

Minutes

of the 196th Annual Sessions of the

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

“One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society”

July 27-31, 2016

Held on the campus of Earlham College

Richmond, Indiana

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Minutes of the 196th Business Meetings

Wednesday July 27, 2016 at 3PM

1. The first business session opened with a period of centering worship.
2. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives

Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

4. Gratitude was expressed to those who are working with our young people.
5. The Clerk announced that Jason Dean was approved by Executive Committee as the new Youth Secretary.
6. Lisa Cayard was **approved** to serve on the Epistolary Committee. Additional appointments will be made (see minute 19).
7. Janette Shetter was **approved** as the Yearly Meeting visitor to the teens.
8. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report (Diann Herzog) – attached (p. 12)

Meetings of the quarter have generally been poorly attended, but there has not been much business of importance. The report was **accepted**. [Note: this report was revised. See minute 60.]

9. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report (Faith Morgan) – attached (p. 12)

At its February 2016 meeting, Miami Quarter approved a minute on gun violence presented by Oxford Friends Meeting and forwarded it to OVYM for consideration. It was read aloud.

- A Friend reported that his monthly meeting felt the minute was a political statement which will contribute to the divisions in the wider society and what Friends should be putting forward is a statement of our spiritual and moral principles that would help to unite us all.
- Another Friend reported his experience of this as a document that is seeking middle ground on an important issue. He urged the meeting to endorse the minute.
- The presenter felt Friends have a responsibility to speak out on this issue.
- Another Friend asked that we act as advocates for non-violence and make a statement of our concerns about gun violence.

The Clerk asked that the OVYM Peace & Social Concerns Committee take this concern and seek a way forward (see minute 57). The Clerk of P&SC accepted this charge.

The MQM report was **accepted**.

10. Executive Committee Report (Rex Sprouse) - report and minutes attached (pp. 14, 52)

On Saturday, July 23, by conference call, the Executive Committee approved Jason Dean as the OVYM Youth Secretary. This is a newly redefined position that will serve both the teens and the middle youth of the Yearly Meeting. David Funck, Co-clerk of the Teen Activity Committee, gave a summary of the selection process and of Jason's qualifications.

The Clerk expressed concern about the persistently low attendance at Executive Committee meetings. This was particularly the case for the meetings in June. Some monthly meetings and Yearly Meeting committees are seldom, if ever, represented and their absence makes it

difficult to conduct business. Moreover, there is no assurance that information about decisions made or matters laid over for later consideration are communicated to those meetings and committees for seasoning.

Friends have been discussing how Yearly Meeting committee structure and the conduct of Annual Sessions could better address two issues: (1) The spiritual growth of our meetings, members, and attenders and (2) Witnessing to the wider world. A set of queries related to these issues has been sent to each Yearly Meeting committee. The committees have been asked to bring their responses to the October 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

Related to this is the difficulties over the past two years to have a functioning Nominating Committee. As a result, positions in the Yearly Meeting and its committees have gone unfilled. This cripples the Yearly Meeting as an active force fulfilling the mission God has given us. A member of the Nominating Committee asked each person present to act on our behalf by seeking out new people who would find our work fulfilling and urging them to offer their skills to the Yearly Meeting. Another Friend noted that volunteers need to be asked. Few will come forward on their own; many will respond positively to an invitation.

A visitor from another yearly meeting spoke of his experience. He said this is not just a matter of numbers. We need to see ourselves as a spiritual body. He suggested that intervisitation is one key to strengthening the Yearly Meeting and finding ways for them to put their abilities into service by linking its geographically-dispersed members.

Another Friend said we need clarity of purpose. Sometimes, this requires us to be willing to lay down the old ways of doing things and, as was the case with the Youth Secretary position, to look for new ways.

11. The minutes of the first business session were **approved**.
12. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Wednesday July 27, 2016 at 8:30PM

13. The second business session opened with a period of centering worship.
14. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.
15. Roll Call of Representatives
Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.
16. A letter of introduction for Riley Robinson from the Clerk of the General Committee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation was read by the Clerk.
17. Susan Lee Barton was **approved** as the Yearly Meeting visitor to the children's program.
18. Richard Mitchell was **approved** as the Yearly Meeting visitor to the middle youth.
19. Deb Kociszewski was **approved** to serve on the Epistolary Committee.
20. Religious Nurture & Education Committee Report (Nikki Coffey Tousley) – attached (p.15)
The committee has developed guidelines for the use of the Spiritual Nurture Fund (included in the attached report). The fund will be used for projects that benefit the wider OVYM community rather than individuals. Part of those funds have been used to develop a packet of outreach materials for each monthly meeting. In the coming year, they will be used to produce online resources.

The committee sponsored a retreat in April with the theme “Walking together as Newcomers and Old-timers.” The group of attenders was diverse and the day presented an opportunity to gather the experience and wisdom from a variety of Friends. The committee intends to sponsor a retreat again this year.

A summary of the monthly meeting State of the Society reports was presented by David Garman (attached – p.16).

- One Friend noted that the State of the Meeting Reports instructions to monthly meetings do not encourage Friends to critically examine the true state of our meetings, to ask more of ourselves, and to think more deeply about what God requires of us. He asked that the instructions be re-examined.
- Another Friend suggested that each monthly meeting add an item to its business meeting agendas asking what is happening in OVYM to encourage greater involvement with the affairs of the Yearly Meeting. This led the Presiding Clerk to remind Friends of the message encouraging intervisitation that we received at our last business session. We should not be shy, those meetings which might most benefit from such visits may be the least likely to ask for them.
- It was suggested that the Clerk make up a priority list of meetings to visit.
- The presenter felt that intervisitation was the appropriate work of the RN&E, but that others in the Yearly Meeting should also see intervisitation as a collective responsibility and as an opportunity. This would also broaden the kinds of experience to be shared.
- Baltimore and New England Yearly Meetings each have existing programs that might serve as useful models.
- The annual state of the meeting reports could also be a valuable resource to understand the state of our meetings and our members more broadly.

The Clerk proposed that RN&E Committee develop an outline for an intervisitation program including guidance for non-committee visitors. This might be brought to the fall or spring Executive Committee meeting for further seasoning. Friends **approved**.

In order to do this work, more members may be needed on RN&E. Current membership includes only one person from Whitewater Quarter and his term is due to end soon.

The RN&E report was **accepted**.

21. Statistical Report (Frank Huss) – attached (p. 24)

Yearly meeting membership continues to decline. There were 661 members reported at the end of 2014 and 620 on December 31, 2015. The status of the eleven members of Hopewell Monthly Meeting is uncertain. The report was **accepted**. [Note: After the status of Hopewell Meeting was clarified (see minute 59 below), a corrected Statistician’s Report was generated that shows a total of 631 members on December 31, 2015.]

22. Treasurer’s Report (Wilson Palmer) - updated final report attached (p. 17)

The Yearly Meeting had a surplus in 2015-16, principally due to two factors. First, there was no Youth Secretary for half the year and no Teen Activities Committee expenses for a full fiscal year. The Treasurer’s report commented that this can’t have been good for our teens, but it reduced expenses by \$14,100. Second, he commended the difficult and efficient work of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, the generous contributions from Annual Sessions attenders, and a discount from Earlham to make up for some billing confusion during the 2014 sessions which resulted in \$8,600 less total expenses for the 2015 Annual Sessions than in the previous year. The report was **accepted** with gratitude.

23. Personnel Committee Report (Paul Buckley) – attached (p.26)

The committee's primary task this year was re-defining the Youth Secretary's tasks to serve both the teens and middle youth, and assisting the hiring process. The report was **accepted**.

24. Budget & Finance Committee Report (Wilson Palmer) – attached (p. 26)

The proposed budget was briefly reviewed. Overall, projected spending for the 2016-17 fiscal year is lower by about \$6,000. This resulted in a decreased per-member budget share from \$125 to \$120 per member. There is one notable increase in the proposed budget. The Religious Nurture & Education Committee has proposed having an annual all-OVYM retreat at no cost to the attenders. Their request was increased by \$500 to pay for the retreat. This was a first reading of the budget. It will be brought back for consideration and approval in the fourth business session (see minute 48). The report was **accepted**.

25. Ad hoc External Contributions Committee

It has been about ten years since the contributions made to other organizations were reviewed and adjusted. This work was to have been done regularly and is overdue. An ad hoc committee is needed to undertake a review and recommend any changes. The committee will report on their recommendations to the fall Executive Committee Meeting. Friends were asked to consider if they feel called to service on the ad hoc committee (see also minute 58).

26. The minutes of the second business session were **approved**.

27. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Thursday July 28, 2016 at 10AM

28. The third business session opened with a period of centering worship.

29. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.

30. Roll Call of Representatives

Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

31. Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report (Richard Mitchell)

The committee has been inactive recently and is in the process of being revived.

32. Braddock Fund Committee Report (Wilson Palmer) – attached (p.26)

This year, the fund helped pay for on-line courses for one incarcerated individual. The committee visited with the Warden of Lebanon Correctional Institution and received a tour of the facility.

The fund is available for those who are engaged in prison ministry in a variety of forms.

Friends **approved** the Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, and Treasurer as authorized signers for the next year on the account with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation Green Fund which holds the Braddock Fund:

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale (incoming)

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada (incoming)

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

33. Friends Music Camp Report (Heather Snediker-Morscheck) – attached (p.27)

The camp has moved to Earlham College starting this summer. This has provided the opportunity to be in close proximity to OVYM Annual Sessions and to get to know individuals from the Yearly Meeting better. The move also makes Earlham's new Performing Arts Center available, which affords the use of practice rooms, rehearsal rooms and concert halls specifically designed for music and a theater for the musical theater program.

All were encouraged to assist the camp in finding future campers. The report was **accepted**.

34. Quaker Heritage Center Report (Ruth Brindle) – attached (p.28)

September 24, 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of the Quaker Heritage Center.

Over the past year, the center has been considering what role it should have in acting for social justice. It has had exhibits on social justice issues, but has not been an active participant. After careful planning, the center is becoming an active partner in the I AM Campaign, an organization working to end slavery in the world today. The report was **accepted**.

35. Quaker Heights Care Community Report (Wendy Waters-Connell) – attached (p. 28)

Despite expanding its services in 2015 to provide a health care continuum for the post-acute population, Quaker Heights continues to have annual operational deficits and is seeking opportunities to help balance its budget. One part of their strategy to ensure the future of the organization is converting as many rooms as possible to private rooms. They are also planning to launch a capital campaign.

It is very difficult to operate an organization of this size independently. To maintain high-quality care, there is a strong probability that Quaker Heights will align with another faith-based organization, seek a joint venture, or be acquired in the future. This may mean that it would no longer be a mission of OVYM or have an institutional relationship with the Yearly Meeting.

Appreciation was expressed for Wendy's work and that of the Quaker Heights staff. The report was **accepted**.

The names of the following persons were brought forward and **approved** to serve on the Quaker Heights board: Gus Edwards, Frank Huss, Tom Isaacs, Sharon Jewell, Leanne Montgomery, Wilson Palmer, Christine Snyder, Wilma Watson, Linda Wilson, and Eric Wolff.

36. The Clerk read a traveling minute for Miriam Mulsow from the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of Friends General Conference.

37. Cecilia Shore's *Quaker Quill* Report was **accepted** (attached – p. 29).

38. Website Administrator Report (Lonny Burger) – attached (p. 29)

The latest revision to the website includes a donations page. Friends are encouraged to try it out.

The Calendar page has been updated to add a smaller version of the calendar for those who view it on smart phones and tablets. The new, smaller calendar also allows website visitors to add the OVYM calendar to their personal smart phone and personal computer calendar apps. The report was **accepted**.

39. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report (Martha Viehmann & Heather Snediker-Morscheck) – attached (p. 30)

The committee's work this year has included wrestling with how to integrate this year's theme, "One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society," into all aspects of the annual sessions. How can the Yearly Meeting be more inclusive in addressing its diverse needs? They hope this theme prompts fruitful discussion and reflection during this year's Annual Sessions. Completed feedback forms are essential to evaluate this year's sessions and help plan for the future.

The committee is considering moving the dates of our Annual Sessions to June next year. This may allow wider participation, especially by parents and children. It would not conflict with Friends Music Camp. It was also noted that elementary and secondary schools are opening earlier now than in the past. The two periods under consideration for 2017 are June 14-18 or June 21-25. The choice may not be made before the close of our sessions this year. Friends present were generally supportive of the change, but felt it was important to give those not present an opportunity to comment. A mid-September deadline was set for comments to be sent to the committee. This would allow the committee to bring their recommendation to the fall Executive Committee meeting. The report was **accepted**.

40. The minutes of the third business session were **approved**.
41. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Thursday July 28, 2016 at 3:30PM

42. The fourth business session opened with a period of centering worship.
43. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.
44. Roll Call of Representatives

Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

45. Faith & Practice Committee Report (Betsy Neale) – attached (p. 31)

In the past year, the committee has been following an expedited review/revision process that was approved by Executive Committee with a goal of finishing a complete book by the end of the 2018 Annual Sessions. Under the expedited process some sections will be newly written texts, some will be taken from the 1978 version with minor changes, and some may be retained from the 1978 book with no changes made. Texts that have not changed or have only minor editing will not require approval. Newly developed text will go through two drafts, with the second brought to the Annual Sessions for final approval.

At the 2015 sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting two documents were accepted for a year of seasoning. "Integrity" and "Simplicity" subsections of **Quaker Testimonies** were published in the 2015 Minute Book and brought to the 2016 sessions for final approval. Friends **approved** both sections without revision.

The **Brief History** section, which was lightly edited, does not require approval.

The texts brought to the 2016 sessions for approval are:

- The "Community" and "Equality" subsections of the **Quaker Testimonies** section,
- The "Worship Sharing" and "Clearness Committees" subsections of the **Listening to the Spirit** section (formerly titled **Religious Expression**), and

- An “Introduction” and new subsections on “Friends Journal” and “Quaker Earthcare Witness” of the **Other Quaker Organizations** section.

The subsection on “Community” was **approved** without revision.

There was concern that some of language in the subsection on “Equality” reflected an assumption that Friends are white, politically liberal, and relatively secure financially. It was also noted that the section spends a fair amount of time recounting past achievements. The subsection was returned to the committee for more work. A third draft will be developed. If possible, it will be brought to a future business session this year. Otherwise, it will come to the 2017 sessions (see minutes 71 & 80).

The subsection on “Worship Sharing” was **approved** with minor revision.

The subsection on “Clearness Committees” was **approved** without revision.

The “Other Quaker Organizations” section was **approved** with minor revision.

Friends expressed their deep appreciation for the committee’s work.

46. Initial Nominating Committee Report (Yoshiya Togami)

An initial report was presented. There were many holes still to be filled.

47. Quaker Earthcare Witness Report (Marjorie Isaacs) – attached (p. 37)

Friends were reminded that climate change has the capacity to profoundly affect all other issues. Marjorie called for urgent action – even actions with which we are not comfortable.

The FWCC Sustainability Minute developed at the Pisac, Peru Plenary (attached – p. 42) is under discussion by QEW. Marjorie lifted this minute up for our consideration. It will be circulated to our monthly meetings. She asked Friends to consider what they might do individually in response to it. The report was **accepted**.

48. The proposed Budget for FY 2016-2017 was **approved**.

49. The minutes of the fourth business session were **approved**.

50. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Friday July 29, 2016 at 10AM

51. The fifth business session opened with a period of centering worship.

52. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.

53. Roll Call of Representatives

Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OYVM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

54. American Friends Service Committee Report (David Duvall & Erin Polley)

David Duvall, an OYVM representative to AFSC, reported on the last annual meeting of the AFSC Central Committee. One principle that was repeatedly expressed was the imperative for inclusiveness in the organization’s staff and the committees.

Erin Polley, the AFSC Indiana Program Coordinator, added information on local activities of the AFSC. She offered herself as a resource, especially for our Indiana and Kentucky meetings – both to make presentations and conduct workshops herself, and to identify other presenters. The report was **accepted**.

55. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report (Frank Huss) – attached (p. 37)
 In 2016, Friends in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky developed FCNL Grassroots lobbying teams. With FCNL’s guidance, they have lobbied for civil discourse in Congress, on global warming, and on reducing mass incarceration. This has included writing letters to the editor, making lobbying visits to the local offices of elected representatives, and making phone calls, and sending texts. The report was **accepted**.
56. Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation (David Duvall)
 The committee has been revitalized recently. Bill Chapman of First Friends (Indianapolis) Meeting (Western Yearly Meeting) is clerking the committee and they are seeking a paid lobbyist.
57. Peace & Social Concerns Committee sponsored an interest group on guns and fire arms during these sessions. Those assembled looked over the Oxford Meeting minute (see minute 9 above) and another statement prepared by Benedictine nuns. They decided to write their own brief minute, rooted in Friends spiritual principles, to bring to the fall Executive Committee meeting.
58. Ad hoc External Contributions Committee
 Paul Buckley, Michele Tomarelli, Peter Hardy, and Fred Feitler (convener) were **approved** to serve on the ad hoc committee (see minute 25 above).
59. Ad hoc Development Committee
 The committee, which was established at the 2014 Annual Sessions, asked that they be continued. The current membership is Fred Feitler (Clerk), Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale, Frank Huss, and David Funck. Friends **approved**.
60. The report from Whitewater Quarterly Meeting (see minute 8) was revised, changing one sentence to: “There has not been much business of importance to attend to except *to lay down Maple Grove Monthly Meeting and the ongoing process of laying down Hopewell Meeting, which we have had little to do with.*” The words in italic were added to the original report.
61. Budget priorities for FY 2017-2018
 Executive Committee asked that time be set aside during the Annual Sessions to discuss budget priorities for the next fiscal year. We began with a period of worship sharing:
- One Friend spoke of “investing in ourselves.” He advocated doing anything that can be done in the budget to facilitate intervisitation. He also suggested that we look into conducting meetings electronically. This would require paying for software, but would reduce travel costs.
 - Another Friend asked that we consider funding her or another of our members as a released Friend to travel among our monthly meetings.
 - A Friend urged us to continue the Youth Secretary position. She also asked that we look at how our financial resources might be used to help our meetings confront racism.
 - A member suggested that we examine how we might fund joint quarterly meetings every year.
 - A visitor from another yearly meeting suggested that we ask each committee to consider how it is accomplishing the spiritual goals of Yearly Meeting and how they might assist monthly meetings in carrying our work forward.

