulted in about a \$1200 increase in the current year's bill. There are no records that would allow the housing differences to be reconciled. The treasurer recommends that at future sessions someone compare and correct these numbers on a daily basis.

The Planning Committee offered to contact Earlham about the 2014 bill and establish procedures for future years. We ask them to approach this in a spirit of love and humility. They will call upon the treasurer and the registrar as needed to accomplish these tasks and will report back to the Executive Committee at our February 2015 meeting. **Approved**.

4. **Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee met September 24, 2014 to review the books for fiscal year 2013-2014. They audited and reconciled all of the accounts to their satisfaction. **Report accepted.**

5. **Abuse Prevention Policy Review** (Deborah Jordan)

A thorough review was conducted of the procedures by Carol Simmons, Martha Viehmann, Hanna Branson, Richard Mitchell, Steve Angell and Deborah Jordan. Minor changes were made. The draft policy was discussed and **approved.**

6. Minutes 1-6 were approved.

7. **Personnel Committee Report** (Paul Buckley) – new Handbook sections attached

The committee brought several updates to Yearly Meeting Handbook. Changes to sections 3.1 (Staff), 3.2.4 (Treasurer), 3.6.11 (Personnel Committee), and 4.5 (Personnel Policy) were presented for approval. These were needed to include the new Middle Youth position and to accommodate changes made several years ago in the makeup and appointment process of the Personnel Committee. Except for section 3.2.4, the changes are **approved.** The Administrative Secretary and the Web Administrator will see that these are updated on our website.

The Nominating Committee will review section 3.2.4 in consultation with the Treasurer and the sections for the other officers. They will bring new draft sections, as needed, to our next meeting.

8. The question of who is responsible for writing changes to the Handbook was raised. The Handbook specifies that the Executive Committee approves changes, but not who is to propose them. Our practice has been that the individual committees are responsible for proposing changes in sections that relate to their work.

This opened the broader question of what documents need to be circulated in advance to the Executive Committee and how early they should be sent out. The clerk will consider these procedures and report back to our next meeting.

9. Minutes 8 and 9 were **approved.**

10. **Reports from Quarterly Meetings**

Diann Herzog is the new presiding clerk of **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting.** The report was **accepted.**

11. The **Joint Quarter Planning Committee** reported the planning for the meeting scheduled for October 11-12 is in good order. Registration, however, for is less than half the number we have had at previous meetings held at Happy Hollow – currently 28 adults and 5 children. As a result, the cost per person may be substantially higher than was listed in the registration materials. This would lead to a substantial deficit. Although this is not a yearly meeting activity, there is no other body of Friends who can give advice to the planning committee on how to deal with this situation in a timely manner. After some initial discussion, the Executive Committee went into a period of worship. A conversation will be held with the camp owner to see what alternatives are possible. All Friends present were asked to bring the situation to their meetings tomorrow and seek more registrations or donations. **Approved.**

12. **Budget & Finance Committee** (Ben Griffith)

Ben Griffith and Fred Fiedler will co-clerk the committee this year.

The committee asked for approval for a small change to the budgeting process; that is, to change the date when initial estimates of costs are received from the yearly meeting officers and committees to February 15. **Approved.**

The approved budget for the current year has a planned deficit of almost \$10,000. The committee is committed to achieving a balanced budget in future years. To help realize that goal, an ad hoc committee has been established by the yearly meeting to do fundraising. In addition, B&F is preparing an estimate of the “true cost” per person for attending the annual sessions. We currently subsidize all attenders – some more than others – and the committee believes that, if Friends know the true cost, some will be willing and able to pay more.

It was also noted that there has been discussion of including the costs of the joint quarterly meeting in the OVYM budget.

13. Reports from Staff

The **Administrative Secretary** reported that the 2014 Minute Books are available.

14. Reports from Support Volunteers

The **Statistician** has modified the statistical form to distinguish resident and non-resident members of the monthly meetings. The form has been automated and is available through the OVYM website.

The **Web Administrator** has created a new Facebook page with up-to-date features. There have been 15 “likes” so far. All are invited to like it. This is in addition to the OVYM website.

The reports were **accepted.**

15. Minutes 11-15 were **approved.**

16. Reports from Committees

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has begun its work. The theme for the 2015 annual sessions is “Transforming the World with Love.” Progress has been made on selecting speakers and other activities. **Accepted.**

Middle Youth Committee is still seeking to hire a staff person. Friends are encouraged to spread the word. **Accepted.**

Teen Activities Committee has met twice since yearly meeting and has created a calendar of events for 2014-15. To minimize costs, they prefer to hold these at central locations. The Quake that Rocks the Midwest has been added to their regular schedule. They hope that the 2015 service trip will be to Costa Rica in cooperation with the Monteverde Quaker community. A budget is being prepared for this trip. Fundraising will be necessary. **Accepted.**

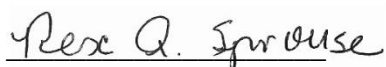
Faith and Practice Committee has prepared another draft on the testimony of integrity for consideration by monthly meetings this fall. **Accepted.**

17. Reports from OVYM Ministries

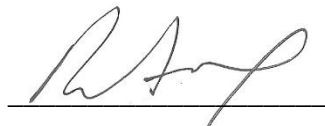
Quaker Heights Care Community has broken ground for a new rehabilitation wing. **Report accepted.**

18. Minutes 17-18 were **approved.**

19. The former presiding clerk, Steve Angell, has met with David Dawson, the President of Earlham, with regard to the dispute between Earlham employees and Sodexo in accordance with minute 63 from our annual sessions.
20. The next meeting of Executive Committee will be by conference call on February 7, 2015 beginning at 10AM.
21. The final minutes were **approved**.
22. The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.



Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk



Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

February 7, 2015 Business Meeting (by Conference Call)

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:	Rex Sprouse (prevented)
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Stephen Angell (Acting Presiding Clerk)
Recording Clerk:	Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada (prevented)
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:	(vacant)

Committee Clerks

Ad Hoc Fundraising:	Fred Feitler (prevented)
Auditing:	Veronica Frost (prevented)
Budget & Finance:	Ben Griffith
Children's Program:	Hannah Branson (prevented)
Earthcare:	Bill Cahalan
Faith & Practice:	Betsy Neale Rex Sprouse (prevented)
Middle Youth:	Rachel Gill (prevented)
Naming:	Betsy Neale
Nominating:	Ben Griffith
Peace & Social Concerns:	Richard Mitchell
Religious Nurture & Education:	David Garman
Teen Activities:	David Funck (prevented) Peter Hardy
Yearly Meeting Planning:	Dinah Duvall Richard Mitchell

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost (prevented)
Whitewater: Diann Herzog (prevented)

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Marcia Ankrom (prevented)
Campus: Linda Sears (prevented)
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Deborah Jordan
Frank Huss
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley (prevented)
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: (prevented)
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog (prevented)
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada (prevented)
Green Plain: (prevented)
Hopewell: (prevented)
Lafayette: Anne Pellegrino (prevented)
Lexington: Betsy Neale
Richard Mitchell
Louisville: Howie Baker (prevented)
David Klaphaak (prevented)
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Stephen Angell
White Rose: (prevented)
Yellow Springs: Faith Morgan

Staff

Admin. Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Carol Simmons

Others

Quaker Heights Care Com. Liaison: Frank Huss
Statistician: Frank Huss
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger

1. The meeting opened with a period of worship.
2. The proposed agenda was reviewed and **approved**.
3. A document titled, **Information on Some Current Practices**, prepared by Rex Sprouse, was reviewed.

In the third full paragraph, the proposed document states that supporting written materials should be provided to the presiding clerk, “no later than twelve (12) days before the meeting is scheduled.” It was suggested that “no later than” was unnecessary.

In the second paragraph, the word “usually” was added to the final sentence: “Under our current structure, concerns arising in constituent monthly meetings *usually* should be seasoned by the relevant quarterly meeting before being brought forward to the Yearly Meeting for consideration.”

With these two changes, the text was **approved** and will be added to the OVYM Handbook

4. Facing the Challenge of Climate Change was presented.

The document was referred to the Earthcare Witness Committee for consideration and possible presentation to the 2015 Annual Sessions.

Representatives were encouraged to bring this text to our monthly and quarterly meetings. They may choose to sign it or use it as a starting point for developing a statement of their own.

5. A Travel Minute for Rex Sprouse was read and **endorsed**.

6. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting sent a **Minute on Police Violence**.

Concern was expressed with the particular wording. The statement that “there is that of God in every person in equal measure” represents a departure from the traditional Quaker position. It was also suggested that, as worded, the minute might “add fuel to the fire.” The text was referred to Peace & Social Concerns Committee for more seasoning.

Some Friends also questioned the value of adopting such minutes, rather than calling for some action on the part of the meeting and its members. P&SC might want to add ways for Friends to fruitfully approach the police or African-Americans as part of their consideration of the minute.

7. Treasurer’s Report (Wilson Palmer)

A bequest of \$7,160.09 has been received by the yearly meeting. It is currently included in the report under “Other Income.” OVYM does not currently have a policy on how to handle large gifts. Budget & finance Committee was asked to write one for presentation to the 2015 Annual Sessions.

So far, \$11,760.56 of about \$30,000 in the Braddock Fund has been transferred to OVYM accounts.

The report was **accepted**.

8. **Budget & Finance Committee** encouraged monthly meetings to send representatives to the Budget & Finance Committee that will held on April 4 at 10AM – just ahead of the next Executive Committee meeting. The commitment to bring a balanced budget to the 2015 Annual Sessions means that preparing the coming year’s budget may be difficult. Either increased income or reduced expenses will be required if we are to meet this goal.

Committee clerks and yearly meeting officers were also reminded that budget requests are needed by the end of this month.

9. The latest issue of the *Quaker Quill* is available on line.

10. The **Web Administrator** has updated the on-line version of the Handbook.

11. Miami Quarterly Meeting will meet next at Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting on February 15.

The future of the joint quarterly meetings will be under consideration. Friends are encouraged to attend.