- A relatively new attender posed two questions: To what end? What work do we hope to do and what do we hope to accomplish by it?
- It was noted that the contributions we make to other Quaker organizations are important ways in which we fulfill the mission of the Yearly Meeting. As an example, Friends Music Camp not only serves children within the Yearly Meeting, but also provides opportunities for non-Quaker children.
- Another Friend stated that the work of the Yearly Meeting is to transform ourselves and the world. Much of the transformation is beyond our ability to do by ourselves and we accomplish it by helping to fund other organizations.
- “Spirit is calling us to act in ways that may not be comfortable. We need to seek peace within the Yearly Meeting and among its members.”

The Clerk suggested that we take time over the next 24 hours to see how these thoughts work in our hearts. At our next business session, we will return to the question of budget priorities and see if specific proposals have emerged (see minute 74).

62. The minutes of the fifth business session were **approved**.

63. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Saturday July 30, 2016 at 10AM

64. The sixth business session opened with a period of centering worship.

65. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.

66. Roll Call of Representatives

Friends who were named by their monthly meetings as representatives to the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions identified themselves. A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

67. Teen Activities Committee Report (Peter Hardy) – attached (p. 38)

The program has experienced a significant transition this past year as the longtime Youth Secretary, Carol Simmons, stepped down and was replaced this month by Jason Dean. In addition, the Youth Secretary position has been broadened to serve both the teens and the middle youth in the Yearly Meeting.

Great appreciation was expressed for Carol’s years of dedicated service to our youth.

The committee proposed that a single Youth Committee be formed to serve both the teens and middle youth. This recognizes that the Youth Secretary now serves both of these populations. The committees will be combined for the duration of the experiment with a single Youth Secretary, that is, until the close of the 2017 Annual Sessions. Several of those present commented that we need to be more attentive to good order in conducting our business and in clearly communicating with all members of our committees when decisions are needed. Friends **approved** the proposal and the report was **accepted**.

68. Auditing Committee Report (Bob Holada) – attached (p. 38)

The committee completed a successful audit of the OVYM books for the 2014-15 fiscal year in November 2015. They thanked Wilson Palmer for his careful work.

69. Earthcare Committee Report (Bill Cahalan) – attached (p. 38)

The committee continues to work on concerns with the growing climate crisis and the unraveling of Earth’s life support communities. They have been working with the Yearly Meeting Treasurer to enact last year’s Yearly Meeting resolution to divest from investments

involved in fossil fuel extraction and to witness to this issue. With the transfer of some of our funds to the Friends Fiduciary Fund Green Fund, that part of our work is complete, but seeking other ways to witness are ongoing.

A new focus in the past year has been on reconnecting with neighbors and the land. Details of that work are in the attached report. The report was **accepted**.

70. Friends World Committee for Consultation Report (Anne Hutchinson) – attached (p. 39)

The Clerk read sections of a letter just received from FWCC (attached – p. 40).

Anne Hutchinson, who attended the world plenary in Pisac, Peru as one of our representatives, spoke movingly of participating in those meetings and highlighted her experience of its spiritual aspects (attached – p. 41).

The report was **accepted**.

71. Faith & Practice Committee Report (continued – see minute 45 above)

A new draft of the subsection on Equality was presented. The work of the committee in preparing this draft was appreciated and the draft was generally acceptable, but there was concern expressed that the advantages of education were not acknowledged. This led to further consideration of all forms of privilege that many of us enjoy. The F&P Committee was asked to give this more consideration and bring it back to the 2017 sessions (see minute 80).

72. The representatives to William Penn House and the Friends Peace Teams were thanked for their work on our behalf. Reports for these organizations are attached (p. 44).

73. Friends General Conference Report (Miriam Mulsow & Chris Harmer) – report and epistle attached (p. 46)

The organization is going through a multi-year reorganization to enable it to do its work within its annual revenues. This involves staff reductions, more reliance on web-based resources, and more volunteers delivering direction and specific details for people looking for help. The core of most programs and important learnings – content like QuakerQuest, New Meetings Initiative, and Religious Education materials – is being moved online. The challenge is to find volunteers who have participated in the programs and can be available by phone or direct arrangements to answer questions and support new users. The FGC bookstore has moved to Pendle Hill, but will continue to serve Friends as it has in the past. Quaker Cloud continues to be available to host local monthly meetings websites.

FGC is aiming to redirect its energy to be an active network for connecting people and meetings who can share their own successes with others who need help and ideas.

74. Budget priorities for FY 2017-18 (continued – see minute 61 above)

The following items were lifted up:

- Funding for joint quarter meetings.
- Intervisitation or a released Friend to travel among our meetings.
- Providing funds to help monthly meetings ask themselves how they are or are not inclusive and to facilitate action to address their deficiencies.
- Provide financial assistance to those among us who do not have the resources to participate in Quaker activities.

Do we have a process to accomplish new aspects of our mission? If something falls outside the charge of our current structure, how can it get started? Our current structure was

designed to accomplish the mission of the Yearly Meeting at some point in the past. What restructuring is needed to undertake the work God has given us to do today? It was suggested this is a question for the Executive Committee to take up.

75. The minutes of the sixth business session were **approved**.

76. The session closed with a period of waiting worship.

Sunday July 31, 2016 at 10AM

77. The seventh business session opened with a period of centering worship.

78. The Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends.

79. Roll Call of Representatives

A complete list of all representatives is appended to these minutes. Other OVYM Friends and visitors introduced themselves.

80. Faith & Practice Committee Report (continued – see minutes 45 & 71 above)

With one sentence changed, the proposed subsection on Equality in the OVYM *Book of Faith & Practice* was approved. It was suggested that this section be shared broadly among Friends.

81. Reports from visitors to youth business meetings

Susan Lee Barton reported on her visit with the children. They asked us to remember abandoned and abused pets.

Richard Mitchell reported on his visit with the middle youth. Like the adults, they discovered that finding someone to serve as clerk was difficult. He was glad of the opportunity to visit.

82. Nominating Committee Report (Richard Mitchell & Yoshiya Togami) – attached (p. 77)

A revised roster of nominations was presented and **approved**.

83. Epistles from the Children, Middle Youth, and Teens (attached – p. 47) were read and **accepted**.

84. The 2016 OVYM Epistle (attached – p. 48) was read and **accepted**.

85. Registrar's Report (Eric Wolff) – attached (p. 51)

Eric Wolff Reported that 150 persons were registered for this year's sessions, including 58 men, 91 women, 16 Adult Young Friends, and 18 Children (2 aged 0-6; 4 aged 7-10; 8 aged 11-14; and 4 aged 15-18).

Thanks were expressed to Eric for everything he has done before and during sessions.

86. Minutes of appreciation

Thanks were expressed to those Friends who will be concluding their service to the Yearly Meeting at the rise of these sessions. The Presiding and Recording Clerks were given special thanks.

87. Greetings to Absent Friend

Friends sent their greetings to those who were prevented from attending the 2016 Annual Sessions with hopes to see them again soon and at the 2017 Annual Sessions.

88. A report from the Middle Youth and Administrative Secretary are attached (p.50).

89. The minutes of the seventh business session were **approved**.

90. The session adjourned to Stout Meetinghouse for a final period of waiting worship.

Attachments to the minutes

Roll Call of Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington Monthly Meeting:	Charlotte Hess
Campus Monthly Meeting:	(No representative present)
Clear Creek Monthly Meeting:	David Garman
Community Monthly Meeting:	Lisa Cayard
Dayton Monthly Meeting:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting:	Wilson Palmer
Englewood Monthly Meeting:	Kay Wheeler
Fall Creek Monthly Meeting:	Anna Margaret Greene
Fort Wayne Monthly Meeting:	Terre Holada
Green Plain Monthly Meeting:	(No representative present)
Hopewell Monthly Meeting:	(No representative present)
Lafayette Monthly Meeting:	Michele Tomarelli
Lexington Monthly Meeting:	Richard Mitchell
Louisville Monthly Meeting:	(No representative present)
Miami Monthly Meeting:	Lonny Burger
North Meadow Monthly Meeting:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford Monthly Meeting:	Anne Hutchinson
White Rose Monthly Meeting:	(No representative present)
Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting:	Deb Kociszewski

Representatives and Visitors from Other Quaker Organizations

American Friends Service Committee:	Erin Polley
Friends Committee on National Legislation:	Riley Robinson
Friends General Conference:	Miriam Mulsow
Quaker Heights Care Community:	Wendy Waters-Connell
Quaker Heritage Center:	Ruth Brindle
Tract Association of Friends:	John Jeremiah Edminster

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting has had three Clerks this year, with Dinah Duvall starting the year, Paul Kreise serving mid-year and Diann Herzog ending the year and agreeing to serve out the term. Our Quarterly Meetings have generally been poorly attended except by the hosting meeting and some monthly meeting representatives. There has not been much business of importance to attend to except to lay down Maple Grove Monthly Meeting and the ongoing process of laying down Hopewell Meeting, which we have had little to do with. Attempts were made to offer worship, companionship and any other help needed, but nothing has come of that. A minute was brought forth to annual sessions last year from WWQM suggesting that some of the charges of the quarterly meetings would be handled more efficiently by committees of the yearly meeting, but that was not approved. So for now, we

will leave the old forms in place. I believe WWQM would like to be a vital and active body, ready to serve and witness to the world and hopefully we are holding a place open for Spirit to flame into action. I think it is time to do some honest, clear visioning for our future. We look forward with joy to Joint Quarterly Meeting.

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

Since Joint Quarterly Meeting was not held in 2015, Miami Quarter met at Yellow Springs Friends Meeting in Ohio for Tenth Month, 2015 with Faith Morgan clerking. Due to a lack of planning on Veronica Frost's part and small attendance at the meeting, the issue of a 2016 Joint Quarterly Meeting was postponed, pending further discussion.

Second Month 2016 Miami Quarter was held at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati with Veronica Frost clerking. Faithful servants Anne Hutchinson and Chris Harmer respectively gave reports about FWCC and FGC.

A discussion was held about the hosting of Joint Quarterly Meeting in 2016, a decision to host at a new location was made and a committee formed. It will be held at Camp Kern near Lebanon OH in Tenth Month 29-30. It is hoped that the new location will be as conducive to a connection with nature, a deepening of fellowship and spiritual growth as Happy Hollow has been.

Appointment of Miami Quarter servants was postponed until Fifth Month meeting. Since both co-clerks will be out of town and country, Richard Mitchell agreed to clerk the meeting. A period of silence was held to allow for possible names for OVYM service to arise. Several names surfaced and were passed along to the OVYM Naming Committee.

The Oxford OH Friends Meeting presented a minute about gun violence and Miami Quarter approved it. The minute is included at the end of this report and it is hoped it will be approved by OVYM, Seventh Month at Earlham College.

Fifth Month 2016 Miami Quarter was held at Louisville Friends Meeting in KY with Richard Mitchell clerking. A new rotation schedule for Miami Quarter meetings was approved. Proposals from Whitewater Quarter were discussed without unity being reached. Several reports about OVYM were made, one about our annual gathering and another about the ongoing difficulties with the Nominating Committee.

Miami Quarter appointments were discussed. Faith Morgan is stepping down as Co-Clerk in order to become Miami Quarter Treasurer. Veronica Frost will continue as Clerk but Fifth Month meetings will be presided over by Cecilia Shore, due to Veronica's commitment in Indianapolis.

Miami Quarter Friends thanked Frank Huss for his long and faithful service as Treasurer of Miami Quarter.

As always, the Miami Quarter officers are thankful for the opportunity to be of service.

Minute on Gun Violence

In light of the ongoing epidemic of tragic shooting sprees, the Miami Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), affirms the following:

- 1) That it is the right of all humans, made in the image of the Creator, to be free from the threat of gun violence.
- 2) That our right to live in a society free from gun violence has greater moral weight than any right to own weapons capable of mass devastation.

3) That for anyone to possess or use of weapons of mass devastation (i.e., automatic or semi-automatic weapons) contradicts the basic values of the great world religions.

Consequently, we beseech our elected leaders to enact appropriate measures of gun control. Paralysis on this issue is not acceptable, as our national body count increases.

Friends of Miami Quarterly Meeting ask Americans to consider the following actions to address this urgent issue:

- 1) Please ask all who wish to represent you at the local, state, and national level “What is your position on more effective gun control?”
- 2) Demand that your representatives move forward in enacting universal background checks for ALL gun sales.
- 3) Reflect upon your own attitudes. How do your actions and attitudes towards guns and violence square with your religious or humanist beliefs?
- 4) Carrying more guns, or more people carrying guns, makes us less safe. We will find and publicize alternatives to violence.
- 5) Australia had a horrific instance of gun violence in 1996 and subsequently changed its laws, banning high-powered rifles and enacting strict licensing requirements. Since then, Australia has not had any mass shootings. Why can't the U.S. do the same?

Executive Committee Report

During the period from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions 2015, the Executive Committee met three times face-to-face and once by conference call: 2015-10-03 (Community Friends Meetinghouse), 2016-02-06 (conference call), 2016-04-06 (Earlham College), 2016-06-02 (North Meadow Circle of Friends Meetinghouse). Executive Committee meeting minutes should be available online and in the Reports in Advance booklet. All Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends are invited and encouraged to read these minutes.

Meetings of the Executive Committee can be times of spiritual refreshment, but we are often faced with a particular challenge. Not all Executive Committee meetings are well attended, particularly the one held on the first Seventh-Day of Sixth Month. Several of our constituent monthly meetings are seldom or never represented, and the same is true for Yearly Meeting committees. The absence of these voices can make conducting time-sensitive business of the Yearly Meeting very difficult, and there is no assurance that decisions taken or matters laid over for later consideration are effectively communicated to meetings and committees with no one present. I would ask committees and constituent monthly meetings to ensure that an appropriate Friend has been designated as the representative of the committee or meeting at Executive Committee meetings, and that those Friends then offer clear and helpful reports about the decisions and ongoing concerns of the Executive Committee to their committees and meetings. I would encourage Friends who must miss an Executive Committee meeting to seek out another Friend who can attend in their place. Finally, I would ask Friends to consider what may be lying at the root of excessive absenteeism.

A review of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings will reveal the following:

Friends have been discussing how the Yearly Meeting committee structure and our annual sessions could be revised or restructured to focus more on two central issues: (1) How does our work contribute to the spiritual growth of our members/attenders and our meetings? and (2) How does our work contribute to a visible Quaker witness to the wider world? The

Clerks' Table has drawn up a set of queries that each Yearly Meeting committee is asked to consider and respond to.

Friends have considered revisions of the division of labor between the Yearly Meeting and the Quarterly Meetings, but no unity has been found.

Friends have broadened the scope of the Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry and adopted guidelines for the use of the Spiritual Nurture Fund.

Friends have approved a streamlined set of procedures for completing the current revision of the Book of Faith and Practice.

Friends are struggling with staffing the Nominating Committee and the Middle Youth Committee.

Friends have revised the timetable for discerning budget priorities for the Yearly Meeting. This includes scheduling a period for discernment of budget priorities at one Yearly Meeting session that would inform the development of the budget to be presented for final approval at the following Yearly Meeting session.

Friends discerned that the Teen Secretary position and the newly approved Middle Youth Secretary position should be combined into a single Youth Secretary position. Friends approved a service provider agreement for this position. At the time of this writing, the new position has not been filled.

Religious Nurture & Education Committee Report

The Religious Nurture & Education Committee was more active this year, thanks in part to new members willing to share the work. We convened at three different monthly meetings, Lexington, Community, and Dayton, which gave us a sense of the life of those meetings, and met once by conference call. We worshipped with Community and Dayton Meetings, and members of the committee also visited Bloomington, Louisville and Fall Creek Meetings. Inter-visitation is an important function of the committee, and we would like to make more opportunities for visits in the future. Such visits might be to offer a workshop, help meetings in conflict or struggle, or simply to be a presence and listening ear.

At the request of the Yearly Meeting, we developed guidelines for the use of a bequest from Eileen Bagus to create a spiritual nurture fund under our care. We began the discussion by identifying some of the needs we perceived within the Yearly Meeting. The committee agreed that the fund should be used for projects that benefit the wider YM community rather than individual faith development. We plan to use a part of those funds this year to develop a packet of outreach materials for each monthly meeting, which will be available at Yearly Meeting. We have had some discussion of other possible projects, and encourage suggestions. The guidelines are included below.

One of the issues that was raised in our discussion of the spiritual nurture fund was the need to better integrate newcomers and people of all ages into our meetings. With this in mind, the committee sponsored a retreat in April with the theme "Walking together as Newcomers and Oldtimers." While the attendance was lower than we had hoped, we felt the group was diverse and the day presented an opportunity to gather the experience and wisdom of a variety of Friends for a day of mutual discovery. We would like to hold an interest group or meal discussion on eldering and spiritual accompaniment at Yearly Meeting, and plan to lead a workshop on the topic at Joint Quarter.

The committee has also been gathering good examples of outreach and First Day School materials which may be helpful to monthly meetings. We will be developing a list of resources online as well providing as the packets for each meeting at OVYM. The committee will also prepare the Summary of the State of the Society reports for Yearly Meeting, and will oversee worship and uphold the clerks table during annual session.

Guidelines for the Spiritual Nurture Fund

The Spiritual Nurture Fund developed from a bequest from Eileen Bagus to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The fund is to be used for the spiritual nurture of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting community and its constituent meetings. For example, the funds might be used to develop initiatives focused on nurturing small meetings, developing the quality of worship of our meetings, understanding eldership and clerkship, outreach and inreach programs, religious education in local meetings, and increasing the inclusiveness of our meetings, including diverse spiritual experiences and social diversity. This list is not exhaustive, but indicates some of the needs identified by Religious Nurture and Education Committee when the fund was set up.

The fund is overseen by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. Programs may be initiated by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee or suggested by individual Friends, or monthly or quarterly meetings. The fund is not intended for individual education, except in instances where a Friend intends to use their experience to benefit the Yearly Meeting as a whole, such as traveling within the Yearly Meeting to address a widely felt need. Religious Education and Nurture will evaluate and share widely the record of funded activities.

State of Society Summary Report

The yearly State of Society Report, based on the reports of our Monthly meetings, is a summary of our joys and concerns and a statement of how truth prospers among us. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee has reviewed these reports and submits the following summary, and we encourage Friends to read the individual reports for the often lively account of how truth prospers among us, and for suggestions for practices in their own meetings.

We find the reports encouraging in many ways. The more detailed accounts give a vivid picture of the many-faceted life of the Monthly meeting in worship, service, presence in its community, and spiritual support for its members and attenders, including children and youth. We see examples of new and creative energy in all these areas.

While we see the usual concern about small numbers and aging membership, we see the hopeful evidence that several meetings are welcoming new attenders and children. We notice the creative ways several meetings are engaging new practices to welcome and support new attenders and seekers, new and less quantitative ways to assess and nourish the spiritual health of smaller meetings, and many ways of being visible in service to the community. We also see some smaller meetings turning to the wider Quaker world to amplify their spiritual experience: Quarterly and Yearly meetings, Friends General Conference, and Friends World Committee for Consultation are some examples. We also note that the energy for community service and peace and justice activity are often disproportionate to the meeting's size.

We noted the attention and energy meetings are giving to their building space, finding spiritual opportunities in stewardship of their buildings and grounds, and using their

meeting's habitat as an occasion for environmental testimony that is visible in their local community.

We noted several ways in which meetings nourish their inward life. Community is supported by occasions of joy and laughter such as shared meals and gatherings. Study and second-hour discussions flourish in many meetings and often enhance vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship. We see some meetings addressing the dire needs of the environment and the personal and corporate activities that affect it. In some meetings, these are opportunities to welcome new attenders into the life of the meeting and to communicate something of the Quaker approach to spirituality, peace, and justice.

Our meetings continue to seek ways to serve and involve younger members and attenders. This is often challenging for smaller meetings where light or inconsistent attendance makes it difficult to offer regular and substantial religious education programming. Here again we see creative responses to this challenge, and ideas worth sharing with other meetings. We have noted the experience of several meetings that children and youth are not just the receivers of ministry, but are often a source of ministry and inspiration to the meeting as a whole.

While we are encouraged by the lively and optimistic tone of most of these reports, we also are concerned that some important matters are underreported, especially where meeting conflicts are involved. As Quakers, we know that conflict, however painful, is an opportunity for spiritual inquiry and growth, and the ways meetings take up the challenge of conflict can provide patterns for us all if we can find an appropriate place to share them.

Treasurer's Report

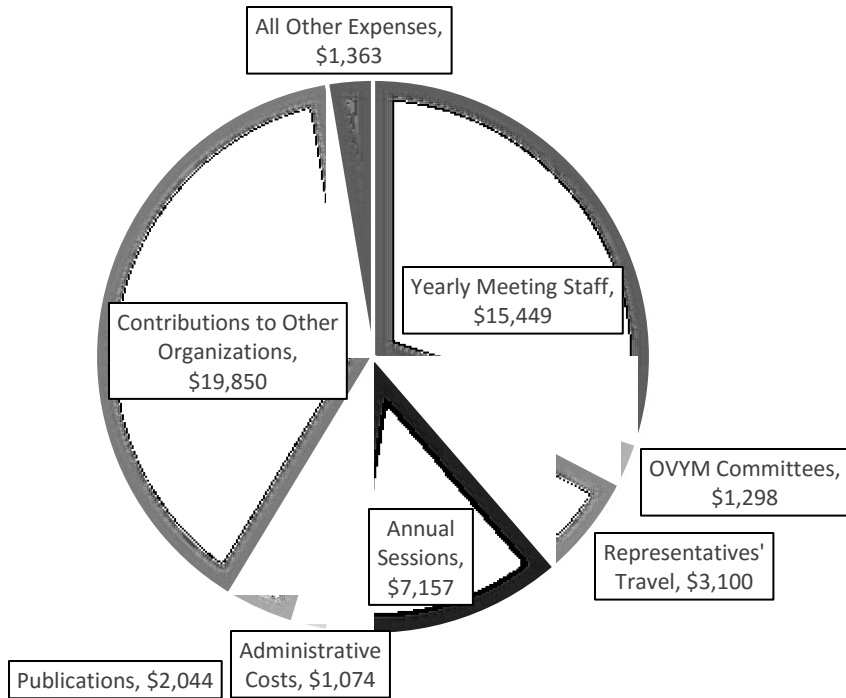
Support from the Meetings of OVYM make my service as your Treasurer possible. Thank you so much.

Although we budgeted to match income to expenses in 2015-16, we ended with a surplus from two main factors. We had half a year without youth secretary expenses and a full fiscal year with no Teen Committee expenses. This can't have been good for our teens, but it saved us \$14,100. The other main factor is the result of more positive forces: The hard and efficient work of the Sessions Planning committee, plus the appeal to Session attendees to voluntarily cover more of their full costs, and a discount from Earlham for some billing confusion during the previous Session meant the OVYM check book spent \$8,600 less for Sessions than in the previous year.

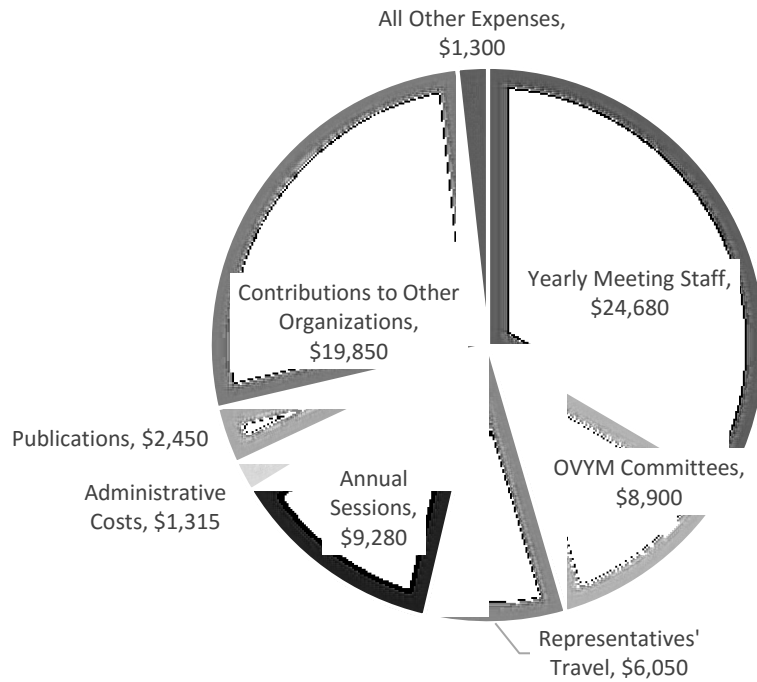
Speaking of contributions, I want to remember and thank all the individuals who gave us a total of nearly \$4000 in gifts from the general appeal in 2015 to support OVYM. Thank you all for your generosity.

For those checking the small details, the treasurer's spreadsheet now shows OVYM funds that are invested with Friends Fiduciary Corporation's fossil fuel free Green Fund. These funds are marked on the first page of the spreadsheet with "Inv" in their names. Previously we had a large amount of money sitting safely in our check book but earning no interest. We did have \$11,000 in CDs that earned a tiny 5/100th of a percent interest. There is a risk of losses when money is invested and there may be times when unrealized losses appear on my report. But we are hopeful in the long term to see gains added to our income side of the ledger.

2015-16 YTD EXPENSES



2016-17 PROPOSED EXPENSES



**2015-16 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 YTD	2016-17 proposed
Table 1. Fund Balances at Year End								
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	1,175.67	2,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67	3,175.67	4,175.67	683.65	1,683.65
Benevolent Fund-Inv. (Table 3)	5,803.21	5,800.00	5,805.61	5,800.00	5,808.98	5,800.00	5,773.66	5,823.66
Peace Witness Fund (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Capital Fund-Inv. (Table 5)	5,629.64	5,639.64	5,642.68	5,637.68	5,634.56	5,636.56	5,599.75	5,649.75
Faith & Practice Printing Fund-Inv. (Table 6)	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,014.98
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)	(240.51)		159.49		34.44	-	655.44	-
Spiritual Nurture Fund-Inv. (Table 8)					7,160.09	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,185.22
Braddock Fund-Inv. (Table 9)	-				68,817.26	65,402.51	68,498.36	69,098.36
General Fund Reserves-Inv							27,223.65	27,420.00
General Fund (Table 10)	49,231.21	41,051.21	44,804.09	35,234.09	43,104.51	44,749.51	38,735.06	17,834.51
Total	67,099.22	60,666.52	64,577.54	56,347.44	140,235.51	139,424.34	160,759.77	141,210.13

Table 2. FWCC Triennial Fund

Starting Balance	175.67	1,175.67	1,175.67	2,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67	3,175.67	683.65
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (Peru 2016)							3,492.02	
Ending Balance	1,175.67	2,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67	3,175.67	4,175.67	683.65	1,683.65

Table 3. Benevolent Fund

Starting Balance	5,800.00	5,800.00	5,803.21	5,800.00	5,805.61	5,808.98	5,808.98	5,773.66
Gain or (Loss) from investment	3.21	20.00	2.40	5.00	3.37	3.00	(35.32)	50.00
Loss or Disburse to QM (65%=Miami, 35%= WWV)		20.00		5.00		11.98		
Ending Balance	5,803.21	5,800.00	5,805.61	5,800.00	5,808.98	5,800.00	5,773.66	5,823.66

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund

Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Income	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Disbursements - Peace Tax Fund	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00

Table 5. Capital Fund

Starting Balance	5,626.53	5,629.64	5,639.64	5,632.68	5,632.68	5,634.56	5,634.56	5,599.75
Gain or (Loss) from investment	3.11	10.00	3.04	5.00	1.88	2.00	(34.81)	50.00
Loss								
Ending Balance	5,629.64	5,639.64	5,632.68	5,637.68	5,634.56	5,636.56	5,599.75	5,649.75

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund

Starting Balance	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,974.98
Gain(Loss) or transfer from General Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	-	(25.02)	40.00
Disbursements								
Ending Balance	3,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,014.98

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 21

Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance			(240.51)		159.49		34.44	-
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt)	(240.51)		400.00		(125.05)		621.00	
Ending Balance	(240.51)		159.49		34.44		655.44	

Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund

Starting Balance					-	7,160.09	7,160.09	7,115.22
Income					7,160.09			-
Disbursements								
Gain or (Loss) from investment							(44.87)	70.00
Ending Balance					7,160.09	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,185.22

Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry

Starting Balance					-	68,817.26	68,817.26	68,498.36
Income					68,817.26		600.00	
Disbursements							952.92	
Gain or (Loss) from investment							34.02	600.00
Ending Balance					68,817.26	68,817.26	68,498.36	69,098.36

Appeal Letter Income 2014-15 (becomes Other Income 2015-16)					3,430.00			
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**2015-16 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 YTD	2016-17 proposed
Table 10. General Fund Summary								
INCOME								
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	71,398.00	72,570.00	66,647.50	71,120.00	72,220.96	71,575.00	68,214.96	69,780.00
Other Income - Appeal letter income						5,000.00	3,980.00	-
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	217.14	200.00	652.27	200.00	340.34	600.00	414.06	300.00
Donated Travel Costs	5,223.27	4,500.00	3,563.77	4,500.00	4,618.62	4,250.00	1,688.15	4,250.00
Sales of Disciplines	25.00							
Total Income	76,863.41	77,270.00	70,863.54	75,820.00	77,179.92	81,425.00	74,297.17	74,330.00
EXPENSES								
Operating Expenses (Table 12)	26,901.81	29,950.00	27,379.10	31,970.00	27,059.19	31,670.00	18,867.41	28,745.00
Committee Expenses (Table 17)	11,204.21	11,150.00	8,548.87	11,570.00	8,130.08	9,000.00	1,298.00	8,900.00
Representative Travel (Table 23)	5,335.06	6,000.00	4,227.71	6,000.00	6,529.99	6,200.00	3,100.00	6,050.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24)	14,463.51	17,000.00	13,784.98	14,500.00	15,810.24	12,060.00	7,157.48	9,280.00
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	-		-
Donations by OVYM (Table 25)	20,650.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00
Total Expenses	80,054.59	85,450.00	75,290.66	85,390.00	78,879.50	79,780.00	51,272.89	73,825.00
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(3,191.18)	(8,180.00)	(4,427.12)	(9,570.00)	(1,699.58)	1,645.00	23,024.28	505.00

Table 11. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	4,000.00	8,140.00	4,300.00	5,070.00	4,542.00	5,500.00	2,000.00	9,120.00
Campus	1,660.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	1,550.00	1,450.00	1,425.00	1,740.00
Clear Creek	13,365.00	10,560.00	8,448.00	9,400.00	11,512.00	9,250.00	9,250.00	8,160.00
Community	8,482.00	8,800.00	8,800.00	8,880.00	8,799.96	9,125.00	9,159.96	8,520.00
Dayton (-360)	1,430.00	1,210.00	1,210.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,320.00
Eastern Hills	2,100.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,560.00
Englewood		825.00	929.50	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	960.00
Fall Creek	1,320.00	1,430.00	1,430.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,560.00
Fort Wayne	440.00	660.00	660.00	720.00	720.00	750.00	850.00	720.00
Green Plain	560.00	275.00	400.00	250.00	182.00	300.00	300.00	1,320.00
Hopewell	300.00	1,210.00		1,320.00		300.00	500.00	
Lafayette	1,760.00	1,650.00	1,680.00	1,800.00	1,700.00	1,400.00	1,300.00	720.00
Lexington	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	4,920.00	4,920.00	5,375.00	5,375.00	5,040.00
Louisville	8,800.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	7,080.00	7,080.00	8,000.00	8,080.00	5,640.00
Miami	4,681.00	4,510.00	4,510.00	4,920.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	4,800.00
North Meadow	4,070.00	4,070.00	4,070.00	4,440.00	4,440.00	4,625.00	4,625.00	4,440.00
Oxford	1,400.00	1,760.00	1,760.00	1,800.00	1,870.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	1,800.00
White Rose	750.00	1,320.00	1,300.00	1,440.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,100.00	1,440.00
Yellow Springs	11,880.00	10,780.00	11,780.00	11,760.00	13,260.00	11,375.00	11,625.00	10,920.00
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	71,398.00	72,570.00	66,647.50	71,120.00	72,220.96	71,575.00	68,214.96	69,780.00

Bold = Meetings responding with pledge of support for 2016-17

**2015-16 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 YTD	2016-17 proposed
Table 12. Operating Expenses								
Administration (Table 13)	1,650.18	2,050.00	1,154.31	1,860.00	927.00	1,370.00	922.10	1,125.00
Clerical support (Table 14)	140.56	450.00	181.44	250.00	781.88	190.00	151.40	190.00
Staff (Table 15)	22,310.53	23,000.00	23,132.62	26,860.00	23,252.09	26,860.00	15,449.43	24,680.00
Publications (Table 16)	2,500.54	4,150.00	2,610.73	2,700.00	1,798.22	2,950.00	2,044.48	2,450.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total	26,901.81	29,950.00	27,379.10	31,970.00	27,059.19	31,670.00	18,867.41	28,745.00