Stephen Angell, Acting Presiding Clerk

Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

April 4, 2015 Business Meeting

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:	Rex Sprouse
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Stephen Angell
Recording Clerk:	Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:	(vacant)

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends	Josh Medlin
Auditing:	Veronica Frost
Budget & Finance:	Ben Griffith (prevented)
Children's Program:	Hannah Branson (prevented)
Development:	Fred Feitler
Earthcare:	Bill Cahalan (prevented)
Faith & Practice:	Betsy Neale (prevented)
	Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth:	Rachel Gill (prevented)
Naming:	Betsy Neale (prevented)
Nominating:	Ben Griffith (prevented)
Peace & Social Concerns:	Richard Mitchell
Religious Nurture & Education:	David Garman
Teen Activities:	David Funck (prevented)
	Peter Hardy
Yearly Meeting Planning:	Dinah Duvall
	Richard Mitchell

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami:	Veronica Frost
Whitewater:	Diann Herzog (prevented)

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington:	Marcia Ankrom
Campus:	Linda Sears (prevented)
Clear Creek:	David Garman
Community:	Deborah Jordan (prevented)
	Frank Huss (prevented)
Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley (prevented)
Eastern Hills:	Wilson Palmer
Englewood:	Kay Wheeler
Fall Creek:	Diann Herzog (prevented)

Fort Wayne:	Terre Holada
Green Plain:	(prevented)
Hopewell:	(prevented)
Lafayette:	Anne Pellegrino (prevented)
Lexington:	Peter Hardy
	Richard Mitchell
Louisville:	Howie Baker (prevented)
	David Klaphaak
Miami:	Lonny Burger (prevented)
North Meadow:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford:	Stephen Angell
White Rose:	(prevented)
Yellow Springs:	Veronica Frost
	Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Admin. Secretary:	Deborah Jordan (prevented)
Youth Secretary:	Carol Simmons

Others

Quaker Heights Care Com. Liaison:	Wilson Palmer
Statistician:	Frank Huss (prevented)
Web Administrator:	Lonny Burger (prevented)

1. The meeting opened with a period of worship.
2. The proposed agenda was reviewed.
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others.
4. **Miami Quarterly Meeting** (Veronica Frost)
 - **Travel Minute for Rhonda and David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson**
Community Friends Meeting and Miami Quarterly Meeting have endorsed a travel minute for David and Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson to worship with Friends in Japan. The Executive Committee **approved** adding their endorsement.
 - **Travel Minute for Russell and Kay Wheeler**
Englewood Friends Monthly Meeting and Miami Quarterly Meeting have endorsed a travel minute for Russell and Kay Wheeler to travel in the ministry to Ireland Yearly Meeting. The Executive Committee **approved** adding their endorsement.
 - Community Friends Meeting brought a **Minute on Fossil Fuel Divestment** to Miami Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting took that minute under consideration and is attempting to formulate their own minute.
 - Attendance at the last **Joint Quarterly Meeting** was very low. As a result, Miami Quarter has decided not to host a joint meeting in October 2015, but to host a joint meeting in the fall of 2016.

The Miami Quarterly Meeting report was **accepted**.

5. Stephen Angell reported that Sodexo has decided to discontinue its food service contract with Earlham. This ends the dispute that drew the yearly meeting's concern. Earlham is now soliciting a new contractor, but this may require current food service workers to re-apply for their jobs under a new contract.

The report was **accepted**.

6. The **Yearly Meeting Planning Committee** proposed minor revisions to Section 3.5.15: Yearly Meeting Planning Committee in the OVYM Handbook. **Approved**.
7. The **Middle Youth Committee** proposed revisions to Section 3.6.8 Middle Youth in the OVYM Handbook. **Approved**.
8. Minutes 1-7 were reviewed and **approved**.
9. **Quaker Heights Care Community** (Wilson Palmer)

Wilson Palmer, a Quaker Heights Board member, read a two paragraphs from a minute of appreciation for Eugenia Mills who is stepping down from the board after years of faithful and fruitful service. Friends **approved** attaching this section to our minutes.

10. **Treasurer's Report** (Wilson Palmer)

There has been some difficulty in moving the Braddock Fund under the care of the yearly meeting. Some of the funds have been sent to the Internal Revenue Service and need to be re-claimed. There has also been some difficulty in getting Pax World Funds to release the portion of the money they are holding. The treasurer remains confident that the money will eventually be moved over.

Wilson also expressed concern that the existing documents governing the Braddock Fund are not adequate. He advised that the fund trustees appointed by the yearly meeting write a new section for inclusion in the OVYM Handbook specifying how the money will be used in accordance with the donor family's wishes.

Veronica Frost, Richard Mitchell, and Steve Angell were named to help in resolving Braddock Fund issues.

11. **Budget & Finance Committee Report** (Paul Buckley)

The Budget & Finance Committee recommended that a **Bequest from Eileen Bagus** be used to create a Spiritual Nurture Fund under the care of the Religious Nurture & Education Committee. These funds would be used to allow for activities that are beyond the scope of the annual budget.

The recommendation was **approved**.

Religious Nurture & Education Committee was directed to write guidelines directing the use of the funds for inclusion in the OVYM Handbook. RN&E was asked to bring a draft of the new section to the June 2015 meeting for consideration and approval.

Paul Buckley reviewed the proposed **draft FY2016 OVYM Budget**. Unlike most recent budgets, this one is balanced. This was achieved by an increase of about \$5000 in income and a decrease of about \$5000 in expenses relative to the FY2015 Budget. Most of the additional income is expected to come from individual contributions in response to the appeal letter that was approved at last year's sessions.

The report was **accepted**.

12. Minutes 9-11 were reviewed and **approved**.

13. Teen Secretary Report (Carole Simmons)

The teens have reached out to Cincinnati Friends Meeting (Wilmington Yearly Meeting), inviting them to participate in OVYM teen activities.

The number of OVYM teens participating has decreased, but they hope this is a temporary situation. A retreat is planned from April 24 to 26 at the Germantown Reserve.

The planned service trip to Costa Rica has been postponed for a year to the summer of 2016. An alternate service trip to a domestic destination will be held this year.

The report was **accepted**.

14. Upcoming events

Miami Quarterly Meeting will meet next in the newly renovated Lexington Meetinghouse on May 17.

Whitewater Quarter will meet in Bloomington on April 19.

Friends General Conference Annual Gathering will be held from July 5-11, 2015 in North Carolina. Registration is now open.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions will be held July 29-August 2, 2015 in Richmond.

15. Friends were reminded that **State of the Meeting Reports** should be submitted to the quarterly meetings for presentation at the spring sessions. The reports are then forwarded to the yearly meeting and are used to prepare an OVYM State of Society Report. There are queries in the *OVYM Book of Discipline* to aid meetings in writing their reports.

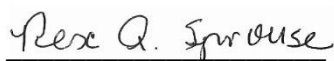
16. The clerk brought forward the following query for consideration by those present:

Are we being faithful to the leadings of the Inward Guide as expressed in our 2011 Minute on Sexuality and Gender Equality?

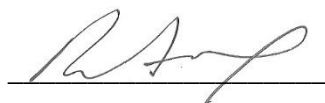
17. Friends spoke out of the silence as led by the Holy Spirit.

Minutes 13-16 were reviewed and **approved**.

We closed with a period of worship.



Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk



Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

June 6, 2015 Business Meeting

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:

Rex Sprouse

Assistant Presiding Clerk:

Stephen Angell (prevented)

Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer (prevented)
Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends Josh Medlin (prevented)
Auditing: Veronica Frost (regrets)
Budget & Finance: Ben Griffith
Children's Program: Hannah Branson (prevented)
Development: Fred Feitler (prevented)
Earthcare: Bill Cahalan (prevented)
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale (prevented)
Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth: Rachel Gill (prevented)
Naming: Betsy Neale (prevented)
Nominating: Ben Griffith
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Religious Nurture & Education: David Garman
Teen Activities: David Funck (prevented)
Peter Hardy (prevented)
Yearly Meeting Planning: Dinah Duvall
Richard Mitchell

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost (prevented)
Whitewater: Dinah Duvall (Acting Clerk)

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Marcia Ankrom (prevented)
Campus: Linda Sears (prevented)
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Deborah Jordan
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley (prevented)
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer (prevented)
Englewood: Kay Wheeler (prevented)
Fall Creek:
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Green Plain:
Hopewell:
Lafayette: Anne Pellegrino (regrets)
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: Howie Baker (prevented)
Miami: Lonny Burger (prevented)

North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Stephen Angell (prevented)
White Rose:
Yellow Springs: Veronica Frost (regrets)

Staff

Admin. Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Carol Simmons

Others

Erin Johns, Daniel Ballow, Sherilyn Brandenstein (North Meadow)

1. We remembered Stan Zarowin of North Meadow Circle of Friends, who died recently, his wife, Pat, and the rest of his family.
2. The meeting opened with a period of worship.
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others.
4. The proposed agenda was reviewed.
5. **Upcoming events:**
 - Friends General Conference Gathering will be July 5 to 11, 2015 at Western Carolina University.
 - Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will hold its Annual Sessions July 29 to August 2, 2015 at Earlham College. Materials to be included in the reports in advance should be sent to Deborah Jordan by June 15. Friends were highly encouraged to send anything that attendees will need in order to facilitate doing our work in a centered and prayerful manner.
 - Retreat for Friends of Color and their Families will be held November 6 to 8, 2015 in Clarkston, Michigan.
6. **Query:** Are your meetings for church affairs held in a spirit of worship and in dependence on the guidance of God? Remember that we do not seek a majority decision nor even consensus. As we wait patiently for divine guidance, our experience is that the right way will open and we shall be led into unity. (Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices & Queries #14)

Friends spoke to the query during a period of worshipful consideration.

7. Minutes 1-6 were reviewed, edited, and **approved**.
8. **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report** (Deborah Jordan)

At its last meeting, the quarterly meeting approved a minute on fossil fuel divestment:

Miami Quarter of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) commits to divesting our quarter's financial resources from all fossil fuel extraction companies. Miami Quarter will publicize this act of divestment from all corporations involved with extracting coal, petroleum, and natural gas as one way to raise awareness of the critical global challenge of climate change. We will make these financial changes as soon as reasonably possible to reflect right relationship with Earth, as well as other Quaker values, including equality and integrity.

The quarterly meeting hopes consideration of divestment will be on the annual sessions' agenda. This minute was inspired by similar minutes adopted by Community and Miami Friends Meetings. A list of meetings outside OVYM, including Britain Yearly Meeting, who have divested from fossil fuels was also read.

Members of the OVYM Earthcare Committee have offered to meet with any meeting that wishes to have further dialog on these issues.

One Friend noted that the earth itself will survive, we are concerned about the effects of continued use of fossil fuels on organisms, including humans. Moreover, competition for energy is a significant source of conflict among people.

Another Friend commented that not all things done with fossil fuels are harmful and wondered what a minute might look like that urged Friends to act personally to reduce their carbon footprint. In addition to divestment by the yearly meeting, he wished we were being asked to undertake individual action.

The Miami Quarterly Meeting report was **accepted**. Minute 8 was **approved**.

9. **Treasurer's Report** (Paul Buckley for Wilson Palmer)

Contributions for the Costa Rica trip from Meetings and individuals now total \$5,785. More has been pledged and is expected this month. In addition, the teens have raised \$849 from sales of LED light bulbs, crafts, etc. About \$47,000 has been spent so far.

The OVYM appeal letter has raised \$3,310 from 37 individuals. The goal is to raise \$5,000 by June 30, 2015.

All \$65,402.51 in Braddock Funds have been recovered and are now accessible except for \$5,000 withheld by the IRS. The treasurer has sent three tax forms to the IRS applying for the recovery of our funds, but it is likely to be many months, if not years before we find out the status of that appeal.

With a little over a month to go in our fiscal year, contributions from monthly meetings are \$57,280.13 (versus pledges of \$71,120). Oxford Meeting has given more than their pledge and six other meetings have fulfilled their pledges. That leaves 12 Meetings who we hope to hear from soon. Two meetings have not yet given anything this year, including Hopewell who also contributed nothing last year.

Only three of our 19 meetings have made a pledge for next year. Meetings are asked to specify their pledge amounts for the 2015-16 fiscal year by June 15.

The treasurer's report was **accepted**. Minute 9 was **approved**.

10. **Budget & Finance Committee Report** (Ben Griffith)

Friends were reminded that contributions from monthly meetings need to be received by June 30 to be included in the current fiscal year reports.

There is now a Spiritual Nurture Fund and a usable Braddock Fund. How these will be used is under discussion.

The report was **accepted**.

11. **Youth Secretary Report** (Carole Simmons)

The Costa Rica trip is scheduled to take place June 22 to July 3, 2015. Seventeen high school and young adult Friends will participate. They will meet with Quakers in Costa Rica and do some work for the Monteverde community. The presiding clerk will prepare a traveling minute for the group.

The report was **accepted**.

12. Personnel Committee Report (Paul Buckley)

The Administrative Secretary's annual review has been completed. The Teen Secretary annual review is in process.

The report was **accepted**.

13. Planning Committee (Richard Mitchell & Dinah Duvall)

We will have access to the new Center for Visual and Performing Arts building at Earlham. Business meetings will be in the Lingle Auditorium in that building.

It was joyfully announced that food will be provided by the same workers, but employed by a new vendor, Metz Catering, during the annual sessions.

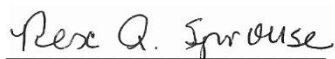
Room and board charges will be the same this year as last year.

Friends were reminded that the costs of attending the annual sessions are subsidized for those under 19, young adult Friends, and first-time attenders. Additional contributions are urged from those who can afford to do so.

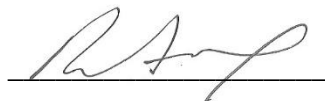
The report was **accepted**.

14. The remaining minutes were reviewed, edited, and **approved**.

15. We closed with a period of worship.



Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk



Paul Buckley, Recording Clerk

State of the Meeting Reports

BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS

During the past year, Bloomington Friends frequently sought the guidance of the Spirit as Friends faced both internal and external challenges. We grieved the death of a beloved Friend. We lamented the loss of one of our most-engaged and dearly-loved couples, who moved away. We held each other in the Light as we discerned the way forward in making necessary structural changes to the Meetinghouse. We sought spiritual direction in addressing disturbing social and environmental issues, racial inequity, police violence, and global climate change. We rejoiced in the sharing and community-spirit of our blessed Meeting.

The First Day School this year focused on Quaker testimonies. One related activity was the teens interviewing elders in the Meeting to better understand how Quakers live out their testimonies. The teens collected these stories and turned them into scripts for our annual Christmas celebration. All present were delighted by the narration by the teens and performances of the younger children.

Our hardworking committees are the lifeblood of our community and we express our gratitude to all who contribute to the care and well-being of our Meeting, particularly this year when so many have been understaffed and over-burdened. Our Pastoral Care Committee warmly tended to the needs of the ill and aging members. In addition, they addressed the needs of the entire community by sponsoring a special workshop on aging. The Library Committee continued to expertly maintain our collections. Their annual book sale provided some extra funds to make new purchases. The Publications and Communications Committee succeeded in redesigning the Meeting's website and prepared our entry into the Quaker Cloud. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee is vigilant in arranging for volunteers at Community Kitchen each month, and in continuing our cooperation with community peace and justice groups. The Building Committee did an outstanding job in envisioning and expediting the plans for structural remodeling of our Meetinghouse. The ad hoc Capital Campaign Committee invited an experienced Quaker fundraiser to advise us on how best to proceed in achieving financial goals and to perform a feasibility study in order to determine our fundraising capacity. The Maintenance Committee organized the fall work day and worked valiantly at pest control.

The service of Friends to the Meeting is beyond recounting. We are grateful to members who so excellently represent us in the Quaker affiliation groups; to all our members who serve as clerks and other appointed positions; to our friend who has faithfully been reporting to us on FCNL activity for the past quarter century; to a couple who recently hosted an FCNL representative in their house; to two friends who secured a generous grant to fund solar panels for the Meetinghouse; to a friend who provides beautiful flowers for worship every week and to many others for their contributions and countless acts of kindness.

Our fellowship after the rise of Meeting thrives every week over the delicious refreshments lovingly provided by generous members of the Social and Fellowship Committee and other Friends. We again enjoyed the Evening of the Arts and the Christmas party where we get to better know our lively and talented community. We also benefited from a number of animated and well-attended forums on a wide range of issues including shared security, solar energy, Quaker history, and racial justice.

This year, we accepted into membership one convinced Friend, Sara Farmer. We mourn the passing of our dear Friend, Dorothy Mae Glanzer, on May 23, 2014, at the age of 60 years. We hold our Meeting in the light as we continue to find right direction and foster participatory spirit.

CAMPUS FRIENDS

Campus Friends Meeting Friends have concluded a two-year process of conversation, study and discernment with the goal of writing a statement which serves as a reflection of who we are as a meeting. We began with a one-day retreat where we gathered responses to a set of queries; Ministry & Counsel solicited written input from all those who were unable to attend the retreat and spent the next year drafting a statement. This is the first part of our answer to the query: ***Where do you see the love of Jesus in your meeting?***

We come together to worship in expectant waiting in the presence of God and these our friends. Friends welcome personal and spiritual leadings that are intended to serve as ministry for all. Meeting for worship informs our understanding of Quaker tradition and testimonies, guides our daily lives and corporate decision-making. We strive to love and support each other within our monthly meeting community, and value our relationship to the wider body of Friends.

Approved 10/2014

The love and support we share is visible in the increased time of fellowship at the rise of worship. We have a practice of asking if there are after-thoughts, praises and concerns, or announcements before shaking hands. And then come the hugs! We recognize that often we ‘just know’ when one of us is suffering and reach out. Our intention is to be a worshipping community sensitive not only to individual and corporate spiritual conditions, but to emotional and physical conditions as well. In our discretionary giving, we considered the needs of the Wilmington community and the college community, knowing many individuals contribute to the wider Quaker family of organizations. This is the second part of our answer to the query: ***Where do you see the love of Jesus in your meeting?***

Even if, as a small community we cannot always rise to the occasion, our faithfulness as individuals is nourished and sustained by our worship together, where we meet the Eternal in the corporate silence of expectant-waiting. Because Campus Friends Meeting holds membership in two yearly meetings – Wilmington and Ohio Valley – we are occasionally challenged by differences in faith and practice, no more so than by the respective minutes on same-gender marriage. Campus Friends came to clearness this year that as individuals and collectively as a meeting, we do not see the same gender issue as an impediment to honoring and celebrating a covenant relationship “including marriages under the care of their (OVYM) constituent meetings as just as sacred, just as valid, and the cause for just as much joy as those of any other persons”.* Following good Quaker process which applies to any couple seeking marriage, Campus Friends Meeting is ready to take the marriage of a same-gender couple under our care. In honoring and caring for a marriage between two individuals, we are in effect, witnessing what God has already done. This is our answer to the second query: ***How does your meeting express the love of Christ to our community and the world?***

This past year we have met the challenges of caring for one of our senior couples with a circle of care. We held two memorial meetings for worship to celebrate the life and ministry of T. Canby Jones and Roy Joe Stuckey. Even as we mourn the loss of these dear Friends, we received with joy into membership, two attenders who have become an integral part of our fellowship. We appointed an on-going support committee to accompany one of our members who is facing life-changing challenges and decision-making. This is our answer to the third query: ***when challenged by difficulties, how do you show your love to one another?***

Patricia Thomas, clerk *from the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting minute on same-gender relationships

CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS

Situated on a college campus, Clear Creek Meeting is, perhaps more than some meetings, a place of sojourn as well as a place to which people return. Those of us who make this meeting our home strive to welcome newcomers, to offer them spiritual support while they are among us, to send them off with our blessing when the time arises for that, and to welcome them back when they visit, often many years later.

It has been a year of departures. A young family that had been very active in the meeting moved to Goshen, Indiana, and we miss them. A Friend who had been active in both our meeting and at West Richmond Friends during her sojourn in Richmond has returned to Philadelphia. Another member of the meeting, Rosie Lechner, whose health had been in decline, passed away, and we held a memorial meeting for her. Another member's husband died, and while he had not been active in our meeting, our care for her included holding a memorial for him.

It has also been a year of return, as one Friend who had lived elsewhere for many years came back to live in Richmond and has resumed an active presence in our meeting. People come and go and sometimes come again.

We recently celebrated the wedding of two long-time members. It has been more than twenty years since we came to unity as a meeting in our willingness to take marriages of same sex couples under our care, and this wedding was the first such union. We rejoice that this marriage is also recognized by the State of Indiana.

Each month during 2014 we discussed themes that emerged from a peace-oriented calendar that was given to local members and attenders. We took turns composing queries for these discussions, which were lively and fruitful. It was energizing to reflect on our own thoughts and labors with regard to peace and justice, and it strengthened our sense of community as a meeting. We have begun a new series of discussions which include both resources from national Friends' organizations as well as reports on what local members are doing, such as a recent discussion on mental health issues in the prison system.

We continue to engage in religious education for all ages. Our adult religious education committee has hosted monthly sessions on such topics as religion and humor, the spiritual lives of youngish and olderish Friends, the meaning of the Christmas story, understandings of God, and how to be a more welcoming meeting. The last topic resulted in an ongoing experiment with various Friends serving as the Quaker in the Hat, a person with whom guests and seekers may engage on questions about Quakers and about our meeting.

Various interest groups continue to lend vitality to the meeting: the monthly book discussions, the FUN (Friends in Unity with Nature) walks, and a group that gathers to listen to music that renews the soul.

We strive to make room for both structured gatherings and spontaneous opportunities to respond to the Spirit.