Table 13. Administration								
Bank Charges		50.00		-	12.00	-	10.96	15.00
Liability Insurance	811.14	1,000.00	684.85	1,000.00	897.00	900.00	857.14	930.00
Background Checks	54.00	100.00	63.00	60.00	18.00	50.00	54.00	60.00
Officers' Expenses	365.00	500.00	400.00	400.00		400.00		100.00
Treasurer's Expenses	420.04	400.00	6.46	400.00		20.00		20.00
Total	1,650.18	2,050.00	1,154.31	1,860.00	927.00	1,370.00	922.10	1,125.00

Table 14. Clerical Support								
Office Expenses	62.17	300.00	20.00	120.00	194.11	60.00		60.00
Postage	34.36	80.00	96.56	80.00	384.99	80.00	85.29	80.00
Copying	44.03	70.00	64.88	50.00	202.78	50.00	66.11	50.00
Total	140.56	450.00	181.44	250.00	781.88	190.00	151.40	190.00

Table 15. Staff								
Compensation	20,469.64	21,000.00	21,460.14	25,000.00	21,533.84	25,000.00	14,488.02	23,700.00
Workers Comp	315.90	360.00	276.96	360.00	346.80	360.00	330.53	350.00
Cell Phone	431.00	540.00	456.00	450.00	456.00	450.00	190.00	-
Internet Access	423.00	400.00	427.70	450.00	190.00	250.00	180.00	180.00
Travel	670.99	500.00	311.82	400.00	725.45	600.00	260.88	200.00
Professional Development		200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00		250.00
Total	22,310.53	23,000.00	23,132.62	26,860.00	23,252.09	26,860.00	15,449.43	24,680.00

Table 16. Publications								
Quill	976.79	1,500.00	1,466.39	1,500.00	401.44	1,500.00	605.44	1,000.00
Web site expenses	478.19	500.00		-				
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,025.46	1,650.00	953.53	1,000.00	1,149.18	1,200.00	1,189.04	1,200.00
Directory	20.10	500.00	190.81	200.00	247.60	250.00	250.00	250.00
Total	2,500.54	4,150.00	2,610.73	2,700.00	1,798.22	2,950.00	2,044.48	2,450.00

Table 17. Committee Expense								
Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18)	161.38	1,000.00	543.50	310.00	-	200.00	561.53	700.00
Middle Youth (Table 19)	257.34	400.00	480.37	330.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 20)	229.78	250.00	-	40.00	55.80	50.00	-	50.00
Teen Program (Table 21)	6,300.00	6,300.00	4,150.41	6,300.00	6,300.00	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 22)			(440.00)	1,390.00	82.17	600.00	50.00	600.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	50.00	200.00	133.89	200.00	200.00			
Travel - Donated	2,765.30	2,000.00	2,338.14	2,000.00	1,354.53	1,500.00	519.72	1,000.00
Travel - Reimbursed	1,440.41	1,000.00	1,342.56	1,000.00	137.58	300.00	166.75	200.00
Total Expenses	11,204.21	11,150.00	8,548.87	11,570.00	8,130.08	9,000.00	1,298.00	8,900.00

**2015-16 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 YTD	2016-17 proposed
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Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee

Pamphlets, copying and printing		100.00	5.00	10.00		10.00	25.03	10.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	75.00	800.00	538.50	300.00		150.00	536.50	650.00
Resource Materials	86.38	100.00		-		40.00		40.00
Total Expense	161.38	1,000.00	543.50	310.00	-	200.00	561.53	700.00

Table 19. Middle Youth Committee

Joint Quarterly Gathering	50.00		16.51	20.00				
Staff	200.00	300.00	390.00	130.00				
Supplies and Programming	7.34	100.00	73.86	180.00		50.00		50.00
Total Expense	257.34	400.00	480.37	330.00	-	50.00	-	50.00

Table 20. Peace & Social Concerns

Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop	229.78	100.00		10.00		5.00		5.00
Postage		50.00		30.00	55.80	45.00		45.00
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials		100.00		-				
Total Expense	229.78	250.00	-	40.00	55.80	50.00	-	50.00

Table 21. Teen Program

INCOME								
Contributions			400.00		22,245.00		621.00	
Fundraising		500.00		500.00	1,690.00			
Registration Fees	2,595.00	1,700.00	1,800.00	1,700.00	14,750.00			
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	6,300.00	6,300.00	4,150.41	6,300.00	6,300.00	6,300.00		6,300.00
Total Income	8,895.00	8,500.00	6,350.41	8,500.00	44,985.00	6,300.00	621.00	6,300.00
EXPENSE								
Publicity		100.00		100.00				
Teen Events	467.44	1,400.00	947.79	1,400.00				
Service Trips	8,668.07	7,000.00	5,002.62	7,000.00	45,045.90	6,300.00		6,300.00
Cost of Fundraising					64.15			
Total Expense	9,135.51	8,500.00	5,950.41	8,500.00	45,110.05	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)	(240.51)	-	400.00	-	(125.05)	-	621.00	-

Table 22. Adult Young Friends

(Income)			(580.00)	(500.00)	(295.27)	(300.00)		(300.00)
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions			140.00	690.00	377.44	400.00	50.00	400.00
Scholarships				1,200.00		500.00		500.00
Total Expenses	-	-	(440.00)	1,390.00	82.17	600.00	50.00	600.00

Table 23. Representative Travel

Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,435.19	2,500.00	2,050.00	2,500.00	2,768.00	2,700.00	1,160.00	2,000.00
Additional Reimbursement	441.90	1,000.00	952.08	1,000.00	497.90	750.00	771.57	800.00
Donated Travel	2,457.97	2,500.00	1,225.63	2,500.00	3,264.09	2,750.00	1,168.43	3,250.00
Total Expenses	5,335.06	6,000.00	4,227.71	6,000.00	6,529.99	6,200.00	3,100.00	6,050.00

**2015-16 OVYM Treasurer's Report
7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 YTD	2016-17 proposed
Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions								
INCOME								
Contributions	1,260.80	900.00	1,590.64	1,000.00	1,914.00	3,000.00	3,975.54	3,500.00
Registration	4,740.00	3,400.00	4,860.00	4,000.00	4,470.00	4,650.00	4,920.00	4,920.00
Room & Board Charges	12,876.95	12,500.00	13,476.00	13,000.00	12,376.50	12,400.00	11,524.00	16,600.00
Bookstore Income	1,909.51	1,900.00	983.89	1,000.00	917.04	950.00	893.88	900.00
Total Income	20,787.26	18,700.00	20,910.53	19,000.00	19,677.54	21,000.00	21,313.42	25,920.00
EXPENSES								
Administration	10.00	50.00		50.00		425.00	890.00	900.00
Adult Program	1,022.39	1,000.00	693.25	1,000.00	2,249.75	2,000.00	1,249.33	2,000.00
Next year's Sessions deposit		3,000.00	2,275.00	750.00	2,163.00		2,193.54	2,200.00
Teen Program	1,486.20	1,500.00	1,228.69	1,500.00	1,007.07	1,200.00	1,122.35	1,200.00
Middle Youth Program	1,304.00	1,325.00	1,434.40	1,400.00	1,375.44	1,500.00	1,294.10	1,400.00
Children's Program	3,105.30	3,000.00	3,738.17	3,500.00	3,116.81	3,000.00	2,753.73	2,900.00
Adult Room & Board	12,488.26	12,500.00	12,344.00	12,500.00	11,921.01	11,600.00	8,424.85	13,000.00
Room & Board Subsidies	300.00							
Children, middle youth, teens	9,052.40	7,475.00	6,700.00	7,000.00	7,773.00	7,800.00	4,601.00	5,000.00
Staff and officers	2,716.20	2,500.00	2,654.00	2,700.00	2,523.72	2,200.00	1,960.00	2,000.00
Guests	1,041.20	700.00	400.00	700.00	524.00	525.00	538.00	600.00
YAF attenders subsidy	1,122.40	1,000.00	1,117.00	1,000.00	1,177.00	1,150.00	2,064.00	2,200.00
First-time attenders subsidy	340.20	400.00	1,161.00	400.00	707.50	700.00	1,190.00	1,400.00
Simple Meal Donation	278.85	250.00	650.00	300.00	390.00	400.00	100.00	300.00
Bookstore Expenses	983.37	1,000.00	300.00	700.00	559.48	560.00	90.00	100.00
Total Expenses	35,250.77	35,700.00	34,695.51	33,500.00	35,487.78	33,060.00	28,470.90	35,200.00
Net Cost of Session	14,463.51	17,000.00	13,784.98	14,500.00	15,810.24	12,060.00	7,157.48	9,280.00

Table 25. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries								
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Subtotal	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00
Major Quaker Organizations								
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00
FCNL	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Subtotal	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00
Quaker Education and Outreach								
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus								
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
William Penn House	1,000.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Quaker United Nations Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Subtotal	3,500.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Total Contributions	20,650.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	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 12/31/14	29	73	8	24	23	11	43	59	41	15	91	415
Correction by addition			7						1			8
Births/Adoption												0
Request of Parent(s)												0
Convincement		1	1						2		3	7
Children accepted as adults												0
Transfers to			1	2				5	2			4
TOTAL GAINS	0	1	9	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	19
Correction by subtraction									1			1
Deaths					1			1	1		2	5
Removal by request		2					1	1	2			6
Children becoming adults								1				1
Transfers from			3								1	4
Loss of contact		1			7			5	2			15
TOTAL LOSSES	0	3	3	0	8	0	1	9	5	0	3	32
Net gain or loss	0	-2	6	2	-8	0	-1	-9	-1	0	0	-13
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/15	29	71	14	26	16	11	42	47	40	15	91	402
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	0	2	3	0	2	0	22	6	0	1	5	41
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	0	6	0	1	1	2	5	2	0	1	2	20
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	10
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	2	8	2	2	19	0	15	2	2	0	5	57
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	4	9	4	2	1	0	21	4	8	2	10	65
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	19	32	12	12	11	4	56	33	24	5	41	249
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	12	26	6	12	4	3	21	26	16	6	31	163s
Resident Membership – Adult	18	43	8	14	16	0	32	38	22	12	53	256
Resident Membership – Associate	0	9	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	8	23
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	15	6	5	0	7	8	9	18	0	23	102
Non-resident Membership – Associate	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	7	19
United Meetings	*			*	*							3
Budget members	14.5	71	14	13	8	11	42	47	40	15	91	366.5
Worship attendance – adults	9	38	11	13	14	0	29	24	15	8	32	193
Worship attendance – children	0	5	4	1	1	0	8	5	0	3	6	33
Regular non-member attendance	3	12	8	2	11	0	19	14	5	1	14	89
First Day School (children)	0	5	2	0	6	0	8	5	7	3	4	40
Friends in school/college	0	7	3	0	1	0	6	1	0	0	7	25

WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/14	79	74	13	6	11	14	37	12	246	661	664
Correction by addition									0	8	8
Births/Adoption									0	0	0
Request of Parent(s)									0	0	0
Convincement	2								2	9	9
Children accepted as adults									0	0	0
<u>Transfers to</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>							<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL GAINS	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	28	23
Correction by subtraction	7	3							12	13	3
Deaths		1							1	6	10
Removal by request		2							2	8	9
Children becoming adults									0	1	1
Transfers from		1	3			1			2	6	10
<u>Loss of contact</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>				<u>5</u>			<u>9</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL LOSSES	8	10	0	0	0	8	0	0	26	58	37
Net gain or loss	-3	-6	0	0	0	-8	0	0	-17	-30	-14
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/15	76	68	13	6	11	6	37	12	229	631	650
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	9	4	3	1	0	7	6	3	33	74	73
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	4	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	28	26
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	22	23
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	10	10	0	0	0	1	2	0	23	80	66
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	6	11	4	2	2	1	5	2	33	98	122
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	36	38	8	5	8	9	16	6	126	375	368
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	22	31	1	3	2	3	14	1	77	240	244
Resident Membership – Adult	50	50	13	4	9	6	29	7	168	424	457
Resident Membership – Associate	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	3	10	33	46
Non-resident Membership – Adult	19	14	0	2	2	0	6	2	45	147	135
Non-resident Membership – Associate	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	23
United Meetings											3
Budget members	76	68	13	6	11	6	37	12	229	603.5	634.5
Worship attendance – adults	33	35	5	9	7	6	18	2	115	308	325
Worship attendance – children	4	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	9	42	48
Regular non-member attendance	18	8	1	5	0	3	0	0	35	124	115
First Day School (children)	4	2	1	0	0	0	4	0	11	51	58
Friends in school/college	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	31	32

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee has been busy this year. The yearly meeting is in the process of transitioning from a Teen Secretary to a Youth Secretary, who will serve all our middle school and high school youth. The committee helped the Middle Youth and Teen Activities Committees define the new Youth Secretary position. This involved a review of the number of hours needed for the new position, setting compensation, and helping to draft a job description. Personnel Committee then created a Provider Agreement which was approved by Executive Committee. The associated sections in the OVYM Handbook still need to be updated.

An annual review was conducted with the Administrative Secretary.

Budget & Finance Committee Report

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's budget shows what we care about as a Quaker community. OVYM strives to provide spiritual, social, and intellectual opportunities for pre-school, elementary, middle and high school students; as well as activities for younger and older adults. All this costs money and nearly all of that money comes from our monthly meetings. For full financial information, see the spreadsheet that is part of the Treasurer's Report. If five pages of numbers provides too much detail, a one-page summary is included here. The first two columns of numbers in the summary show the budget and our actual income and expenses for the last full fiscal year (FY2014-15 which is July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015).

The next two columns summarize the budget for the current fiscal year (FY2015-16) and actual values for most of the current fiscal year (July 1, 2015-June 19, 2016). The second-last column contains the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year (FY2016-17). The differences between the two budgets are presented in the right-most column. As you can see, the proposed budget is smaller this year. Total expense requests decreased by nearly \$6,000.

There are also pie charts illustrating our expenses so far this fiscal year and the proposed expenses for the coming year. The current year is discussed in the Treasurer's Report.

Looking at the proposed budget, there is one notable increase planned. The Religious Nurture & Education Committee has proposed having an annual all-OVYM retreat at no cost to the attendees. Their request was increased by \$500 to pay the costs of the retreat.

To balance the budget, the Budget & Finance Committee determines a per-member share of the budget, assuming each member is equally able to pay. Because expected expenses are smaller, this is \$120 – a \$5 decrease from last year.

It is only because of you – your work and your contributions – that OVYM is a unifying source of ideas, solutions, and resources to meet the spiritual needs of our monthly meetings. We hope it fulfills the mission God has called us to and enhances your sense of being part of a Quaker community that extends beyond the bounds of your monthly meeting.

Braddock Fund Committee Report

The Braddock Fund Committee continues the long Friends tradition of ministering to that of God in everyone, including prisoners. We have funds to help support those from our Yearly Meeting that feel called to prison ministry. The Braddock Fund historically was concerned about education for the incarcerated, helping them to see new ways to live. This year we helped pay for on-line courses for one individual. As a committee we have visited with the

Warden of Lebanon Correctional Institution and received a tour of the facility. Current committee members are Wilhelmina Branson, Christine Snyder and Wilson Palmer.

Friends Music Camp Report

Friends Music Camp is excited for its 37th summer session. Our big news is our move to Earlham College, starting this summer. We are excited about the move for many reasons, one of which is the opportunity to be in close proximity to OVYM yearly sessions and to get to know many individuals from the yearly meeting more closely and invite them to see what we are all about. Our primary reason for the move is the availability of Earlham's new performing arts center, which will afford us the use of practice rooms, rehearsal rooms and concert halls specifically designed for music rather than general use, as well as access to an actual theater for our musical theater program. Earlham's rich Quaker heritage, as well as its green spaces and modern dorms, were also a draw. While many in our community are nostalgic to leave Olney where we have been hosted from our inception, we are excited for this new chapter to begin and to allow our musicians to form community in a space that so clearly values music.

While we worried that the move would mean fewer campers, we are only slightly less enrolled than last year. We have many returning campers, particularly older campers who are committed to helping bring FMC's community and traditions to its new home. Our costs have only gone up slightly at Earlham, and we remain grateful for the financial support of the yearly meeting as well as the individuals within it who are our donors. Because we try to keep costs low, these donations allow us to give scholarships to campers who otherwise wouldn't be able to come to FMC.

As always, this year's campers come from across the country; 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; we will continue to travel to Yellow Springs, Ohio, for this concert. We hope that those attending OVYM will come see any recitals or concerts available during their time on campus as well as we continue to try to broaden the base of people who know about FMC's great program.

FMC continues to be a strong community comprised of adults and young people who care about music and about each other. As we discussed and shared our thoughts about the potential move last summer, it was clear that each member of the community, from campers to staff members, was dedicated to what we collectively create each summer, through music, silence, and play. Through twice daily collection, and through singing and making music together, we grow as individuals and as a group. Our emphasis on musical cooperation – rather than competition – means that each camper (and staff member) feels supported in their musical pursuits, and many campers perform for the first time at FMC. Our staff is composed of many former campers and many others who have been on staff for many years, again demonstrating the strong pull of our mission and community.

Our alumni network is important to us; this year, we have added an FMC alumni to our board and hope to continue to increase these connections. Our large adult base of former campers, many of whom have children who are camp-age (or almost) stay connected through in-person friendships and virtual communities formed over social media. As always, building

this alumni base is one of our main concerns outside of camp time, and we continue to work on it and ask for help from active and connected alumni.

Friends Music Camp appreciates for the yearly meeting's continued sponsorship and support of our musical growth and our community. We look forward to seeing you in person this summer.