We celebrated the holidays both quietly and with zest. Our children offered their annual Christmas drama for our meeting, during which they rescued the holiday from the Grinch. We hosted the annual Christmas Eve service for Quakers and Brethren in Richmond, which was well attended and helped to usher in the spirit of the season. On New Year's Eve we said goodbye to 2014 and welcomed 2015 with a candle-lit labyrinth walk in the meetinghouse.

All these activities require some coordination, and we are grateful for the labors that go into the revived newsletter and the Quaker Cloud, that keep us connected and informed about opportunities for growth and service.

Worship continues to be the center of our meeting's life. We are grateful for a lively and caring community and for the presence in our midst.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS

Community Friends Meeting experienced the living spirit working among us in many ways through the past year. Meeting for worship is often attended by newcomers, including many younger adults, who bring new energy and perspectives that enliven our community. We are working in the world to live out our testimonies and our leadings, and we are engaged in deepening our spiritual community through seeking and sharing together.

As noted in last year's report, we grieved the loss of Byron Branson in February, 2014. We lost two more cherished members this past year, Agnes Moon and Eileen Bagus. These weighty Friends were truly patterns and examples, whose lives spoke to all who knew them. They leave a legacy of loving devotion and wise mentoring that continues to inspire and uplift us. We also welcomed two new members into the Meeting, Susan Gerke and Charles Moore. Each season we learn and re-learn lessons of the spirit through love, loss, and renewal.

Our committees have been very active in the past year, providing opportunities to enrich our spiritual lives and to do God's work in the wider world. Ministry and Counsel Committee has provided ongoing support for several meeting members who felt called to the ministry, as well as clearness committees for those who were seeking discernment regarding such calls. Adult Religious Education Committee, in addition to scheduling second hour discussions, has organized a number of "Inreach Groups" again this year for Friends to share more deeply on topics such as Bible study and inward spiritual seeking. These Inreach Groups have been held for the past two years after participating in the Quaker Quest process, in response to our sense that we needed to strengthen the spiritual center of our community to become a place that would attract newcomers. This effort seems to be working, as we see more and more visitors coming and returning to worship with us. The committee also hosted a very well attended Quaker Diversity event that brought Friends together from many different Quaker traditions for listening, sharing and discussion.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has raised the Meeting's awareness of the character and effects of the criminal justice system through movie nights for viewing "The House I Live In" and "Broken on All

Sides” and by coordinating a discussion of the book “The New Jim Crow.” Several Friends also ministered to people who are incarcerated through the Transforming Jail Ministries worship team, which conducted monthly worship services at the Hamilton County Justice Center. The committee was also involved in several other peace and justice activities with other organizations in the local community and in the wider world, such as IJPC and AMOS, which work to promote peace, stop neighborhood violence, and end mass incarceration.

Friends in Unity with Nature Committee has responded with passionate concern about global climate change and its impact on all living things, and has taken significant action steps while working through conflict both within the committee and in the Meeting. Collaborating with Stewardship Committee and others, information was gathered for a well-attended threshing session on divestment of the Meeting’s assets from fossil fuel corporations. The Meeting approved a minute on divestment in July, and brought this exciting and hopeful news to share with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The committee also provided leadership for taking nonviolent action to urge PNC Bank to stop loaning funds for mountain top removal coal mining. On the local level, the committee continues efforts to nurture creation in the woods behind the meetinghouse, and to support more sustainable daily living. The committee held their annual plant sale to raise funds in the spring.

The Meeting received two substantial bequests in the past year, and after careful and prayerful discernment, Stewardship Committee has recommended that the Meeting establish an endowment fund, so these gifts can provide a lasting legacy to the Meeting. We are still in the process of considering this recommendation, as we also consider the ongoing concerns for upkeep of our large and aging meetinghouse. We as a Meeting are seeking to listen together for Divine intention regarding the material gifts we have been given.

Religious Development Committee has provided First Day School activities and scheduled teachers for two classes with the theme of Quaker Testimonies. The intermediate class is attended by 5 to 7 children, and the primary class is attended by 2 to 5 children. The annual Christmas play was co-written by Marjorie Isaacs and Morgan Ganance, age 12, about a modern day Samaritan. After a lesson on simplicity, the children hosted a simple meal and energetically collected \$242.50 for Right Sharing of World Resources! We don’t have any teens this year, but there is an active and engaged group of young adults who contribute many gifts to the life of the Meeting.

Community Committee has organized a number of community-building activities, in addition to setting up and cleaning up meals and refreshments at the rise of Meeting. We have had egg-dying and pumpkin-carving parties, as well as a baby shower for our interim caretakers, game nights and a white elephant gift exchange. In August the committee hosted another successful Quaker Fest, with workshops, food, music, and crafts.

Attendance at Meeting for Worship has been increasing, and we are joyfully welcoming returning visitors every month. An attender recently said he finds the Meeting “incredibly welcoming and full of passionate people.” We do acknowledge that there are areas where differences have created tensions among us, such as different perspectives about divestment, about creating an endowment, and in our attitudes toward Friends in business, but we are committed to seeking together for Divine direction as a spiritual community. We sense that our differences enrich us and stretch us, preparing us for growth. We are hopeful that the spiritual deepening we have engaged in over the past two years has helped to create a more open and inviting place of worship.

DAYTON FRIENDS

The past year has brought seeds of hope and new life to Dayton Friends Meeting. We remain small, but have a committed core which draws together for rich worship and fellowship each week in one Spirit. New attenders and visitors comment on the love and care that permeates the Meeting, and pastoral care is a priority. We have been challenged to be open to new leadings, in order to become a more vital part of the local Dayton community.

After a few years of dwindling numbers and the loss of important elders, our attendance has increased to about fifteen Friends on a regular basis and we have children present more often. Several new attenders, including a young Friend with superpowers, bring a variety gifts and depth to our community. We also welcomed two new members, a birthright Friend who has returned to Quakerism after years as a member of another Peace Church and a Friend from Portland Meeting, NEYM who moved to the area after working in India for several years. Our young adults are stepping into new roles, including one who serves as recording clerk. Yet some of our long-term members feel overwhelmed by responsibility or have burdens that take them away from meeting. We have some concern that our business process is less grounded and we found it difficult to name a clerk this last year. Despite this challenge, we have hope for the future, and new attenders who bring experience from other Friends Meetings have been particularly welcome.

We stepped out in faith in the fall to put an offer on a potential meeting house, a brick duplex near our current rental space. Although we did not received the necessary zoning approval and the process was not always in right order, the groundwork has been laid to act quickly and with clarity if an appropriate building becomes available. We continue to look for potential properties with the help of a former attender who is a realtor. We would like to remain in the area of southeast Dayton, which has attracted new attenders since our move to the area two years ago. In the short term, we are looking for a new rental space, as the church we rent from would like to use our current room.

We have monthly potlucks and a men's breakfast which have helped us knit newcomers into our community. We also continue to have second hour discussions on a variety of topics, although they have sometimes been preempted by business concerns or weather. Most recently, we discussed our vision for Friends in Dayton, and how our ministry might be fostered by a meeting house of our own. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has new life, nurturing new leadings and a desire to learn about how we can best serve the local area after our move to the South Park area of Dayton. We have been encouraged to focus on stories of inspiration and concrete examples of effective action as a beginning point for worshipful discernment of our leadings as a meeting. We want to support those programs which already exist, as well as offering our own gifts to the community. Some of the concerns which seem to be rising up are issues of gun violence and race, supporting new immigrants, and sustainability. We had a table at a local Earth Day celebration for the second time this year.

We begin the next year with anticipation that the seeds planted this year will develop and grow in the coming year, although we cannot yet fully imagine the harvest. *“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”* Mark 4:26-9.

EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS

Worship at Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting nurtures us as a faith community deeply as well as each of us individually. Our commitment to each other manifests in our regular attendance at meeting for worship, in vocal ministry, and even in the silence as we prayerfully hold each other in the Light. We see God at work in the way our hymns and messages become woven together, in spirit-filled spoken ministry, and in the love we show to one another. In the expectant waiting of worship, we open ourselves to the possibility of being filled with the Light and experiencing the workings of Divine Mystery. Our worship and second hours of sharing following worship are safe times to witness our spiritual blessings, to share spiritual practices, and to acknowledge our ongoing seeking and struggle for answers to the mysteries of life and the Spirit. It is not unusual for us to hear someone's vocal ministry as that person's glimpse of Divine Truth. We recognize that each glimpse is partial, but added together we gain a deeper understanding. Out of the silence, each builds her or his own spiritual experience, and then in sharing spoken ministry, our loving fellowship, and our service together, we strengthen our monthly meeting. As these times bring us new understanding or the slow deepening into further knowledge of God, we experience meeting for worship with humility and hopefulness that we have prepared ourselves for further mutual nourishment of our spirits.

During the past year, Ministry and Counsel has striven to deepen the spiritual life of the meeting. The committee organized a series of second hours focused on William Taber's "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship." The open-ended discussion helped us be more mindful of making time throughout the week for worship, however brief, and of preparing for meeting. The committee also began a practice of having one Ministry and Counsel member hold the meeting in the light during worship. As a result, a number of us have taken up the practice of holding each person in the light as a way to center at the beginning of meeting. In addition, one Ministry and Counsel member continues to share discoveries gained through his two year participation in the School of the Spirit. Out of these and other initiatives, we have grown closer and deepened our spiritual lives as a community and as individuals. We have also been blessed to welcome a few new attenders to our meeting and treasure their presence as further sources of spiritual sustenance.

While worship and spoken ministry are the "main course" in the spiritual nourishment individuals receive in our meeting, our life as a faith community extends to supporting each other with care committees during times of trouble or other challenges. We also continue to search for ways to share our spiritual life with the community in which we are located, but finding outreach that our small numbers have the energy to undertake is a challenge. Nevertheless, we find sustenance by serving together in projects undertaken by the Women's Group and in our monthly meal prepared and served for Jimmy Heath House. With Greater Anderson Promotes Peace, we have begun hosting a monthly Interfaith Gathering to Pray for Peace.

We pray that in the coming year we will continue to deepen our life together.

ENGLEWOOD FRIENDS

Englewood Friends Meeting is an active group, very committed to each other and the community around us. This year we are in the process of defining who we are and what it means to be Quakers in the 21'st century.

We have members actively involved in many activities. Englewood Friends has a strong connection to the Dayton International Peace Museum. Some of our members will be participating in the Museum's Peace Walk in May. We have members actively involved with the New Association of Friends (NAoF). One of our newest attenders is serving as the recording clerk for NAoF, other members are trustees for that group and are involved in planning restoration of the Fountain City Meeting House which was part of the Underground Railroad.

Our Meeting also remains committed to providing scholarships for several college students who have been a members of our meeting. We are currently helping a young woman who is in her third year at Earlham College. Englewood Friends has also provided financial help to families in our Meeting and in the community who need assistance.