Quaker Heritage Center Report

It's been another exciting year at the Quaker Heritage Center! We've celebrated milestones, hosted nationally-traveling exhibits, welcomed guests from across campus and around the world, done some spring cleaning, reached out to form new partnerships, and had a lot of fun in the process. The full annual report – complete with photos and numbers and data – is available on our website (www.wilmington.edu/the-wilmington-difference/qhc), but please let me have a minute of your time now to highlight just a few of this year's accomplishments.

September 24, 2015, marked the 10th anniversary of the Quaker Heritage Center. Over 75 individuals from the community joined us for cake, games, party hats, and a proclamation from the Mayor of Wilmington. Two days later we participated in the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day Live! program, which brought brand new visitors to the Center. It was a great way to celebrate our first decade and to launch into our second!

In the spring, we collaborated with Wilmington College's Career Services, International Club, Multicultural Affairs Office, Peace Corps Prep Club, Peace Resource Center, and Peace Studies program to present a wide variety of events related to "50 Years of Service: Peace Corps, Bringing the World Home," a traveling exhibit from the Committee for the Creation of a Peace Corps Museum in Oregon. The exhibit and events brought together students and community members in new and exciting ways, and we're looking forward to other opportunities for campus-wide collaborations.

Thanks to the hard work of Dylan Hammond (Wilmington College Class of 2016, Educational Studies and History major), we hosted 232 4th graders from Wilmington City Schools in May for a day of programming about the history of the Underground Railroad. They learned about important milestones in history like the 3/5ths Compromise and the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, heard local and national stories about the ways that enslaved people claimed their own freedom, and even got to ask Harriet Tubman questions about her life and work as a Conductor! We got great feedback from the teachers who were involved, and plan to host this same program next year.

None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of people just like YOU. Thank you, as always, and if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Quaker Heights Care Community Report

Quaker Heights is continuing to adapt to the changing needs of the surrounding community. For example, 2015 brought the opening of our brand new Post-Acute Care Wing. This wing expanded our services from just a long-term care provider to a health care continuum now servicing the post-acute population. This state-of-the-art rehab facility not only diversifies our revenue streams but also provides top of the line therapy to all populations that we serve.

Even with the excitement of our Post-Acute Care Wing we must continue to seek other growth opportunities to help balance operational deficits. Quaker Heights needs to take a variety of steps to ensure the future of this organization. Heavy marketing efforts to families,

hospitals, and the surrounding communities is now a regular activity here as well as all eyes on our Quality Measures which will be an important factor to our referral sources in the near future.

Another strategy that we are using to remain competitive in the market is the plan to convert as many rooms as possible to private rooms. As the generations change there is a shift in desired amenities. The main of which is private rooms & bathrooms.

Lastly, Quaker Heights is planning to launch its first ever Capital Campaign. As part of our strategy to ensure the future of the organization the Advancement Team along with the consultation of Becky Drumm, Advancement Associates, has developed and continues to revise an active philanthropy program. As a small stand-alone, faith-based, not-for-profit it is of the utmost importance that we seek philanthropic relationships with advocates and community members.

All of these strategies make for a very busy but exciting time in Quaker Heights' history. There is a strong probability that Quaker Heights will align with, seek a joint venture, or be acquired in the future because it is very difficult to operate an organization of our size independently. Affordable care is part of our mission and in order to continue that mission we will likely need a partner. Through these challenging times we continue to ask for your Time, Treasure, Talent, Advocacy, and Prayer.

Quaker Quill Report

The *Quill* appears to be serving its purpose of keeping us connected across meetings and to the broader Quaker world. I made some mistakes in reporting two monthly meetings' news in Second Month. I apologize to them and their correspondents, and am fixing those mistakes in the Sixth Month issue. I am grateful to Susan Lee Barton for her help in proofreading. I thank all the meeting correspondents, as well as Yearly Meeting officers and committees who have made use of the Quill as a channel for communication.

Website Administrator's Report

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do you light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house." - Matthew 5:14-15 (NKJV)

SITE ADDRESS: <http://OVYM.Quaker.Org>

VISION: *Outreach* - a site where visitors can find information about Quakers and OVYM, and its ministries and meetings and feel welcome to visit one of our Meetings. *Inreach* - a site where members of OVYM and other Quakers can find personal and Meeting resources (forms and publications), news, and information on upcoming events including Annual Sessions and special events.

GOALS: that the site be easy to navigate, and professional and attractive in appearance.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your website administrator for the past 7 years. Much has changed on OVYM.Quaker.Org since taking up the position vacated by Barbarie Hill in 2009 and the content has grown thanks, in large part, to the suggestions and submissions from OVYM members. The absence of committee oversight and guidance documentation has allowed for much creative freedom and the ability to respond quickly to critical issues.

There have been several changes to OVYM.Quaker.Org this year. Using new software, the annual rebuild was completed in March. This has resulted in smaller file sizes, which means that our site takes up less space on the Quaker.Org server and the pages load a little faster. At the Treasurer's suggestion, we added new page about making contributions and donations to OVYM. This page can be accessed via a new link at the top of the page. Finally, the Calendar page was updated to add a smaller version of the calendar for those who view OVYM.Quaker.Org on smart phones and tablets. Additionally, the smaller calendar allows visitors to add the OVYM calendar to their personal smart phone and personal computer calendar apps (e.g., Outlook and Google Calendar).

Requested updates to pages on OVYM.Quaker.Org continue to be accomplished on the same day we receive the request. Many of these updates and announcements are also published on the OVYM Facebook page and the 94 people who "liked" and are following our Facebook page receive notifications of all published announcements. There is a link to our Facebook page on OVYM.Quaker.Org.

Visits to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Website have increased over the past year. We had a daily average of 42 visitors in 2015 and 55 so far in 2016.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report

OVYM's Planning Committee had four meetings (at the end of 2015 annual sessions; fall, winter, and a June walk-through at Earlham). Our face-to-face meetings demonstrate the best of Quaker process: meeting clear goals through practical discussion and spirit-led discernment. Our work always begins by reviewing the session's strengths and weaknesses followed by careful review of evaluations in the fall. We easily settled on a theme: "One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society." Our work included several discussions wrestling with how to be more inclusive in meeting the diverse needs within our yearly meeting, and we hope this theme prompts fruitful discussion and reflection during our 196th annual sessions. We were delighted that our first choices for plenary speakers, Michael Birkel and Niyonu Spann, responded positively to our theme and our invitation; we look forward to their different approaches to oneness and inclusivity. We also faced challenges this year. Our work sometimes felt scattered. With Friends Music Camp coming to Earlham, we were uncertain what facilities would be available to us until late spring. Fewer committee members were able to attend face-to-face meetings, one of which was cancelled; several decisions were completed by conference call and e-mail. We missed the time together that fosters clear discernment, good communication, and the sense of having ample time and volunteers to see to the details of planning our annual sessions. We also again missed input from youth committees. We pray that in the coming year, our work will be spirit-led and that way opens for more face-to-face meetings with broader participation.

Committee members this year included Heather Snediker-Morscheck and Martha Viehmann (co-clerks) Dinah Duvall (primary liaison with Earlham; Executive Committee rep.), Kay Wheeler (schedule maven; college-liaison in training), Richard Mitchell (Middle Youth and Executive committee rep.), Terre Holada, and Victoria Burke. Although Carol Simmons' service as Teen Secretary ended in the fall, she chose to continue to serve with us. Registrar Eric Wolff attended as he was able. All shared responsibilities. This year, Dinah Duvall and Heather Snediker-Morscheck cycle off the committee. Victoria Burke cannot continue to serve; however, Carol Simmons is willing to complete Victoria's term, for which we are

grateful. We are looking for two new members to undertake the joyful work of making our annual sessions happen.

Several years ago, the Planning Committee decided to alternate locations, holding annual sessions for 3 years at Earlham followed by 1 year at Wilmington. The reasons for doing so included exposing our youth to both Quaker colleges in the region and taking advantage of resources in the Wilmington area, such as the college's Peace Resource Center and historical sites including Christine Snyder's family farm. However, there are disadvantages, especially the additional effort it takes to plan an event working with a different staff in a less familiar location. As we say goodbye to two dedicated planning committee members, we don't feel comfortable taking on that additional work. The committee has decided that OVYM 2017 annual sessions will return to Earlham, and we will strive to make connections with Friends Music Camp this year so we might be able to collaborate more in the future.

We look forward to reading your evaluations to guide our work next year.

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 sessions, 2015

At the 2015 sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting two documents were accepted for a year of seasoning. Integrity, draft 4, and Simplicity, draft 2, were published in the 2015 Minute book. They are being brought to the 2016 sessions for consideration for final approval. These texts appear below.

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2015-2016

Expedited revision process

The Faith and Practice Committee brought a concern about the slow pace of the revision process to the 2015 sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends asked the committee to bring a proposal for an expedited process to the October Executive Committee meeting. The committee did so, and the Executive Committee approved the expedited process. Information about that process has been distributed to Friends through correspondence and the *Quill*.

Under that process, the revision is to be completed in 3 years (by the 2018 annual sessions). In order to meet this deadline, the committee is prioritizing the topics most important to OVYM Friends. Some topics that are less essential may be left for development at a later date. We recognize that with current technology, parts of the book may be revised in the future without having to revise the entire book. The committee will strive to develop a coherent book.

Under the expedited process some sections will be newly written texts, some will be taken from the 1978 version with minor changes, and some may be retained from the 1978 book with no changes made. Under most circumstances, each newly developed text will go through only two drafts. The first draft will be Friends' opportunity to make suggestions for substantive changes. Draft 2, developed in consideration of this feedback, will be published in the *Quill* and then presented for approval at annual sessions. Texts retained (with minor changes) from the 1978 Book of Discipline will be printed in the *Quill* and brought for approval to next yearly meeting session. Texts that have not been changed will not require approval.

Approved Faith & Practice Texts

Integrity

*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 becomes our way of life.

Simplicity

*[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 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.

Community

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand. Isaac Penington, 1667

In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as the place where the person you least want to live with always lives! Parker J. Palmer, 1977

A well-functioning meeting acts as one, as a body.... It means understanding the meeting community as an organism that is responsive to God as a whole, rather than just as a collection of individuals. Fran Taber, 2004

Each of us lives in multiple overlapping and interconnected communities. Some we are born into, while others we choose to join. Each one provides us with an opportunity to test, refine, and express our beliefs, attitudes, and preferences. Claiming membership in a community is a way to define ourselves to others. As we live into that commitment, community can be more than just a group of people. It can embody our testimonies – a way we witness to the world about what we believe to be most important.

A Quaker Community is many things. It is where we seek and worship the divine. It is a body of Friends who provide temporal support and spiritual nurture for each other. It is where we test our sense of what God has called us to do individually and as a people. By shouldering the responsibilities of membership, we declare our willingness to wrestle together with what it means to be a Quaker and to help each other put what we discover into practice. It daily tests us to stay centered in compassion as we encounter the varieties of human experience. A Quaker community declares that each has a unique relationship with God and with each other; it challenges us to faithfully live into those relationships. It is where we risk being transformed.

Community life exposes our own and others' foibles and failures. It reminds us to look to the Inward Light for guidance in our everyday lives. God brought our companions to us; living with them in community, we learn and relearn to love and forgive, to be patient, accepting, and generous. It provides a space for us to safely engage with beliefs that are different from our own.

If we only observe those principles within our Quaker community, it can be an excuse to withdraw into ourselves. The testimony of community requires that we also live out what we believe in the wider world.

When community is our testimony, we love our neighbor as ourselves. Our outward actions reveal spiritually-rooted alternatives to the ways of the wider culture – we model growing spiritually and help others do the same. The Quaker Testimony of Community proclaims a different way to live with others. It challenges each of us to put a relationship with God at the center of our lives and to let that bond shape all of our relationships with each other and with the larger world.

Worship Sharing

Worship sharing is an opportunity for a group of Friends to focus on a particular question under divine guidance. This may be an especially troubling issue within a meeting or a query inviting personal reflection. It can be helpful in a variety of situations when we need a chance to share with each other more deeply than we would in ordinary conversation. Worship sharing opens a sacred space, where we can take down our usual defenses and encounter each other in “that which is eternal.” In that place, we are mindful of the personal nature of the sharing and do not repeat outside the session things that are meant only for that particular time.

We come to meeting for worship open to speaking or not speaking, as we are led. In worship sharing we come aware that we will probably speak, although no one is compelled to do so. We enter as though we have all the time in the world – yet mindful of how much time we actually have. All are individually responsible for keeping within the available time, so that each has an opportunity to speak and to listen to what others say. It is often helpful for one participant to be aware of the time and to gently shepherd those present.

We speak only for ourselves and from our own experiences, attempting to distill the promptings of the Spirit into a single statement. Our goal is to speak from the heart; not to answer, discuss, or correct one another, which can serve to separate us from one another and from what is said. Each person should speak only once before all have had an opportunity to do so. This opens space for those who are more reticent to share in the process.

While others are speaking, we are open and attentive. We listen to others as children of God, each one a unique gift to us. We try to hear how the Holy Spirit might be speaking to us personally in others' words, in their situation, even – and especially – when we find ourselves resistant to those words.

As each person finishes speaking, we allow time in contemplation to take in what has been said and to be sure we have truly heard it. This is an opportunity to identify our resonances and resistances before the next person speaks.

As we listen, we may become mindful of a pattern emerging that reflects the movement of the Spirit among us.

Clearness Committees

A Clearness Committee is created when one or more individuals who are seeking clearness ask three or four other Friends to join with them in a spirit of worship, listening, and loving concern. Anyone can request a clearness committee from the meeting that he or she attends.

Traditionally, clearness committees involved consideration of a concern that might be brought formally under a meeting's care and discernment, such as a request for membership or marriage. In these cases, clearness is sought on behalf of both the meeting and the individual(s). (See the sections on Membership and Marriage.)

Clearness committees may also be used to test personal decisions or transitions. The clearness process may be used to discern the nature of a call to public ministry or witness, whether there is a leading of the Spirit, what faithfulness requires, and whether way is open for responding. This process may reveal that submitting the leading to the meeting's care and accountability would be empowering.

Clearness is a collective process of discerning the leadings of the Inward Light. The process is simple. Members of the committee ask questions that might help the seeker's own discernment – without offering advice, sharing personal anecdotes, or counseling. Testing for clearness is a spiritual exercise. It requires a spirit of openness and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A clearness process that has been favored by the movement of the Spirit may produce an unexpected or surprising outcome.

Other Quaker Organizations

Introduction

Over the course of the last hundred years, dozens of Quaker organizations have grown up to provide service to Friends and to promote Friends' values in the wider world. OVYM has made financial contributions to many, and members of OVYM meetings have been involved in many more. A few of the larger and more influential organizations are listed below. Further information about Quaker organizations can be found on their websites.

Friends Journal

Quakers have been publishing fliers, pamphlets, and tracts since the 1650s. Periodicals became particularly important to the North American Friends in the nineteenth century as Quakers settled across the continent and visitation by traveling ministers became more difficult. With the separations of the 1820s and later, Friends in different branches produced publications to serve their own members. Two of these were published by Friends in the two Philadelphia Yearly Meetings: *The Friends Intelligencer* (Hicksite) and *The Friend* (Orthodox). After these meetings reunited in 1955, these were laid down and *Friends Journal* was created as an independent organization, "for the purpose of promoting religious concerns of the Religious Society of Friends and the education and information of its members and others by means of the written or spoken word." In 2015, the Journal had readers in all 50 states and more than 40 other countries.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Originally named Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, this organization was established in 1987. A workshop was held at the FGC Gathering that year on the importance of living in harmony with the earth and with all of God's creation. Its name was officially changed to

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) in 2003. Although it started at an FGC gathering, the organization works across Quaker branches.

QEW's purpose is to call on all people to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. The organization works to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right; and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. It promotes these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating its message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

Equality

God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:11

And God hath put no such difference between the Male and Female as men would make.

Margaret Fell, Women's Speaking Justified, 1666

To consider mankind otherwise than brethren, to think favors are peculiar to one nation and exclude others, plainly supposes a darkness in the understanding. For as God's love is universal, so where the mind is sufficiently influenced by it, it begets a likeness of itself and the heart is enlarged towards all men.

John Woolman, Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes, 1754

The roots of racial prejudice lie deep within us, and in seeking a solution to the evil results of racial tensions we need to search our own hearts. Our belief in the significance of every individual in the sight of God and his need for an abundant life can guide us even when we shrink before the vastness of the problem.

1952 Proceedings of London Yearly Meeting

Early Friends based their treatment of others on scripture and continuing revelation. In the Bible, they saw that God created and cares for all humans equally. Continuing revelation led Quakers to see that believing in spiritual equality carries implications for how we live our outward lives.

There is that of God in all people and we believe each person has equal access to the divine. This fundamental belief led early Friends to appreciate women's spiritual gifts and to reject practices designed to maintain distinctions among social classes. Friends came to recognize that no one could justly hold another in slavery. We are also coming to realize how such unjust inequities are maintained by an unequal distribution of wealth and resources – an inequality that many Friends benefit from. Living out the testimonies requires re-examination in each era. We believe humble, faithful discernment in community will reveal what love requires of us.

In recent decades, Friends have also come to reject other forms of inequality. In particular, many straight Friends stood with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends in calling for full equality for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, and for the elimination of legal barriers to full equality.

Most Friends in OVYM have benefited from unearned, often unacknowledged and unrecognized privileges. It is easy to be lulled into believing racism and unearned privilege have been overcome. This can render Friends oblivious to the ways such attitudes influence

behavior. Facing these uncomfortable realities and assumptions can reveal hidden, unfair, and harmful biases.

To be faithful, Friends must be willing to confront anything in our lives, in our religious society, and in the surrounding culture that unjustly holds one person up and holds another back. We need to live up to our understanding that all are equally children of God. Our calling as Friends is to seek more Light in ourselves and others and let that guide us in testifying to equality by our lives.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Report

Quaker Earthcare Witness has monthly online meetings for the Steering Committee and two conferences each year. I attended the October 2015 conference at Ben Lomond Quaker Retreat Center near San Jose California, but was unable to attend the Spring 2016 conference in Chicago. Two presentations at the October conference were particularly inspiring. One was about planting a flower garden specifically to attract pollinators. QEW supported this project with a \$500 grant. A second presentation was about how many legislative acts in the state of California have helped improve the air quality even with continued economic growth and increased vehicles on the road. This is significant good news as the state of California is the seventh largest economy in the world.

The on-line newsletter, Befriending Creation provides a forum for Quaker environmentalists; that newsletter published a poem I wrote about air travel, and the list of personal lifestyle change strategies. My QEW project will be on display at OVYM; it is a laundry line of strategies for a greener lifestyle. QEW is a group of highly intellectual environmentalists who discuss decisions with great care before coming to unity. The FWCC Sustainability Minute developed in January at the Pisac Peru FWCC Plenary is still under discussion by QEW following presentation of the minute at the Spring conference.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

From November 12-15, 2015, nearly 500 Quakers and other like-minded individuals gathered in Washington D.C. at the Washington Court Hotel for the Annual Meeting and lobbying effort. Representatives from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting meetings included Ken Bordwell, Christopher Hawley, Frank Huss, and Paul Kriese.

The lobbying effort last year had been re-branded and expanded into the Quaker Public Policy Institute (QPPI). QPPI took place on Thursday and Friday, the 12th and 13th. The lobbying group overall was much larger than in previous years, with nearly a dozen FCNL reps from Ohio visiting both Senators' offices, and several Ohio Congress members' offices. Representatives from Indiana likewise met with some of their representatives.

The remainder of the weekend involved business meetings, reports from committees, inspirational speakers, award presentations, worship sharing, fellowship with other Quakers, and was capped with a gently programmed and very moving worship service on Sunday morning.

On a more local level and more recently, inspired by the Columbus, OH FCNL Grassroots Lobbying team, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, in 2016, have developed their own FCNL Grassroots lobbying teams. We have lobbied with FCNL's guidance on the subjects of civil discourse in Congress, on global warming, and now on reducing mass incarceration. There are active bills in both the Senate and the House on these subjects, and they have broad bipartisan support. We are supporting each other for writing letters to the editor, many lobby

visits at the local offices of our elected representatives, as well as phone calls and texts to and from Washington D.C. A contact number for information to form your own team would be Mary Anne Curtiss, Community Friends Meeting 513 751-1047.

Teen Activity Committee Report

This year marked several changes in the teen committee. After several years of great service to yearly meeting and to almost a generation of Quaker teens Carol Simmons stepped down. We thank Carol profusely for her many years of excellent service. The teen committee worked with other members of yearly meeting to discuss possible changes in the structure of the teen secretary particularly the idea of combining the long unfilled position of secretary for middle youth which was a 1/5 position with the 2/5 position of teen secretary to have a half time position of youth secretary. This larger committee drafted a revised description of the responsibilities of the youth secretary and distributed it as widely as we could. We received two strong applicants for the position and we recommended Jason Dean. Jason was approved as the youth secretary by Executive Committee and immediately began planning for yearly meeting. In the next year Jason will take on the task of revitalizing the youth group. We hope to have Jason and perhaps another member of the youth committee visit every member of the yearly meeting.

Audit Committee Report

The two person audit committee met and reviewed OVYM's financial books for 2015 on Seventh Day, Eleventh Month, 2015. Despite our reduced number, we were able to review all of the categories. We also reconciled the bank statement to the checkbook successfully.

There were only three areas where we had difficulty verifying amounts. The teen trip, as you can imagine, was difficult to audit and was lacking some receipts. There was one receipt missing from the Yearly Sessions, connected to a field trip. And, as always, the area of Travel, both donated and reimbursed, presented several challenges.

Overall, we believe that the financial statement accurately reflects the reality of OVYM's money matters.

Earthcare Committee Report

Since the 2015 yearly meeting, Earthcare Committee has met twice. In November, we met at North Meadow Meeting, welcoming new member Jane Stowe. On June 11 we again met for the day outdoors, as in previous years, at Oldenburg, Indiana. The beauty of the day and the land deepened our sense of Divine Presence as we reflected on how we are called to serve this yearly meeting.

As in recent years we continue our concern about our industrial economic activity that creates the growing climate crisis and continued unraveling of Earth's life support communities. We recall our yearly meeting resolution last year to divest all investments in corporations involved in fossil fuel extraction "as soon as reasonably possible". This brings us into membership with a growing global divestment movement. Part of our resolution was to publicize our divestment action to invite more response by fossil fuel corporations.

So one member published an article in the Quill, and another submitted an article to Friends Journal that is being considered. We are seeking other ways to share our divestment action with fellow Friends as well as others. Our checking account at First Merchant's Bank, Muncie Indiana, was the only fund as of this writing in June was still possibly invested in

fossil fuel companies. We are still in process of researching this as well as a more appropriate location if needed.

A new focus we feel led to is “reconnecting with neighbors and the land”. A loss of neighborly connection, a connection which includes shared work to meet life needs from the local land community, seems basic to the increasing alienation contributing over many decades in industrial countries to our world’s ecological crisis. Our table displays, two interest groups and a workshop invite reflection on personal and meeting steps that might contribute to the healing of lost connection.

Marjorie Isaacs attended the Friends World Committee on Consultation meeting in Peru in January. She helped shape their minute “Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth”. It asks all yearly meetings to initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability in the following 12 months, and to minute and share their progress. We invite you to read the minute (online or from our table) to possibly inspire your proposals. One action might include a way to further publicize our divestment action.

Please talk with me or other members about your questions, projects, and suggestions regarding the Earthcare Committee and its work.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report

The general purpose of the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The work of the FWCC goes on throughout the year, and representatives of the FWCC have typically met every three years (“triennials”). This January, over 320 Quakers from 37 countries, 77 Yearly Meetings, 8 independent Monthly Meetings, and 2 worship groups, speaking dozens of languages met in Pisac, Peru for nine days. We considered the theme “Living the transformation: creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19).” We worshipped together in diverse ways, held Bible study, sang together, held business meetings, participated in home groups that met daily to discuss the theme of the Plenary, and participated in workshops. The Plenary was a time of spiritual deepening and forming of strong bonds among participants.

Arising from one of the consultation groups at Pisac, the Plenary approved a Sustainability Minute which can be accessed here: <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary>

Among the changes that are occurring in the FWCC are a gradual change to an all-volunteer-driven organization and a change in its constitution calling for all-section meetings to occur about every ten years.

FWCC Section of the Americas has a new strategic plan which can be accessed here: http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/images/FWCCSOA_STRATPLAN_2020.pdf

FWCC Americas also has a Traveling Ministries Corps which is accepting applications through September 30, 2016. Information about the Traveling Ministries Corps can be found here: http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/programs/visitation.shtml The next meeting of the Section of the Americas will be in March, 2017.

FWCC invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate World Quaker Day (WQD) on October 2, 2016. The theme, “Inspired by Faith - Witnessing Together in the World,” focuses on FWCC's mission of Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures and Changing Lives. This is an opportunity to connect with Friends worldwide and

to share the Quaker experience via the press and social media. Information about World Quaker Day can be found at <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

Your meeting can get involved with the work of FWCC by donating through your meeting or personal contributions, subscribing to the FWCC digital newsletter and consulting its website, implementing some of the suggested practices in the Sustainability Minute, or participating in World Quaker Day.

Letter from FWCC General Secretary

To Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

July 2016

Dear Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting,

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:-12-15

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office.

All of us in the World Office in London extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting, covered in God's love. May your gathering be blessed by visitors from other yearly meetings or other parts of the world. Understanding how our Quaker brothers and sisters in different parts of the world are carrying forward their witness broadens our own sense of our work at home.

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends together both literally and virtually, both at the local level and at the world level. "Connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives," we build understanding across cultures, languages, and theological diversity. We bring Friends together who have similar passions in order to strengthen the Quaker voice in the world.

Many Friends live and worship in isolated or small communities. We all need the wider family of Friends to nurture us. FWCC provides the means for Friends to stay in contact with each other. Our International Membership program embraces isolated individual Friends and worship groups and monthly meetings. We pray that your yearly meeting may decide to send visitors to other yearly meetings, especially to those of different worship traditions.

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our web site and Facebook page. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support Robin Mohr in her work as Section Secretary of the Section of the Americas. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

In January, representatives from 77 yearly meetings and from 37 different countries gathered in Pisac, Peru, for the 2016 World Plenary Meeting of FWCC. We considered the theme *Living the Transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)*. We heard ministry about transformation and Friends continue to write about the life-changing experience of being together in worship, being held in God's transformative love.

FWCC is very grateful for the support yearly meetings gave to Friends who felt ready to travel and engage with other Friends in this important way. It feeds us all. And we appreciate

the yearly meeting's continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends. It happens at all levels!

With a commitment to bringing youth to the World Plenary Meeting, 90 young adult Friends were among us, enriching discussion on topics affecting the future of the Religious Society of Friends and amplifying the Quaker voice in the world. Four consultations were held on developing leadership and ministry; strengthening our worshipping communities; furthering the Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice and considering how we contribute to a peaceful and sustainable life on Earth; and equipping FWCC. We attach the Sustainability Minute, drawing your attention to the call for yearly meeting action. Please let us know what you are doing or considering across time.

We post all epistles we receive so that all Friends have access. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

We hope that you will remember you are part of a larger family, very diverse, yet joined by its common heritage, testimonies, and faith.

We thank you, Friends, for your faithful support of our work.

FWCC Representative Report

Good morning Friends,

My name is Anne Hutchinson, of Oxford Monthly Meeting. My written report is on page 44 of the Reports in Advance. I will not reiterate the points made in the written report, but rather the focus of my talk will be the spiritual aspect of my experience at the Plenary. However, I would like to lift up the Sustainability Minute which was created and approved at the Plenary. There is a link to the Minute in my report, and it can also be accessed at FWCC's website.

Dear Friends, when I was the focus person of a clearness committee last fall around the idea of my going to the Plenary, I lifted up the ideas of service connected to my participation, forming friendships in the wider world of Quakers, and “changing my mind,” in the sense of intellectual renewal. Some of those things happened, and I was changed in unexpected ways as well: in heart and in spirit. One of the committee members quoted Teilhard de Chardin: “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” There was joy at the Plenary in Pisac.

The journey required a lot of preparation and entailed certain hardships. When, after having travelled for almost two days, I finally reached the airport at Cuzco and was warmly embraced by a Bolivian Friend, all the difficulties of the trip seemed to be worthwhile. Yet, I am keenly aware that the hardships I encountered paled in contrast with those encountered by others.

The environment of Peru is startlingly beautiful, yet many of its people live in poverty. I was constantly reminded of my relative privilege, yet also of the different kinds of poverty and wealth, material and spiritual, that exist. I was intrigued to learn about the deep connections ancient Andeans cultivated with the world, indeed, the cosmos, and for whom time and space were sacred. I can truly say that the time and space at Plenary were sacred.

We met in silent and in vocal worship, Bible study, singing, fellowship, meals, home groups, workshops, business meetings, and interest groups—not to forget the marvelous talent show! I had the opportunity to meet and get acquainted with Friends from around the world, and from a diversity of theological groups. Several times during vocal ministry and musical ministry, the happiness of being gathered with Friends or hearing about suffering and

overcoming tragedy moved me to tears. Particularly meaningful to me was singing and hearing the story behind the hymn "It is Well with My Soul." The author of the hymn, Horatio Spafford, underwent financial ruin due to the Chicago fire and the loss of five children before being inspired to write the hymn.

At the Plenary, I learned to love the divine and the eternal as embodied in other people even if at times we did not share a common language, and to hear with the ears of the heart. In that safe space, I felt able to be open and vulnerable for the sake of Spirit. In the words of Paul, to "walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Rom. 8:4). I have come to believe that the Quaker community is a proving ground where, accompanying each other in joy and in sorrow, we can learn how to love our neighbors.

FWCC Sustainability Minute

IRM 16-20. Sustainability. The Consultation on Sustainability, facilitated by Jonathan Woolley (Mexico City MM/Pacific YM; Staff, QUNO-Geneva), Rachel Madenyika (Staff, QUNO-NY), and Charlotte Gordon (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM) have presented a minute for our consideration:

Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth

The Light of Christ has inspired Quakers throughout the generations. As we gather together in Pisac, Peru in 2016, we feel this light stronger than ever in our calling to care for the Earth on which we live. It is calling us from all traditions: programmed, unprogrammed, liberal, and evangelical. It calls us to preserve this Earth for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations to come, working as though life were to continue for 10,000 years to come. *Be ready for action with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight. (Luke 12:35, Revised English Bible)*

Our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth. We see that our misuse of the Earth's resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for stewardship of our natural world. We love this world as God's gift to us all. Our hearts are crying for our beloved mother Earth, who is sick and in need of our care.

We are at a historical turning point. Internationally, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals oblige governments to take action. Faith groups and other civil society are playing a major role. As Quakers, we are part of this movement. The FWCC World Conference approved the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in April 2012, while the FWCC World Office was a signatory to the Quaker statement on climate change in 2014 and divested from fossil fuels in June 2015.

We recognise that the environmental crisis is a symptom of a wider crisis in our political and economic systems. Our loving and well informed environmental actions as Friends, consistent with our spiritual values, must therefore work to transform these systems.

Many of us all over the Quaker world are taking practical actions as individuals and communities. At this Plenary, a consultation of more than sixty Friends from all over the world worked to build on these leadings with further practical action. The Annex attached to these minutes shows examples of what Friends are doing already or propose to do.

We must redouble our efforts right now. We must move beyond our individual and collective comfort zones and involve the worldwide Quaker community and others of like mind. Just as

Jesus showed us, real change requires us to challenge ourselves to be effective instruments of change. We can do more.

On recommendation of this Consultation, and after some discussion, we adopt the following minute:

In this effort for sustainability, and mindful of the urgency of this work, this Plenary asks the FWCC World Office and Central Executive Committee to:

1. **Invest FWCC World funds ethically.**
2. **Share Quaker experiences with other faith groups** to inspire them to action, especially through the World Council of Churches.
3. **Seek ways of connecting Friends worldwide that are sustainable.**
4. **Facilitate dissemination of training materials on sustainability issues** for Quaker leaders, pastors and teachers.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting also asks all Yearly Meetings to:

1. **Initiate at least two concrete actions** on sustainability within the next 12 months. These may build on existing projects of individuals or monthly meetings or they may be new initiatives. We ask that they encourage Young Friends to play key roles. We ask that meetings minute the progress and results, so as to share them with FWCC and Quaker meetings.
2. **Support individuals and groups in their meetings** who feel called to take action on sustainability.
3. **Support the work done by Quaker organisations** such as the Quaker United Nations Office and the Quaker Council for European Affairs to ensure that international agreements and their implementation support sustainability.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting asks individual Friends and groups (such as Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and ad hoc groups within Meetings) to **Share inspiring experiences of living sustainably** on the new “sustainability webpage” of the Quakers in the World Website (<http://www.quakersintheworld.org/>). This webpage can be used as a source of ideas, inspiration and action.

Annex to the Minute: Possibilities for practical sustainability action from the Pisac consultation

Individuals can:

1. Dedicate personal time to nature.
2. Reduce consumption and use your consumer buying power to create change.
3. Cut down on meat consumption, be aware of energy costs in production and transport of all foods and methane from ruminant animals, support sustainable agriculture.
4. Travel – cycle, walk, use public transport or alternatives to private cars, keep air travel to a minimum.
5. Grow your own food and plant trees.
6. Be politically active in promoting sustainability concerns.
7. Share environmental concerns through books, publications, conversations, electronic media

8. Reduce energy use.
9. Use less water and harvest water.
10. Make time for spiritual connection with God.

Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and small groups within Meetings can:

1. Live in a community, share housing, participate in a transition town movement.
2. Educate yourself and others.
3. Share transport and equipment.
4. Develop urban agriculture, community gardens, community supported agriculture, tree planting.
5. Love nature and encourage others to do so: we protect the things we love; get children out in nature; take care of nature around your meeting house (e.g., picking up trash/litter).
6. Invest ethically and divest from fossil fuels.
7. Ensure meeting houses are carbon neutral.
8. Build alliances, seek visibility, approach legislators.
9. Share sustainability skills.

Yearly Meetings can:

1. Support the sustainability actions of Monthly Meetings.
2. Build solidarity with local people.
3. Support Quakers in politics and international work.
4. Form support networks and alliances to make more impact – we can only do so much on our own.
5. Invest ethically, including on sustainability issues.
6. Practice what we preach.
7. Discern and move concerns to action.
8. Set targets for increased sustainability.
9. Connect and share with other YMs, direct or via FWCC Sections and World Office

We recognise that different actions are relevant to different Quaker meetings in different parts of the world.