Each month we cook meals for the St. Vincent's homeless shelter in Dayton. Englewood Friends meeting has been involved in this ministry for over 25 years. We continue to search for new ministries to support needs in our community and the world. We believe that these ministries include those working together with other faith communities in the local area.

Very recently three of our members attended the Grow Our Meetings workshop sponsored by Friends General Conference. The workshop was held at Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana. Those who attended the workshop found it to be very helpful and inspiring and we are planning on conducting a workshop at Englewood Friends to share that experience so that we can move into the future.

We have added several new members this past year and have welcomed several new attenders who are actively participating in the Meeting. We have started having monthly dinner gatherings at different members' homes in an effort to really get to know each other. We have also celebrated the birth of our newest member Susana Grace Arias.

Another very significant part of our Meeting is our weekly first hour discussion group. We meet for an hour before worship to discuss books together and share our thoughts about them. This first hour has become a very vital time of sharing where Friends can safely explore their personal beliefs and share their questions in a non-judgmental environment.

People who have recently become part of our meeting describe Englewood Friends as being a place of acceptance where they feel comfortable to explore their own beliefs in a Quaker setting. Englewood Friends is also a place with much laughter and sharing of each other's joys and supporting each other in difficult times.

Englewood Friends Meeting continues to be a welcoming and affirming community to any who wish to attend, with no discrimination as to race, sexual orientation or faith practice. We view our Meeting as a healing place and recognize that we are all God's children.

FALL CREEK FRIENDS

Fall Creek Friends regularly gathers for Meeting for Worship at 10am on First-Day mornings in a quiet and worshipful manner. We are a small meeting, and our attendance usually ranges from four to eight. Although our group is small, those who attend seem to find the meeting valuable. Indeed, several travel significant distances in order to attend. Fall Creek Friends Meeting provides an environment where Spirit-led vocal ministry is welcome and received with an open spirit. Friends feel neither an over-abundance nor a scarcity of vocal ministry. It is extremely unusual for Fall Creek Friends to hear irrelevant addresses lacking spiritual value. The basic principles of Friends worship are reinforced by precept and example. Fall Creek Friends regularly consider the Queries in the Book of Discipline/Faith and Practice, including those relating to meeting for worship, and newcomers are generally able to observe the practice of orderly worship. We feel that our biggest challenge is currently the irregular attendance we have been experiencing as the result of hazardous driving conditions in the winter and of a large number of personal and family issues that have arisen in a short period of time.

FORT WAYNE FRIENDS

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting continues to worship on the second floor of Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Fort Wayne. Each week, we have from 8-12 members and attenders who worship with us. We continue to enjoy our active toddler, and have had parents with children attend as well, which has led us to develop and lead a First Day school as needed on an intermittent basis.

For our size, we are an active group. Some of our members are on committees that address wider Quaker concerns. We all pull together to work on projects, including co-sponsoring the American Friends Service Committee Poster Project in December, preparing meals for the local Interfaith Hospitality Network, and providing supplies as needed for Wellspring Interfaith Services. We also provided hygiene kits for men who were recently released from prison.

We enjoyed our fall retreat at Lake Wawasee this October. Partly as a result of this, we are looking at the possibilities of a more permanent residence for our Meeting. Our book group continues to meet on a regular basis, and there is no shortage of opinions and lively discussions.

We are currently viewing and discussing the “Quaker Speaks” videos and discussing them as part of our outreach and inreach in the second hour of worship. We also read and discuss the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting queries on a regular basis. We continually strive to listen to that holy spirit within us.

GREEN PLAIN FRIENDS

Green Plain Monthly Meeting has a very small membership and many of the members reside in other states. The local members maintain and care for the Meetinghouse and the burial grounds. The non-resident members serve the Meeting in other capacities. Contact is maintained with all of the members throughout the year. They are asked to share their thoughts and concerns.

Caroline Taylor, Clerk

HOPEWELL FRIENDS

Hopewell Friends Meeting has rejoiced upon the at least hesitant return of spring for all the standard spiritual reasons, but also for the promised respite from investment in heating the meetinghouse. As the population of active members has diminished over the years, so has the fiscal posture of the meeting, rendering the seasonal costs of maintaining our beautiful and historic meetinghouse increasingly onerous.

The matter of declining membership, faced by many meetings, to judge by the attendance at the recent FGC conference on “Growing the Meeting” and by the concerns there expressed, hovers in the shadows at Hopewell. A meeting traditionally comprised in significant proportions of professional educators, recent years have brought retirements and the potential subsequent relocation of one of our more long-standing and vibrantly active families.

Career demands upon our clerk have necessitated her resignation, and Hopewell is currently helmed by an interim, though capable and veteran clerk pending annual reorganization later this summer. We find ourselves, then, propelled by a devoted, thankful, and worshipful core of perhaps ten to twelve attenders.

The picture thus described, however, depicts only a portion of Hopewell’s reality. During this cold and long winter season, there has been for Hopewell a movement of rather historical and certainly of encouraging moment. The modern history of our meeting began in turmoil and disharmony more than sixty years ago when a courageous and dedicated group of Quakers stood firm for the peace testimony and departed from Dublin Friends Meeting to recreate Hopewell amidst the vast cornfield of Henry County. This entrenched separation has begun to heal, as Hopewell members accepted an invitation to worship one First Day at Dublin, and then this Easter Sunday the members of Dublin, a programmed meeting, joined us for a joyous Easter Breakfast, egg hunt, and silent worship. We believe that such healing is possible not only among Friends, but, with energy and faith, throughout the world.

LAFAYETTE FRIENDS

A review of our minutes over the past year shows that we have devoted a significant amount of time and attention to four areas:

Service to our community. Our service takes the forms of helping with community meals for the homeless and others, volunteering at one of the food pantries, and working with Lafayette Urban Ministry’s Jubilee Christmas program. These activities not only give us an opportunity to help others in the Lafayette area, they also enable us to interact with other faith groups, most notably the Lafayette Church of the Brethren, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. We may be working at the Feast of the Hunters’ Moon this fall to provide additional funds for such activities.

Stewardship of our Meeting House, our investments, and our own Quaker history. Maintaining the Meeting House is an ever-present and time-consuming job, but we recognize that we are blessed to have a home for our Meeting that is essentially cost-free. We are grateful that we have an investment account that provides us with the funds for major repairs of the Meeting House when they are needed, but we

also have concerns that we are true to our Quaker principles when making our investments. To that end, we are looking into having our investments managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. In addition, when we inherited our Meeting House from one of our founding members, we also inherited a collection of her papers, letters, and memorabilia, much of which relates to her experiences as a holocaust survivor. We have made progress this year in finding a home for this material with the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

Outreach to potential new members and attenders. We are trying to be more visible to potential attenders through Quaker Cloud, a refurbished first day school room, and the provision of welcoming materials for newcomers. We are pleased with the level of our service to the community and our stewardship, but feel that we could be doing more with outreach, particularly with respect to our use of Quaker Cloud.

Knowing Ourselves. Our Quaker 102 topics this year have focused on our identity as Friends. As Friends know, OVYM has been working on a new Faith and Practice and has sent drafts of various sections for the consideration of the monthly meetings. To be ready to give those drafts the attention they deserve, we have been reading about the testimonies (“SPICES”) in Philip Gulley’s book, *Living the Quaker Way*, as well as short pieces from other meetings and from books. Discussion has been thoughtful and, given the amount of diverse opinions among the world’s meetings about what any given testimony means, the degree of consensus in our own meeting has been a comfort.

Once we finished Gulley, we took a look at Chuck Fager’s book on Progressive Friends, *Remaking Friends: How Progressive Friends Changed Quakerism and Helped Save The World*. Fager’s writing is choppy, but we enjoyed the history of how a rebel group of 19th c. Quakers produced the fundamentals of modern liberal Quakerism – and then vanished, absorbed back into the meetings from which they’d come. We learned that we are not Hicksites.

During the past year, we have experienced a number of changes in membership and attendance. One member has completed her Ph.D. and will be moving on, but we now have a new undergraduate regular attender who has already applied for membership. One very active family will soon be leaving us, but another is attending regularly and participating actively in the life of the Meeting. In a Meeting as small as ours, with attendance of 6-8 on Sunday mornings, such changes significantly affect the spirit, character, and capabilities of the Meeting as a whole. We feel the loss of those who leave, welcome our new arrivals, and look forward to seeing how our small community will change and adapt.

In past State of the Meeting Reports, we have expressed concerns about the strength of ministry within the Meeting, both vocal ministry in meeting for worship, and our care for each other in times of need. In the past year, we have come to accept that our largely silent meetings for worship are just right for us even as we acknowledge that our need for vocal ministry may change as our membership changes. We believe that we are aware of and attentive to the challenges that we all face from time to time, and we are confident that, whenever individuals among us need special nurturance, we will find a way to respond with love.

An ongoing concern that has engendered much prayerful discussion among us for the past year and a half concerns not the state of our monthly meeting, but the state of our yearly meeting, specifically its fiscal challenges. We feel close personal and spiritual ties to our yearly meeting and appreciate the many

services it provides for us as meetings and as individuals. We want these services to continue and to grow, and we acknowledge that it is our responsibility as a monthly meeting to do at least our fair share financially to support the yearly meeting. However we were dismayed to learn that the OVYM Budget and Finance Committee has proposed cutting spending for the work of committees and for the annual sessions, precisely those areas which we feel should be receiving more resources, not fewer. We expect to continue to discuss this matter in the weeks ahead as we approach the annual sessions and are confident that, as all of us in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting prayerfully seek the Light, a resolution will be found that will lead us to becoming a stronger community of Friends.

LEXINGTON FRIENDS

Worship at Lexington Friends Meeting this past year has been rich and diverse, with powerful vocal ministry. Our Meeting worshiped in two different locations during the year, having spent 16 months at a temporary site until renovations were complete at our meetinghouse. Despite having a less than ideal temporary space to worship in, however, we still experienced a few “covered” meetings. Now that we are back in our renovated meetinghouse full of natural light, worship is a joyous time. At the first meeting for worship in this space there were over 70 people in attendance. We also enjoy having plenty of space for potlucks, children's events, holiday gatherings, and committee meetings.

Completing the renovation of our meetinghouse has been one of the most significant events this past year. The renovation has been around a ten-year process from conceptualizing, to designing and fundraising, and finally to construction itself. We are pleased that our newly renovated building is likely to meet LEED certification, a concrete example of our commitment to the Quaker testimony of simplicity, and our commitment to sustainable living. Friends in our meeting volunteered hours of their time on the renovation, including the members of the design team. Ben Griffith, a member of Lexington Friends, volunteered to work half-time as our project manager, a significant savings for us. We feel fortunate to have these members and attenders share their gifts with our meeting.