William Penn House

William Penn House is one of the best kept secrets in Washington, D.C. It provides bed and breakfast for amounts lower than anywhere else in D.C. It is a Quaker witness in D.C. William Penn House is blocks from The Capitol, The Library of Congress, and many other D.C. places. It hosts many meetings between people in government discussing issues of national import. It hosts high school and college students and is a place for them to base their seminars about D.C. and its workings. It is a place where work camps are organized. The House provides a daily Meeting for Worship. It is also a bed and breakfast for delegates from Yearly Meetings who come to D.C. for the annual FCNL meetings. Those who come for FCNL are provided a room the night before the sessions and breakfast that morning in time for people to go cross town for the FCNL meetings

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) Report

Friends Peace Teams are units of facilitators who are able to mobilize local, indigenous peoples to self-initiate action to bring peace and harmony to communities where there is violence and hostility.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) grew out of discussion group at the 1993 FGC gathering at Stillwater, OK on the plight of Bosnia, then a newly formed country under attack by its neighbors in the former Yugoslavia. The group resulted in a Quaker consultation in 1994, which instituted FPT. In the years since teams have created networks of cooperative individuals and groups in villages, towns, and cities in Central Africa, Central America, and stretches from the western Pacific archipelagoes to Nepal and Bhutan. Teams support Friends with leadings to work in peacemaking and reconciliation efforts. They also conduct Healing and Reconciling Our Communities (HROC), Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), and trauma healing Workshops and develop partners and facilitators for these.

Currently the FPT umbrella includes three “initiatives”: The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) begun in 1998, Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) begun in 2009, and the Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWPI) begun in 2012.

AWPI, begun by Nadine Hoover, works in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sumatra, Java, and Nepal. It has seen breakthroughs in producing ceramic water filters in partnership with Society of Health, Education, Environment and Peace (SHEEP) – Indonesia. Recently the SHEEP lab produced filters that achieved 98.6 percent clean water. This technological innovation combined microbiology and ceramic research to produce inexpensive water filters in regions notorious for unclean and unhealthy water supplies. In addition, AWPI continued its peace training of people and developing facilitators to use the AVP materials.

PLA, begun by Val Liveoak, works in Columbia as well as in Central America. It has conducted workshops in conjunction with such groups as Co-Madres, an organization in El Salvador that supports family members of the “disappeared”; Plan International, a child-centered community development organization working to promote and protect children’s rights; Maryknoll Lay Missioners who work with youth and adolescents in communities of high risks and violence; *Comunidad La Esperanza*, a free middle school for at risk youth in Guatemala; *Colegio Los Amigos*, a Quaker school in Guatemala; American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Guatemala Village Health; *Misericordia Tejadoras de Sueños*, a woman’s empowerment group funded by the Sisters of Mercy in Honduras; and *Proyecto Paz y Justicia*, a program of the Mennonite Peace and Justice Project. All told, PLA has conducted 53 workshops with 831 participants. Val has resigned as Coordinator, effective in September 2016, and will be replaced by Monica Maher.

The African Great Lakes Initiative, the oldest of the FPT initiatives, was begun by David Zarembuka. It has established communal networks in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya. Along with AVP workshops, the initiative conducts many HROC 3-day workshops. A Burundi government education agency has asked HROC to conduct 40 workshops in the 27 high schools in Bujumbura. HROC is also conducting Peace Dialogues supported by AFSC and a citizen reporter project funded by the Carter Center. Workshops have also been requested for Uganda settlements by the American Refugee Committee and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

More stories and information are available from various websites. The url's for the various initiatives are: FPT= www.friendspeaceteams.org, AGLI= www.aglifpt.org, PLA =www.PLA@FriendsPeaceTeams.org, and AWP = www.fpt-awp.org.

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

FGC is a long-standing resource organization for associated yearly and monthly meetings. As you will see in the Epistle below, it is going through a multi-year reorganization to do its work within its annual revenues. Part of that has been and will be about staff reductions, more reliance on enhanced web-based resources and more volunteer work in delivering direction and specific details for people looking for help.

The takeaway for OVYM's representatives was generally positive about this effort. While some very dedicated and creative staff were released, the core of most programs and the important learnings from staff-supported implementations in the past few years of programs and content like QuakerQuest, New Meetings, RE, etc. are being moved online. The more challenging work now is to find volunteers out in the yearly meetings and monthly meetings who have actually participated in using the programs in their meetings and would be available by phone or direct arrangements to answer questions and put in the critical details for new users.

This last piece is the most exciting shift in focus. FGC wants to become—again, perhaps—an active network for connecting people and meetings who have their own successes with others who need some help and ideas. Over the next years, one part of this effort will entail FGC yearly meeting visitors to ask more than which of these programs of FGC could be of help. They will ask what problem have you found a solution for that others might use.

The reorganization and its associated pain and discomfort will continue through this year, but long-term, it will make FGC's roles and offerings better focused on tapping all meetings' hard-won wisdom and creativity.

Epistle from Central Committee of FGC-- October 24, 2015

This weekend, over 130 Friends from fifteen yearly meetings and several directly affiliated monthly meetings gathered at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland, to discern the future direction of Friends General Conference. We had hard choices to make. We had hoped to be talking about extending and expanding our programs. Instead, we spent the weekend deciding how to strengthen our fiscal foundations in the wake of a feasibility study that lifted up questions about how we use our resources.

We have come to realize that Friends General Conference cannot continue to rely on infusions of wealth from periodic fundraising campaigns, and must learn to make do with what comes in each year to our annual fund, supplemented by prudent spending from our reserves. Although this lesson has been a painful one, we feel confident in moving forward that we are approaching solid ground. We have agreed on program cuts that will bring us closer to a balanced budget, and are committed to living into a long-term sustainable budget. We know that the process of periodically pruning programs and refining goals is normal and natural, and we have seen other Quaker organizations go through a similar process in the past few years.

We have chosen to focus on three main goals: fostering and nourishing collaboration among yearly and monthly meetings, growing and strengthening the Religious Society of Friends, and fostering more inclusive community. We are regretfully laying down our traveling

ministries program, and will be unable to continue Quaker Quest and New Meetings, which were funded by grants that have now run out. We will be discontinuing our self-publishing program, QuakerBridge. Couple Enrichment, which has been under FGC's care for 47 years, will continue as a largely independent project. We have approved these changes with a heavy heart, understanding the impact they will have on our committees and our beloved staff.

Nevertheless, we face the future with faith and hope. Most of the services offered by FGC are still available to Friends, as are the resources developed by past programs. QuakerBooks required less of a subsidy than expected this year and seems to be going strong in its new premises at Pendle Hill. In addition to the traditional book tables, it is partnering with Quaker and Fair Trade vendors to offer new kinds of merchandise. Our new Spiritual Deepening program will soon be available to monthly meetings everywhere. The Quaker Cloud is beginning to reach its potential as a Quaker web collaborative, responsive to Quaker needs, and is providing services to a growing number of meetings. The FGC Gathering this past summer attracted far more Friends than expected, and our 2016 Gathering in St. Joseph, Minnesota promises to be just as wonderful. Our diversity work also continues, and we are actively preparing for the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia in 2016 as part of the hosting team. This year at Central Committee, we devoted an evening to exploring and reflecting on the continuing destructive impact of the Doctrine of Discovery, and the efforts that are being made by people of faith, including a number of our yearly and monthly meetings, to have it renounced.

As the governing body of Friends General Conference, we are committed to shepherding FGC to a sustainable future, so that it can serve the Religious Society of Friends for years to come. We might think of FGC as a blanket of many colors, knitted by many hands. Though some colors of yarn are added over time, and others dropped, the work is never lost, and the blanket warms us all. We have been humbled and strengthened by our experience this weekend, and look forward to faithfully carrying forward the work and ministry of Friends General Conference.

Children's Epistle

Greetings to Young Friends Everywhere,

The Children at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met in July at Earlham College. We focused on the theme of One in Spirit; Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society. We discussed how to include each other when we play. We discussed Bayard Rustin and how he made himself included during a time when many people were excluded from activities. The children could see the racism in the behavior of the people in the story. We learned that being included means appreciating the differences in each other. We discovered the many gifts that each person in our group owns.

We shared our concerns. We are concerned about the upcoming election. We also want to help the homeless animals. We thought a lot about how we treat each other and we realized that when another person is putting you down it might be because they don't feel good about themselves.

We welcomed the adults who shared their talents of craft and music. We were able to meditate and find our safe place. We sang and moved and became connected through music. We talked about what happens and what you can do during meeting for worship. We opened up to others through our clay designs and puppets.

Our message to you is "Love for all, Hate for none."

Love from the children (ages 7-10) of OVYM July 2016

Middle Youth Epistle

To Friends Everywhere,

We are the middle youth at the 2016 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions. Nine young Friends attended.

We spent five days together. We went to an animal center, rafting, made ice cream, and did a skit for the variety show. Michael Birkel talked to us about Islam and how to make words beautiful with calligraphy. Alice Robrish told us about ceramics and helped us make penguins.

We met God on the rafting trip and we felt love for each other. We had a business meeting to decide how to live with each other as a community. And we felt connected to the whole meeting at the variety show.

We encourage more youth to come to next year's yearly meeting and spend time together.

Teen Epistle

On Thursday night, Ian Murray and Caleb Murray joined up with Isaac Snediker-Morscheck, who had arrived the previous day. Isaac had joined the Middle Youth program until the Murray brothers rescued him from those mere Quaker pupae (lovely young Friends). The three of us formed the teen group. On Thursday night, we all listened to Michael Birkel's plenary speech on "Hospitality among Religious Communities". We all found Michael to be an intelligent and funny speaker, and Ian got to ask him a question. On Friday morning we embarked on the rafting trip, and began downriver at about 10:00. We battled a group of frog monsters with our inner light, before flying off into space riding on our rafts. **What actually happened** was that we made it about 8 miles downriver, returning at around 3:00. That night, we listened to Niyonu Spann give a plenary speech on "Trusting the Broken Heart", which was inspiring and made many good points. Later that night, Isaac went on a family trip to Maine, reducing us down to two teens. The next morning, we went to the athletic center for swimming and basketball, with the Middle Youth. That afternoon, a group of Puritans returned to try us for heresy, but we narrowly escaped and avoided hanging due to our quick wits and inner light. **What actually happened:** We went to the workshops, with Caleb and Ian both going to the "Quaker Social Change Ministry" workshop, at the Wilkinson Theater stage. After dinner, we returned to the Wilkinson for the variety show, which had many highlights, including French Jabberwocky, the Togami sisters singing, and of course, Steve Angel as Beyoncé. We participated in the Middle Youth skit, which was a Quaker take on the classic Romeo and Juliet narrative. We went to bed shortly thereafter, and wrote this epistle at 9:30 this morning. This is a message from the OVYM Teens with passion for what you do and love for one another.

2016 OVYM Epistle

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met for our 196th Annual Sessions on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from July 27 to July 31, 2016. We considered the theme, "One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society." As we gathered, we joyfully celebrated the harmony we find in lifting our voices

together. However, we also listened to hear which voices might be missing in our yearning to create a more inclusive community.

In our business sessions, we considered some challenges we are facing, including difficulty with staffing several committees, and lack of participation by some of our monthly meetings in Yearly Meeting activities this year. Another serious concern laid before us is that Quaker Heights Care Community, the largest ministry of our Yearly Meeting, is operating at a deficit, which may result in the need to affiliate with another faith based organization.

However, there were also many reminders that the Spirit is prospering among us. We were encouraged and joyful to learn that the Yearly Meeting has hired a new Youth Secretary, with expanded responsibility for leading activities and events for both teens and middle youth throughout the year. We were also encouraged to see the faces of many young adult Friends among us this year. A clear leading came to plan for a program of intervisitation to reach out to monthly meetings that are not active in the Yearly Meeting, to build connections and increase engagement. In considering our budget priorities for the future, we entered a worship sharing process out of which came suggestions for ways to strengthen bonds and nurture our youth, and also a prophetic call that we are being made anew and transformed by the Holy Spirit.

We approved a number of new and revised sections of our *Book of Faith & Practice* in a more streamlined procedure, including sections on our testimonies of Integrity, Simplicity, Community, and Equality and a section on Listening to the Spirit. We worked faithfully together on the draft of the section on Equality in light of the inward work we are still undertaking to become more sensitive to racial injustice, and we felt divinely led in this process. Our goal is to complete the *Faith & Practice* revision process by 2018.

One of our Plenary Speakers, Michael Birkel, shared his experience of Religious Hospitality as a guest among Muslims, following a leading to learn about Islam. He shared some meaningful texts from the Qur'an such as "Wherever you turn, you shall see the face of God," and "Common kindness is a sacred duty." We learned that in Islam, as in Quakerism, prayer, meditation, and reflection are believed to open us up to a sense of beauty and sensitivity to injustice. We were encouraged to talk with our neighbors about their religion, because encountering other religious communities can change and enrich our lives.

Niyonu Spann spoke to us on "Trusting the Broken Heart" as a path of transformation to find our way to wholeness and healing. We learned that we must see beyond the illusion of the existing structures of oppression that separate us in order to truly acknowledge and appreciate one another. Through an exercise of speaking and listening in small groups, we were given a safe opportunity to be very honest about the pain we experience from the violence and division in our present world. Niyonu asked us to consider that to be truly inclusive and whole, we must open our arms wider, even when our hearts are breaking. When we lean on a deeper promise: God will assist us in being transformed and healed.

Our time together gave us many opportunities to reconnect over shared meals, singing, workshops and interest groups. In worship sharing sessions we had the opportunity to share more deeply and personally in small groups about our own interfaith experiences and ways to become a more inclusive community. At a memorial meeting we remembered and celebrated the lives of Friends we lost in the past year. At our annual Variety Show, we shared poetry, music, lively skits, laughter and tears.

We now return to our daily lives with opened hearts and outstretched arms, to live into a deeper understanding of loving inclusion. We have heard the call that we are being made anew, that God is transforming us. We know that the same deep mystery beckons and connects us all. We are called into holy encounters, the giving and receiving of hospitality, and listening with the heart past the illusions and boundaries that divide us. We are invited to heal, to reconnect, to share the hidden treasures that are desiring to be known, and to recognize and remember that we are whole.

Middle Youth Committee Report

The Middle Youth Committee, consisting of Rachel Moore, Charles Moore, and Richard Mitchell met during annual sessions and conducted business via email this year. We were blessed to have Michele Tomarelli join our committee when I asked for more help from the Executive committee and we greatly appreciate her service. We organized programs for middle schoolers during yearly meeting for 2016 and did not do any planned activities outside of yearly meeting for the 2015-16 year. The number of youth has been small, which makes group dynamics challenging. But we are happy to have had some wonderful additions from young people moving up from the children's program.

During yearly meeting in 2015, we had a very successful session at yearly meeting despite the clerk being absent for one of the days and less available. This shows that our staff were really stepping up and taking strong leadership and the committee thanks them profusely. One of the programming choices was a service project and visit to the COPE environmental center along with the teens. The middle youth were very engaged with learning about the ecosystem and with the use of technology to limit human impact on the environment, such as the process for making their own biodiesel. Moments like these make working with our youth programs inspiring.

We are excited that the Yearly Meeting has shown their support of the Middle Youth program by making the position of Teen Secretary into a Youth Secretary who will work with both the teens and the middle youth. This will help ease the burden on the Middle Youth committee and we hope it will add energy and more opportunities for our middle youth to get together outside of Yearly Meeting.

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!

Administrative Secretary Report

The Yearly Meeting is a treasure for all of us to enjoy and tend. I'm fortunate to get paid to care for some of the "nuts and bolts" of our body: compiling, copying, coordinating, and contacting. If I can help your committee with any of these tasks, just ask. I always look forward to a "great people to be gathered" at our reunion at annual sessions and will pray for an enriching time together.