One positive consequence of the renovation is the increase in attenders, especially young families. Last year our meeting took a serious look at our religious education program; as a result, we have strengthened our Religious Education Committee by bringing in over a dozen Friends to work with the various ages, including adults. The number of children has more than tripled in the recent months.

Since August, we have been working to recruit a child care program or preschool into the lower level of the meetinghouse to help with our costs. After a couple of possibilities fell through, a few Lexington Friends considered the idea of a preschool under our sponsorship. The meeting has recently elaborated and approved this plan, and Friends are working with two enthusiastic teachers who will open a Montessori-based preschool in the fall.

While we are eager to help the new preschool take shape, we recognize that it adds an extra financial burden; instead of receiving immediate rent from an outside childcare program, we will instead be investing into this new project. Our hope is that the Lexington Friends Preschool, which will be incorporated as a separate non-profit, will be able to pay rent in its second year and become self-sustaining within three years. Two dance groups and an African-American congregation also rent space from us.

Our meeting continues to focus on our relationship with the neighborhood where our meetinghouse is located. When we applied for a conditional use permit for a potential childcare facility, several neighbors on our block raised concerns about increased traffic and challenged us before Lexington's Board of Adjustment. Since then, we have striven to create better communication with these neighbors and have reached out with an open house in September and caroling before Christmas.

After being absorbed with internal matters for so long, our meeting is now intentionally extending our focus to more outward issues. This past year we have taken on a more intentional concern with race relations, and this focus has led to an informal partnership with the historically black St. Andrews Episcopal Church, which is located nearby. Four of their girls are participating in our knitting group, and are learning to crochet. We have also held an evening sing together, and their minister invited us to participate in monthly meetings of the Black Church Coalition.

This past March, four of our members were able to attend the national White Privilege Conference in Louisville. They are planning to present what they learned to our meeting, and we look forward to how their experience can inform us as we as a mostly white meeting work for equality and justice in the world.

With our renovated meetinghouse and growing numbers, we look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead as our spiritual community continues to learn and grow. We recognize that our space, our activities, our plans, and our community will flourish only if they are all strongly rooted in the living water of the spirit.

LOUISVILLE FRIENDS

This year has seen a great deal of growth and change. Vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship has been both personal and at times abundant. Friend's relate on many levels through the messages they deliver. In addition, we continue to see participation in the women's worship sharing and weekly Friendly Bible study groups which provide for in teraction and discussion within the membership.

Two recent experiments have taken root in the Meeting. First, we shifted Meeting for Worship from 10:30 to 11:00 with a 15 minute settling period starting at 10:45. This allowed us to schedule a longer Meeting with Attention to Business, and make comfortable transitions from First Hour discussions typically held from 9:15 -10:15. As an added benefit, we find more social interaction time available on both sides of Meeting for Worship and at potluck.

Secondly, we split our Ministry and Nurture committee into Ministry and Worship, and Care and Nurture committees. Though we continue to struggle in these areas, splitting the committees has helped us find paths toward member engagement, nominations for committees, wider Friend's organizational connections, and outreach to our aging Meeting community.

Recent cosmetic changes to the house and grounds, gardens and facilities have lightened our spirits a good deal. Cleaning the carpets, a few easy changes and some paint have proven to help our communal union. Moreover, it shows caring and thankfulness for the things we have.

The Meeting's properties – both Brighton Avenue and Bon Air Avenue – have served for many recent functions. At Brighton Ave, we are happy to see continuing use for the First Day school children's

activities, and housing for groups of visiting Friends. In the former case, the children can garden, chat, sing and generally be more expressive while the adult worship continues undisturbed in the Bon Air Meeting House, leading to a richer experience for all. While in the latter case, we have hosted Friends from Evangelical Friends International – Eastern Region who joined with the Burundian Friends group in planning for an Evangelical Friends Church in Louisville, and Friends who joined with us while attending the White Privilege Conference. There have also been occasional traveling Friends in need of temporary housing who have stayed for longer periods at Brighton Ave. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to provide for both of these groups and see the bridges built from shared resources.

We have faced conflict in the Meeting sometimes openly and sometimes less so. Many hours were spent discussing our finances this year and last. Some of these discussions will continue as part of our regular fiscal process of budgeting and expenditure; others are on - going efforts to resolve our support for larger goals such as emergency aid/fund for suffering. While unity has eluded us in some cases, a good deal of progress toward, and definition around, these topics was found. For example, we arrived at a structured view of our charitable giving. The examination of our financial activities injured relationships within the Meeting. We seek to heal these and rejoin our efforts toward common goals. Toward that end, we have chosen to season these issues and will take them up again in the future.

There is a pervasive theme in many of our discussions related to scholarships, emergency aid, participation and engagement, or financial decisions. How do we define membership? How much of our effort is to support those who work in the Meeting and how much for others that come to us in need? How do we determine need? What are the benefits of membership? What are the responsibilities?

As members age and become less active, we are made aware of how much their energy and participation means and has meant to the life of our meeting. A small core group of Friends seems to be instrumental in most of the Meeting's committees, functions and discussions. Un-clerked and understaffed committees have left a gap in the work of the Meeting. This creates obvious strain on these Friends; with regard to this deficit, we need choose our words tenderly, but call out alarms when necessary.

The presence of more young adult Friends in worship brings light and energy to everyone. How to open doors and bring new families and their children into the activities of the Meeting is an on-going effort with numerous underlying questions. What can be done to include and share the life of the Meeting with new members and attendees? How can they be shown the importance of their participation in the long-term growth of the Meeting? Have members become insular? How do we encourage all Louisville Friends to experience the value of work, worship and play in activities of the wider circle of Friends such as All Kentucky Gathering and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting?

Louisville Friends face many challenges which are fertile with opportunities for spiritual growth, affirmation, and personal revelation.

MIAMI FRIENDS

The Friends of Miami Monthly Meeting continue to gather weekly in the spirit of love and peace, reflecting our commitment to our Quaker faith. While small in number, our membership has grown this

past year with the welcoming of two new members, and we have enjoyed the steady increase in visitors attending our meetings for worship.

We have continued to grow and deepen our faith through continued study of the FCNL publications “Shared Security” and “The World We Seek” during First Day School, as well as the ongoing revisions to sections of Faith and Practice.

Our Meeting continues to play a positive role in our community. We have maintained our regular ministry to the residents of Quaker Heights Care Community (QHCC) where several of our members serve on the Board of Trustees. Every two months we provide a period of inspirational readings, Bible verses and songs to those gathered. Our annual Christmas program at QHCC remains a special event for the residents. Additionally, we continue to support the Waynesville Area Heritage and Culture Center through our volunteer service to Waynesville Museum, and we hosted a “Lunch and History Talk” activity for the Waynesville School third and sixth graders program.

Our financial support to various Quaker organizations continues. The Meeting made contributions to the Cannon Valley Friends, the Olney Friends School, the Friends Music Institute, and the AFSC among others. We also give to the local Waynesville Food Bank.

Again this year, our Meeting gathered at Fort Ancient for our annual outdoor worship and picnic. As always, we experienced a very spiritually uplifting Meeting for Worship under the trees of this ancient Native American site.

Miami Friends continue to be concerned about the condition of our buildings. Our limited number of regular attendees continue to support work parties to repair and maintain our aging buildings. We have begun the investigation of updating the heating system in the White Brick building and are considering a geo-thermal option.

Because of our diminishing numbers, Friends at Miami Monthly Meeting continue to serve in multiple roles. Milton Cook continues as Clerk of our Meeting and Lonny Burger as Assistant Clerk . Both served as our representatives to the OVYM Executive Committee meetings as well as Quarterly and Yearly Meetings this year. Our Assistant Clerk also maintains our Meeting’s website and completed a complete rebuild of the site this year.

NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

In the past months our worship seems to have grown deeper, enhanced by the opportunity to share Afterthoughts, thoughts that we may have felt but are unsure that they rise to the level of a message to be given during meeting for worship. People experience the guidance of the Spirit during meeting but also through other meeting activities and the blessings of being able to serve on and receive support from clearness committees.

We have been enriched by the energy of many people in our meeting. This is shown in meeting for worship as well as the numerous other activities within the meeting--worship sharing, spiritual journeys, pot lucks, Bible study and the delight of having several children in our First Day School. We are glad that these children bring their parents with them. There is much joy in the gifts new attenders bring to us. The love we share together is exhibited in the joyous greetings and handshakes that we share at close of meeting for worship.

We are blessed by having opportunities to share in issues in the wider Quaker world. We enjoy spending time at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in the summer time and at the Joint Quarterly Meeting but we also have Friends who serve faithfully year round in committee work and planning. Our meeting has helped participate in the revitalization of the Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation, our Quaker lobby organization. We have hosted the American Friends Service Committee area meeting. We have people in the meeting who are active in National Friends Committee on Legislation. Some in the meeting are involved in new outreach with the Peace Learning Center. Some members attend and share with the meeting on the activities of the Peace and Justice Center and the KI EcoCenter, a local organization focused on environmental issues and social justice. Our meeting has a caring ministry of providing fresh produce to Craine House, a residence for female ex-offenders who are reuniting with their children.

Another joy has been the advancement of Marriage Equality in Indiana. Our meeting has worked for this for a long time and in Indiana at last the marriages of same sex couples have the same legal standing as opposite sex couples. We recognize there is ongoing work to be done both here in Indiana and around the country and world to reach full equality.

OXFORD FRIENDS

The place that we meet on First-Day mornings has changed its name this year from to the Interfaith Center (formerly the Campus Ministry Center) at Miami University of Ohio. Our address is still 16 S. Campus Ave., Oxford, Ohio. Our mailing address is still P.O. Box 495, zipcode 45056.

Truth prospers among us, both by way of growth within the meeting, and by way of interactions between the meeting and the world.

Inreach: We were nurtured by guest speakers. We heard the presentation of Donald Miller, a member of the Church of the Brethren and a retired faculty member at Bethany Theological Seminary, on the subject of a "Just Peace." We also were grateful that Michael Birkel came to share about his conversations with American Muslims about the Qur'an. We read some chapters of Michael's new book, *Qur'an in Conversation*, prior to our Second Hour with him. Sustainability continues to be a matter of concern for us, a concern which we explored in conversations with Russell Adams, among others. Marjorie Isaacs led us in a discussion and practice on guided meditation.

In our Adult Second Hour programs, we have been working our way through the writings of John Woolman, starting with his *Plea for the Poor* and continuing with his *Journal*. Study of Woolman's

Journal was an early undertaking in our history as a meeting; it is good to return to this Quaker classic, mostly with Friends who weren't around when the Meeting studied Woolman for the first time!

We considered the addition of books on prayer to our Meeting Library. After an adult second hour, we asked our librarian to purchase the following three books: Sarah Arthur, *At the Still Point: A Literary Guide to Prayer in Ordinary Time*; Henry F. French, *40 –day Journey with Parker J. Palmer*; and Edward Hays, *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*.

We are helping our children to learn about Quakerism and other religious traditions and their application to our daily lives. Our First Day School continues to have three energetic participants. We realize that it is useful to make sure that the topic of First Day School is known beforehand, so that young Friends and their parents can prepare for it. Topics that have been included are James Stevenson's books on *The Worst Person in the World*; *The White Heron*; Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*; Art Spiegelman's *Maus*; and African-American Quaker leaders such as Bayard Rustin and Jean Toomer. We also played Bible story jeopardy and Quaker studies jeopardy games in our First Day School, and then tried to stump the adults during our First Day School report. We also had another imaginative and thought-provoking Advent Play offered to the Meeting by our First Day School, this time (with apologies to O Henry) exploring the theme of the gifts of the Magi. We piloted a new handbook on guided meditation for children. FDS also examined the Lord's prayer and the Sermon on the Mount.

Connections to the wider Quaker world: Some attended Quarterly meeting and Joint Quarterly. We participated in a birthday party for a member of West Elkton. Three of our members attended the FGC "Grow our Meetings" workshop. We are looking forward to their sharing what they learned when we gather for our Spring Fling during the first weekend of May. We are grateful for the service of our members in OVYM positions such as: Assistant Clerk, Religious Nurture and Education, and editor of *Quaker Quill*. Some members have taken field trips to Quaker colleges for musical events. Some saw the musical presentation at Wilmington last fall on the 1914 Christmas Truce during World War I. Some will go to see the presentation of Handel's complete Messiah at Earlham College during the Easter season this year.

We participated in a trial run of the North American Quaker Survey. The genesis of this survey is that many of us Friends are very interested in where Quakerism is at present and what its future may hold, but there is a lack of very basic information about who we are and what we believe. The survey is sponsored jointly by the Centre for Postgraduate Studies at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and the Earlham School of Religion. We enjoyed the experience, and hopefully this survey will be available for individuals in other monthly and yearly meetings to take soon.

Participation and support in our community and beyond: We serve as a sojourners meeting, introducing college students and others to Quaker practice. We have had 17 plus visitors this year, some of whom were new to Quakerism. In Peace and Social Concerns, issues that we minuted this year included support for the Earth Quaker Action Team's campaign to convince the PNC Bank to no longer fund mountaintop removal as a means of mining coal. We applauded the decisions of Panera and

Chipotle to ban guns from their premises, and encouraged Kroger to do the same. Our annual summer activity is to prepare school bags for distribution by Church World Service. For our Advent Event in twelfth month, we considered the issue of wealth inequality in our own home county of Butler County, Ohio, and learned some basic facts about it. We also helped to cook soup for Oxford's "Empty Bowls" project to raise money for the Oxford Community Choice Pantry; the event, in November, was a rousing success. We are collecting stamps for the benefit of Right Sharing of World Resources, and bottle caps for making benches.

Our work is underpinned by our pastoral care for one another. We celebrated with our member Anne Hutchinson her acceptance and entrance into the Earlham School of Religion, studying for an M. Div. degree. We also celebrated with an attender who, upon graduating from Miami University this spring, will become Director of the Writing Center at Earlham College. We are supporting two of our members whose mothers have died this year.

Stephen W. Angell
Clerk, Oxford Friends Meeting

WHITE ROSE FRIENDS

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We continue to 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. We would welcome more Friends to join us.

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. We would welcome more Friends to join us.

YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting offers a consistent source of spiritual sustenance to members and attenders who gather each First Day for the 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship at Rockford Chapel on the Antioch College campus. Early worship gatherings on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, a meditation hour several days through the week, and a worship sharing group on Thursday afternoons each have a small core of loyal participants, but the 11 o'clock hour that starts the week is the center, if not the heart of the Yellow Springs Friends community.

Between 20 and 40 Friends may gather on any given Sunday, depending on the time of year, but regardless of the numbers, worship is rich and often achieves a gathered state of spiritual unity. We can

count on an average of three messages, and the content variously uplifts, challenges, or strengthens our relationship with with each other, the world, and the Divine. Many Friends also welcome the occasional worship time in which no messages come forth, finding that we enter into a deeply reverent and connected experience.

Oversight for the spiritual health of our meeting is under the loving stewardship of our Ministry and Advancement Committee, which has been proactive in strengthening the foundation of our religious community, not only in attending to the needs of our worship, but also offering a Quaker 101 series for new attenders, arranging an Adult Hour for Learning on First Day mornings, and beginning the planning well in advance for our fall meetingwide retreat.

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY

Members of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee reviewed the State of Meeting Reports submitted by the monthly meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for the year 2014-2015. We found much welcome news overall, several recurrent concerns, and numerous joys and sorrows particular to each meeting.

Welcome news. Despite the sad losses reported by several meetings, we see new reports of growth and increased activity, through increased attendance by those new to Quaker practice, growth in numbers by attracting families with children, and exploration of new and energetic forms of inreach. Many meetings are responding to changes their demographics by increasing attention to their gifts, spiritual and material. We are encouraged to read of meetings that are nourishing their fellowship by social opportunities within the meeting and with the larger community. In the gain (and in the loss) of members, we noted the strong potential for the influence of even a single person on the life of the monthly meeting.

It was also good to see meetings confronting difficult issues and seeking loving ways of moving forward. Of course, these efforts are not always successful; but it takes faithful courage to enter contentious ground together rather than avoid conflict where important matters are at stake. In these reports we see meetings tackling sensitive matters of stewardship of meeting's resources of money and property, responding to sensitive community issues, and changing attitudes toward sexuality. Each monthly meeting seems to have its own special culture within the wider unity of Friends. We read of a meeting that sees its challenges and conflicts as spiritual opportunities. We see other meetings with a special focus on ways to be more visible to their local communities. We see meetings with a greater concern for national and global responsibilities. Other meetings are developing their pastoral response to their membership's needs.

We noted that some meetings make little mention of their experiences of the spirit in meeting for worship - the distinctive heart and source of Quaker life. However, several meetings emphasize their spiritually active worship and ways of nourishing it. It may be that meetings can learn from each other about various approaches to worship.

Several of us were concerned to see a lack of focus on the wider Quaker world, notably in the monthly meeting's relation to our yearly meeting. We are unsure how to understand this: is the yearly meeting not relevant to the life of monthly meeting? Are friends at the monthly level unfamiliar with the offerings and service of the yearly meeting? We feel the neglect of yearly meeting will need some careful study. As one of us put it: "are Friends searching for the themes and words to write the next chapter of our story or are Friends lifting up the possibility that we may be called to begin to write the sequel to our story? I have the feeling that many of us are pondering risks that may be set before us."

A major reward of gathering and surveying these reports is seeing the lively diversity among our monthly meetings. We seem to be multicultural! We're left with the question: how can we nurture communication among our meetings so that this richness can be shared?

For the Religious Nurture and Education Committee,
Andrew Garrison, recording clerk.

Memorial Minutes

NORMA E. ALLEN

(March 24, 1934 – May 27, 2015)



Norma E. Allen age 81 of Cincinnati, Ohio passed away peacefully Wednesday afternoon, May 27, 2015 at her home. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, James Franklin Allen and an infant son, Vincent James Allen. Norma was born March 24, 1934 in Cincinnati, Ohio the daughter of the late Edward and Ruby Carlisle Smith. A lifetime member of the National Education Association, the Ohio Education Association, a member of the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association, and an adjunct professor at Southern State Community College, she retired after more than thirty years of service as an elementary school teacher for the East Clinton Schools. Norma graduated from New Vienna High School, received her Bachelor's degree in Education in 1965 from Wilmington College and her Masters of Arts in Education from Xavier University in 1974.

Norma joined Campus Friends Meeting in 2009, and though she was only with us for a short while, she generously shared her gift of hospitality with the meeting family. An evening spent at her home on Grabill Road just north of Hillsboro, was always an enjoyable event and one the rest of us looked forward to. An artist and a poet, her paintings decorated the walls of her log cabin home with a story behind each and every one of them. Campus Friends could always count on Norma Allen to provide food for Our Father's Kitchen Saturdays as well as meeting receptions and gatherings. After moving to Cincinnati to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren, Norma was a devoted volunteer for hospice and at the City Gospel Mission.

Prepared by Patricia Thomas on behalf of Campus Friends Meeting
June 28, 2015

EILEEN BAGUS

(May 19, 1946 – October 3, 2014)

Eileen Bagus was born on May 19, 1946 in Cleveland, Ohio, and died on October 3, 2014, at Hospice of Cincinnati. She was the daughter of William and Marie Bagus, and sister of Mary Ann, all of whom predeceased her. After finishing her undergraduate degree at Seton Hill College, Eileen went on to Penn State where she was awarded a PhD in Philosophy. Later in life, she also earned Master's Degrees in Psychology and Social Work. She taught philosophy at the University of Cincinnati for 15 years.

Eileen's early life was marked by childhood trauma, which deepened her sensitivity to the suffering of others. She was raised in the Catholic faith, and had an affinity with the Saints. Eileen (whose name means "light") was a spiritual seeker who had many mystical experiences throughout her life. She came to Friends in Pennsylvania, and found her spiritual home at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1978.



After an unhappy first marriage, Eileen met Wayne Woodward in the hot tub at a local health club. They married in 1980 after a six-month courtship. They were overjoyed to welcome two children into the family, Will in 1981 and Erin Rose in 1984. However, after Erin's birth, Eileen suffered from postpartum depression so severe that she was hospitalized, and was later diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Her mental health challenges gave her the ability to understand and encourage others with similar challenges later in life. Eileen worried that her early separation from her new baby might have affected their natural bonding process, but Erin later reflected that there could have been no closer bond between mother and daughter. Eileen was a devoted mother who nurtured and supported both her children with great love, encouragement, and enthusiasm.

As a young mother, she was surrounded by other young Quaker families who raised their children in the Meeting together. Eileen's spiritual gifts took root and were nourished. When she saw a need in the Meeting, she jumped right in and put her prodigious talents and energy into meeting that need. The children needed an organized First Day School, so Eileen developed a three-year rotation of themes that the Meeting still uses today. A class of active children had difficulty sitting still in First Day School, so she sewed hand puppets for the class to make into characters for plays about John Woolman and William Penn.

Eileen was persistent and intuitive; she could see into the hearts of others, understanding and naming their spiritual gifts. She was therefore extremely effective when she served on Nominating Committee, using her gift of recognizing and affirming the gifts of others to encourage Friends to serve the Meeting on a committee that best suited them. Eileen was also known for encouraging attenders to consider

membership at just the right time in their spiritual journey, and many Friends initiated a request for membership with her encouragement.

Eileen was interested in spiritual healing, spiritualism, and the boundaries between mysticism and mental illness. She led a spiritual healing group at the Meeting, and led a workshop on mysticism at the Friends General Conference Gathering. She was a leader of the Meeting's Transforming Jail Ministries team, worshiping each month with prison inmates. As an outreach ministry, Eileen tutored female inmates at a local correction facility and mentored women she met through that activity.

In the wider Quaker world, Eileen served on the Board at Haverford College, and on the Advancement and Nurture Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. In this latter role she traveled to other Meetings to provide nurture during times of conflict.

Eileen served on Ministry and Counsel Committee for many years, nurturing the ministry of others, and offering her own deeply led ministry. She provided pastoral care for Friends who were ill or dying, and provided loving compassion for those who were suffering. She lived out her leading to help others, and gave in great generous abundance to the life of the Meeting.

Eileen's spiritual journey never ended. She faced breast cancer treatment as another part of this journey. When her cancer returned after several years of remission, she continued to mentor and guide others, showing us how to face dying with gentle integrity. Friends who accompanied her on this last part of her spiritual journey were honored to see the face of God shining in her eyes in her last days.

Eileen leaves her husband Wayne Woodward, her son Will Woodward (Sasha), her daughter Erin Rose Phillips (Josh), Erin's three stepsons, McGregor, Oliver, and Baxter, and granddaughter Bailey Eileen, who was born to Will and Sasha on September 23, 2014. It was a special blessing that Eileen lived to hold her baby granddaughter.

MARK "RADAR" BROWN-MIDDLETON

Mark "Radar" Brown-Middleton, member of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, died January 2, 2014. He had been a spiritual seeker for most of his life, with an abiding interest in Native American culture from childhood. He often used poetry to express the depth of his feelings.

The true time is
Somewhere at the beginning
Or at the end
Betwixt then and now
Being and becoming
Like an old wineskin
Dry and cracked
Which must burst
Upon the touch of new wine

Wet and magical

He was introduced to Friends soon after he and his wife Susan moved to the Yellow Springs area in 2004 and he felt instantly at home. An active member of the Meeting, his thought-provoking ministry is missed.

Mary now questions Christ
“Are you my son or God?”
You are nailed to the cross,
Which way is my road home?

“Can I pass through the gate
Not having understood?
Are you dead? Alive?
Are you my son? Or God?”

Christ answers in turn:
“Whether alive or dead,
Woman, it’s all the same-
Son or God, I AM THINE!”

He read widely, from philosophy and quantum theory to engineering and fiction. His love of music was as diverse, from Beethoven to Coltrane. He had a passion for the Grateful Dead music and belief system and attended over a hundred of their concerts.

There exists a seamless unity
When you stub your toe
Someone
Unknown to you at all
Cries out in pain

Radar retired from the Air force after 27 years. He then worked for companies that contracted with the Air Force until his death. He was a veteran of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Susan and he met when he was an airman at Edwards Air Force Base in California. He was called Radar both for his work in radar and because he looked like the Radar from MASH with cap and glasses.

When the time’s enough
And I lay down to understand
What I should have learned
May I like them forgive all and forget
Lost in the whirlpool of ceaseless love

Radar followed his wife Susan into a love of Arabian horses, riding and showing them for years.

Life lasts the length
Of one kiss
Everything else is mere

Memory

Radar served the Meeting as recording clerk for a number of years. He didn't talk about how he fit being a Quaker and working for the Air Force together. But Susan said he was proud of his computer modeling work when he learned that it had saved lives.

“Angel’s Answers for the Junkie”

Living should be a simple thing to know-
Knowing its answers are so sharp, crisp and clear;
But ain't no easy answers not 'round here.
Just because you want it won't make it so-
Sweet promises of love made in the dark.
Dissolve like dead dreams by the light of day.
I'm no dammed genius all I have to say,
“Ain't any answers, life's no f....' lark.”
Ceaseless pain defines the worth of wisdom.
Close your eyes, hear the rhythms of your soul.
No words, no names, just like an empty bowl.
Lose yourself to find your self's true freedom.
Believe in everything, nothing's Sacred;
Believe in nothing and All is Sacred.

BILL CLARKE

This spring Lexington Friends mourned the untimely death at 58 of **Bill Clarke**. Bill worked for many years in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government division of Facilities and Fleet Management. He was a staunch defender of social justice for working people. He saw and experienced personally the ways that management can abuse the rights and working conditions of workers.

Bill and his wife Dedee were regular attenders at Lexington Meeting for many years in the early 2000s after being introduced to the meeting and Quakerism by their dear friend and neighbor Burton Rogers. Unfortunately, disagreements between Bill and some other attenders and also disagreements over our decision to undertake an expensive renovation of our Meetinghouse led Bill and Dedee to stop attending for many years. We heard from Bill again in the winter of 2014 when he told us he had inoperable lung cancer. He and Dedee came to meeting once more, and they were warmly welcomed. It was heartening to hear from Bill that he missed the Friends and regretted staying away for several years. Bill's health, however, was rapidly failing, and he was not able to attend Meeting for Worship again. Several Friends visited Bill in the hospital before he died, and Friend Yoshiya Togami, in particular, was very helpful to the family in this crisis period. We will miss their presence.

JOHN EASTMAN

(March 7, 1947 – December 28, 2014)



John Eastman died suddenly in his home on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014. John was a lifetime member of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. He grew up in The Vale, an intentional community founded by Quakers in 1948 on land acquired by Arthur Morgan. John was a 1970 Antioch College graduate and a longtime resident of Yellow Springs. He expressed his love for Yellow Springs in many roles, most recently as Miami Township Trustee, Friends Care Community board member and clerk of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. He also worked throughout the area as a practicing professional environmental engineer. He left behind his wife, Terri, his mother, Wilberta (Billie,) two brothers and a sister, four grown children, and five grandchildren.

“Our common life,” wrote Arthur Morgan, “should be like an interwoven fabric, in which the whole makes one design...”

John wove his elements of design into the fabric of his life and into that of the communities in which he lived and worked. He was born on March 7, 1947 in Springfield, Ohio. The oldest of four children, John grew up in a home where he learned early the importance of independent thinking and community service. His family and his life as a Quaker comprised the core of his identity, giving him an abiding faith in the goodness of people and an appreciation for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Love, Trust, Integrity, and Kindness were design elements that John inherited from his parents - Richard and Billie Eastman. He used them in his life’s work, making them his own, and offering them as gifts to his children and grandchildren. Through them and the many others that he touched, he made his mark on our interwoven fabric.

- * Love: John’s love and pride for his family shone through his sparkling blue eyes and his wide smile. When new people were drawn into the family tapestry, he opened his heart to them without question.
- * Trust: He trusted his children and grandchildren to do the right thing and contribute in a positive way to the world. And he trusted each to define this path for themselves.
- * Integrity: There are two aspects to his authenticity: 1) do things completely and well, and 2) to constantly strive to be honest in words and actions.
- * Kindness: John saw the good in everyone. He literally never had a negative thing to say about anyone.

He always seemed the happiest when there was something to be figured out – whether it be a natural phenomenon, a building project, community need, or all three at once. He loved to work with others to completely understand ALL facets of a problem and then explore and try out various solutions. He loved the beauty and intricacies of both the puzzle and solution.

His passion for teaching and problem solving extended into every facet of his life. He was a persistent and happy mentor, believing that it was important that you be able to solve problems beyond whatever current challenge you faced. If you were hungry for an answer, you needed to be prepared to learn how to fish.

One of his passions was the natural world, which led to his education and career choices. He was known as "Dr. Water" throughout Ohio, where he designed water and waste water treatment plants and ways to

help beaver and man coexist in urban settings. Another passion was speaking out to make the world a better place for all, so he ran for congress a number of times under the Natural Law Party.

For many, John represents excellence and the list of his accomplishments is long and varied. He was an Eagle Scout, valedictorian of his Yellow Springs High School class, a Danforth Fellow, a National Science Foundation Fellow, multiple graduate degrees including a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering. If he hadn't been so humble, this would have been more unnerving for siblings and others who followed in his footsteps.

John always had wisdom to share in Meeting and his ministry is greatly missed.

LORENA ESTLOW HYDE

(December 21, 1924 – April 17, 2015)

Lorena Estlow Hyde, wife, mother, mother in law, grandmother and friend, longtime resident of Yellow Springs, died on April 17, 2015, at Greene Memorial Hospital in Xenia, Ohio. She was born on Dec. 21, 1924, in Fruita, Colo., where her father, the Rev. G. Walker Estlow, was a Methodist minister.

During World War II, she was employed at two war supply factories and achieved her goal of saving enough money to pay for college. She attended Antioch College, graduating in 1949. After finishing college, Lorena spent a month in a Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workshop, working to integrate racially segregated public facilities in Washington D.C. She also worked at a summer camp for disadvantaged urban children from Cincinnati. Prior to her marriage, she worked as a teacher at a school for profoundly mentally disabled children in Chicago.

Lorena married fellow Antiochian, Dr. Carl Hyde, under the care of the Friends Meeting in Cleveland in 1950. They settled in Yellow Springs in 1954, where they raised four children and were active members of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting.

Lorena played the piano from an early age. As a child, she played for her father's church and as a mother she accompanied her own children for recitals and auditions. She was a member of the Yellow Springs Community Chorus for many years. She was also an appreciative concert-goer, unhesitatingly taking her four-year-old daughter along with her to a string quartet concert.

Lorena had a deep love of nature and enjoyed hiking in the nearby nature preserve, Glen Helen, and visiting nature preserves in various parts of the country. She was an avid and highly knowledgeable birdwatcher, able to identify many species by sight or song.

JOAN WYZENBEEK

Joan Wyzenbeek and her partner Pat Ritz arrived at Lexington Friends meeting about ten years ago as emigrants from Florida. In her earlier years Joan had been married and worked as a minister. In her retirement she devoted her time to the cause of preventing cruelty to animals. Among Lexington Friends

Joan and Pat were quickly labeled the “vegans” as they made their beliefs about food known to everyone.

Joan was a warm, fun loving and a gregarious person and quick to voice her opinion on any issue. While not liked by everyone she was lively and engaging. Over the next several years, Joan and Pat moved alternately between Cincinnati and Lexington and when they returned to Lexington most recently they attended the Ahava church whose services combined more singing and music and speaking that a typical Quaker service: features which were more engaging for Joan who was increasingly suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. The memorial service in honor of Joan at the Ahava church was attended by many Lexington Friends who knew Joan.