Registrar's Report

Registrar's 2016 Report OVYM 196th Session

		Meals			Beds
		B'f	Lun	Din	
Registration	\$ 3,750.00				
Meal Income	\$ 11,010.00	Wed	0	0	75
Housing Income	\$ 11,472.00	Thu	72	98	91
Gift Income	\$ 2,750.00	Fri	93	104	101
	<u>\$ 28,982.00</u>	Sat	100	106	98
Discounts	\$ 8,783.00	Sun	88	95	0

	Discounts				
	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
Youth @100%	41	31	30	24	18
YAF @50%	9	13	12	22	11
Staff @100%	15	13	13	15	13
New @50%	18	13	12	17	9

	Young Friends				
	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
0-6 Children	2	1	3	3	2
7-10 Youth	17	9	7	6	4
11-14 MY	5	5	10	7	8
15-18 Teen	18	18	10	8	4
19-35 YAF	13	20	16	25	16

	All Friends				
	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16
Men	x	77	77	68	58
Women	x	92	87	96	91
Registered	189	170	149	162	150
Visitors Only	18?	7?	17?	0?	25

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One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society

Executive Committee Minutes 2015-16

Executive Committee - Tenth Month 3, 2015 Business Meeting Community Friends Meetinghouse, Cincinnati, OH

- (1) **Opening Worship.** The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.
- (2) **List of Friends present.** The following Friends were in attendance:

Officers

Presiding Clerk	Rex Sprouse
Assistant Presiding Clerk	Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk	[Paul Buckley] (prevented)
Assistant Recording Clerk	(vacant)
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	(vacant)

Committee Clerks and other Representatives

Adult Young Friends	(no representative)
Auditing	(no representative)
Braddock Fund	Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance	Wilson Palmer, Ann Pellegrino
Children's Program	(no representative)
Development	(no representative)
Earthcare	(no representative)
Faith & Practice	Betsy Neale, Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth	(no representative)
Naming	David Garman
Nominating	(no representative)
Peace & Social Concerns	Richard Mitchell
Religious Nurture & Education	David Garman
Teen Activities	David Funck
Yearly Meeting Planning	Dinah Duvall

Quarterly Meetings

Miami	(no representative)
Whitewater	Paul Kriese

Monthly Meetings

Bloomington	Marci Ankrom
Campus	(no representative)
Clear Creek	David Garman
Community	Frank Huss, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Dayton	(no representative)
Eastern Hills	Wilson Palmer

Englewood	(no representative)
Fall Creek	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne	Terre Holada
Green Plain	(no representative)
Hopewell	(no representative)
Lafayette	Ann Pellegrino
Lexington	Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville	(no representative)
Miami	Lonny Burger
North Meadow	Dinah Duvall
Oxford	(no representative)
White Rose	(no representative)
Yellow Springs	Deb Kociszewski

Paid Staff

Administrative Secretary	[Deborah Jordan] (prevented)
Youth Secretary	Carol Simmons

Volunteer Staff

Statistician	Frank Huss
Web Administrator	Lonny Burger

(3) **Approval of proposed agenda.** The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved.

(4) **Treasurer’s report.** Wilson Palmer presented the Treasurer’s report, highlighting his optimism about achieving a balanced budget for FY 2015-2016. Friends accepted the report with deep gratitude.

(5) **Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry Committee report.** Wilson Palmer presented the report. On behalf of the committee, Wilson brought forward new material for section 3.7.1 of the Yearly Meeting Handbook intended to replace the section entitled “Braddock Fund Trustees” in its entirety. Friends approved the new text, which is appended to these minutes.

(6) **Faith and Practice Committee report.** Betsy Neale presented the report. On behalf of the committee, Betsy brought forward a proposal for speeding up the process of revising the Book of Faith and Practice. Friends approved the process as outlined a text, which is appended to these minutes. It was agreed that an explanation of the new process would be published in *The Quaker Quill*, and it was urged that representatives from constituent monthly meetings report on the new process to their monthly meetings.

(7) **Nominating Committee and Naming Committee.** During a period of silent worship, Executive Committee members lifted up the names of eight Friends for potential service on Nominating Committee. Friends instructed the Clerk to inform Naming Committee of this list and to request that Naming Committee contact their Friends about their willingness to serve on Nominating Committee. Naming Committee was asked to report on these inquiries at the Second Month 2016 Executive Committee meeting. It was also noted that Nominating Committee was currently critically understaffed with just one current

member, and that there were also vacancies in the offices of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Recording Clerk as well as understaffing on Teen Activities Committee.

(8) **Ad hoc Committee on the Structure of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.** Terre Holada presented the report, lifting up a number of concerns and topics for Friends to consider in the coming months. The full text of the report is appended to these minutes.

Executive Committee Friends thanked the Ad hoc Committee for bringing forward these concerns, and there was some discussion of ways that some of them might be addressed, including re-examining the working relationship between the quarterly meetings and the Executive Committee, discernment circles, and greater use of electronically mediated meetings to increase participation. Friends asked that the Ad hoc Committee continue its discernment process and to report on its progress at the Second Month 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Friends were also encouraged to share these concerns with their monthly meetings, perhaps leading to additional discussion there as well.

(9) **Budget development and timetable.** On behalf of Lafayette Friends, Ann Pellegrino brought forward a concern about the transparency of the Yearly Meeting's budget development and timetable. After the clarification and discussion of many facets of questions related to the current budget and proportional assessment, it became clear that there is a movement of the Spirit among Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends seeking greater intentionality about not just the budget, but also about the discernment and articulation of the priorities that underlie the budget. Friends agreed to take these concerns to their monthly meetings and committees for further discussion with the understanding that they will be revisited at the Second Month 2016 Executive Committee meeting. It was also agreed that Friends should stress to their Monthly Meetings the importance of the budget meeting that immediately precedes the Fourth Month Executive Committee meeting, because this is the major venue for considering significant redirection of allocations for the budget for the coming fiscal year.

(10) **Teen Activities Committee report.** David Funck presented the report, highlighting the success of the summer 2015 Teen trip to Costa Rica. Friends were referred to the OVYM Teen Facebook page for a rich array of photos from the trip. It was reported that the trip enabled the 16 participants (including some of college age) to experience and deepen many of their Quaker values. Teen Committee thanked Carol Simmons for her leadership of this unique and rewarding experience for our Teens. It was announced that Teen Activities Committee would be seeking a new Teen Secretary. A called meeting of Executive Committee might be necessary before the Second Month 2016 Executive Committee meeting to clarify issues relating to the description of Teen Secretary in the Handbook, the specifics of the contract, and the appointment of a new Teen Secretary. David lifted up the three major annual activities of the Teen Committee: The Quake that Rocks the Midwest, the summer Teen service trip in Sixth Month, and the Teen program at the Annual Sessions. Friends thanked Carol Simmons for her six years of service as Teen Secretary and recognized her gifts of the Spirit in working directly and sensitively with our Teens.

(11) **Religious Nurture and Education.** David Garman presented the report. Religious Nurture and Education proposed that the following text be added to the Yearly Meeting Handbook under the Committee's charge, in order to clarify the use of the Spiritual Nurture Fund:

[See "Guidelines for the Spiritual Nurture Fund" in the full report, below.]

Friends approved the text for inclusion in the Yearly Meeting Handbook. A full written report from Religious Nurture and Education Committee is appended to these minutes.

(12) **Childcare availability at Executive Committee meetings.** Friends approved instituting the policy of offering childcare at all Executive Committee meetings. The Yearly Meeting would assume the cost of this program. The program should be widely publicized and is intended to encourage Friends with children to attend Executive Committee meetings. The Administrative Secretary will coordinate implementation.

(13) **Closing Worship.** The meeting ended with a brief period of waiting worship.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: Second Month 6, 2016 beginning at 10:00am by conference call.

APPENDED MATERIALS

3.7.1. BRADDOCK FUND FOR PRISON MINISTRY (Rev. 09/2015)

APPOINTMENT:

Three committee members will be nominated by Nominating Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting for staggered three-year terms, renewable. If possible, one member shall be a descendant or the spouse of a descendant of Raymond and Sara Braddock. Such family member must be 21 years of age, is not required to be a member of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, but must be able and willing to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the committee.

HISTORY OF THE BRADDOCK TRUST

The Raymond W. and Sara Underwood Braddock Charitable Trust was announced at the memorial service of Raymond Braddock in April 1990. Initial donations of \$3300 were received from family members. Further donations were received, and the documents establishing a tax-exempt charitable trust under the care of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting were approved at the 1993 annual sessions.

The trust was established to provide funding for educational scholarships for recently released inmates from the Lebanon Correctional Institution, where Raymond Braddock had taught classes from 1965 to 1970, or from the Warren Correctional Institution. It was later amended to include current inmates and women.

The Trustees, including Byron Branson, Barbara Fischer, and Ramona Braddock Buck oversaw the Trust, and six scholarships were awarded to deserving applicants during the period of 1996 through 2000. By 2010 the Trust value had increased to about \$23,000.

By direction from the Braddock family, in 2014-2015 the Braddock Trust, then valued at about \$68,000, was dissolved and the funds were transferred to a new Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry, under the care of the Treasurer of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. A new committee of Wilhelmina Braddock Branson, Christine Hadley Snyder and Treasurer Wilson Palmer were named, and they were charged by the Yearly Meeting and the Braddock family to revise the Braddock Fund mission statement and to develop new policies for the administration of the fund.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Braddock Fund is to provide support for activities and projects for prison inmates that will promote their successful re-entry into their communities.

The Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry assets shall be disbursed by the Committee to:

- a. Fund scholarships for educational or vocational training for recently released inmates, upon recommendation of prison staff
- b. Fund courses, projects, and materials for inmate education and training
- c. Provide financial support to individuals, Monthly Meetings and Quaker or related organizations that are willing to carry out prison ministry to provide visitation, support, guidance, skills and education to prison inmates to prepare them for their release.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee shall meet at least annually, and meet in person or by electronic communication at other times as needed to carry out the work of the Fund. A Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk shall be appointed within the committee

The Committee shall collaborate with the OVYM Treasurer in the oversight and investment of the monies in the Fund.

The Committee shall educate themselves and the Yearly Meeting on the issues of incarceration and work to identify opportunities for prisoner ministry through the use of the Braddock Fund. It shall prepare materials on the Braddock Fund to be distributed to the Wardens or other staff members of prisons and correctional facilities.

The Committee shall encourage donations to the Braddock Fund, and prepare a brochure to be distributed to potential donors.

The Committee shall create and make available grant application forms and set criteria for funding and reporting.

The Committee shall approve the grants it deems worthy, and will instruct the OVYM Treasurer to disburse the funds as approved.

The Committee shall require periodic reports from grantees, and evaluate and minute the results of each grant.

The Committee shall provide an annual report to the Yearly Meeting of all activity.

POLICIES

Requests for funding for scholarships, projects and services in any prison facility in or near the communities where the Monthly Meetings of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are located shall be considered.

A Braddock Fund Grant Application Form, available on the OVYM website, shall be completed by each applicant and submitted to the Committee for consideration.

Grants may be requested by incarcerated individuals, prison staff, individual Quakers, Monthly Meetings, and Quaker or related organizations involved in prisoner education and rehabilitation.

Grants of up to \$3000 for one year may be requested, and renewal may be requested annually.

The Yearly Meeting Treasurer shall keep account of the Fund as a separate entity, and include such information in the annual Treasurer's Report of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The funds shall be held or invested by the Treasurer consistent with the socially responsible investment policy adopted by the Yearly Meeting.

Donations to the Braddock Fund will be made payable to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, designated for the Braddock Fund. The Treasurer shall report to the Committee any donations to the Fund, and the Committee shall record and acknowledge such donations.

EXAMPLES OF FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

The Committee will consider requests for funding the expenses incurred in providing educational courses to recently released as well as current inmates, providing library books, educational materials, mediation services and training, tutors, visitation programs, etc. It will also collaborate with and consider outright donations to other Quaker organizations that are working on prison issues, recidivism, and enhancing employability. Project grants to students in the Wilmington College degree program in Criminal Justice shall be encouraged. Programs or projects at Halfway Houses will be considered.

Rev. 09/2015

Proposal for an expedited Faith and Practice revision process

Discipline Revision Process

1978 OVYM *Book of Discipline*

“Proposals for change of discipline may originate in the Monthly Meeting, and if so, they should receive the approval of the Quarterly Meeting, and then be transmitted to the Yearly Meeting for final action; or they may originate in the Yearly Meeting itself. In this case, final action may not be taken until the following year after the proposed change has appeared in the minutes of the Yearly Meeting or has been presented in a printed form for approval.”

Faith and Practice Committee Proposal for increasing the pace of the revision process

Our proposal was developed in keeping with the guidelines in the *1978 Book of Discipline*.

Goal – Complete the revision in 3 years.

- Prioritize and focus on the topics most important to OVYM Friends; some topics that are less essential may be left for development at a later date.
- Develop a coherent book.

We ask Friends to remember that the perfect is the enemy of the good. To achieve a revised book of *Faith and Practice* in a reasonable amount of time, we must accept that text will meet the standard of adequacy to convey our faith and practices rather than a perfect expression of them.

To speed-up the process of getting feedback from monthly meetings

1. Newly written texts: Under most circumstances, each newly developed text will go through only two drafts. The first draft will be Friends’ opportunity to make suggestions for substantive changes. Draft 2, developed in consideration of this feedback, will be presented for acceptance at annual sessions. Once accepted, they will be published in the minute book to season for a year before final approval.
- The proposed schedule for this work is
 - September – November: Committee develops text and distributes it to monthly meetings
 - March: Responses from monthly meetings due back to committee
 - April: Committee develops draft 2 after consideration of feedback from monthly meetings
 - May/June: Draft 2 is published in Quill
 - July-August: Draft 2 is presented for acceptance at annual sessions
 - Texts retained (with minor changes) from the 1978 Book of Discipline: They will be printed in the Quill and brought for approval to next yearly meeting session. Texts that have not been changed will not require approval.
 - The Faith and Practice Committee will distribute larger chunks of text at a time to monthly meetings

The Committee is currently revising the working Table of Contents so that our 3-year goal will be achievable.

Religious Nurture and Education Report

The Religious Nurture and Education Committee met on 9/20/15 with all members present. We are happy to have new faces and renewed energy on the committee. Our primary order of business was discussing guidelines for the Spiritual Nurture Fund, which are presented below. We considered, but did not resolve, whether to keep the amount as an endowment with a yield of perhaps \$300/year, or to spend down the amount until depleted. This may depend on the types of projects proposed.

The committee also discussed plans for visiting monthly meetings that might benefit from contact with the committee, shared outreach materials which might be helpful to local meetings, and considered how we might support Hopewell Meeting in the process of being laid down.

The committee received a request from the ad hoc committee on restructuring the Yearly Meeting to consider taking responsibility for a Meeting for Discernment during the next summer session. The practice of meeting for discernment is an extended elder-led meeting with queries, and presents an opportunity to discern concerns within Yearly and local meetings. We received sample materials of New York Yearly Meeting's framework for this practice. We agreed to consider the practice in some form, but given it would be necessarily involve the clerks and planning committee, we suggested the request be brought to executive committee as well.

Guidelines for the Spiritual Nurture Fund

The Spiritual Nurture Fund developed from a bequest from Eileen Bagus to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The fund is to be used for the spiritual nurture of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting community and its constituent meetings. For example, the funds might be used to develop initiatives focused on nurturing small meetings, developing the quality of worship of our meetings, understanding eldership and clerkship, outreach and inreach programs, religious education in local meetings, and increasing the inclusiveness of our meetings, including diverse spiritual experiences and social diversity. This list is not exhaustive, but indicates some of the needs identified by Religious Nurture and Education Committee when the fund was set up.

The fund is overseen by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. Programs may be initiated by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee or suggested by individual Friends, monthly or quarterly meetings. These requests will be carefully and prayerfully discerned by the committee and granted under the guidance of the Spirit. The fund is not intended for individual education, except in instances where a Friend intends to use their experience to benefit the Yearly Meeting as a whole, such as traveling within the Yearly Meeting to address a widely felt need. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee will evaluate and share widely the record of funded activities through reports to the Yearly Meeting, the Quaker Quill, and/or intervisitation.

Final Report by the Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Restructuring, 10/3/15

On Ninth Month, 24th Day, 2015, we had telephone meeting attended by Deborah Jordan, Terre Holada and Michele Tomarelli to consider the purpose and scope of this concern. The concerns expressed by Friends who attended the ad hoc meeting at OVYM annual sessions were winnowed into several groupings:

1. Too Few Members/Too Little Money
2. Concerns about the Structure and Function of Yearly Meeting, and changes in the Priority of Participating in Meeting for Individual Friends.
 - It was discussed that the Structure and Function of Yearly Meeting could be the basic concern of this committee, and that the committee be made a Standing Committee or this concern be sent to another committee.
3. While the loss of members/income and that Friends seem to feel less obligation to contribute to the work of OVYM are certainly relevant to this committee, there are other Committees working more directly on those matters.
4. Besides this report, Friends are bringing this concern to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. It has been suggested that it would be appropriate for Friends in the Quarterly Meetings to be presented with these issues and other relevant topics as they arise. Prayerful consideration of issues will no doubt clarify Friends' ideas and a report could be made to the Executive Committee.
5. We considered that there are two basic functions for Yearly Meeting. The first is the pragmatic business aspects that are mostly dealt with by the Executive Committee. Friends' attendance at Executive Committee meetings is at times low. That may be due to a number of reasons: the distance to the meetings, a lack of understanding of the importance of the Executive Meetings, and the lack of Friends willing to volunteer.

Some possible thoughts:

- 1) First, it may be possible that the Executive Committee meetings could also be participated in via phone conferencing. Monthly Meeting Representatives and other Friends who cannot attend in person could thereby still participate.
- 2) Philadelphia YM underwent a major restructuring with fewer committees and more virtual meetings. Should we consider this?
- 3) It was also suggested that Quarterly Meetings be strengthened and encouraged to consider the topics of the Executive Meeting at Quarterly meetings, including an education on the way Executive Committee is supposed to work. In that way, Friends would have a better understanding of the work of the Executive Committee and could provide input to the Executive Committee in a timely way. That would make participation in Quarterly Meeting more important.
- 4) Briefly discussed was the idea of having a third Quarterly Meeting bringing the Quarter closer to some Friends.
- 5) Regarding the budget, it is apparent this is a hot topic in some Monthly Meetings. It seems the two issues are the dates of the fiscal year and the practice of accepting the budget at yearly meeting without major discussion. The three people on this small committee could not clarify where the problem lies. Several concerns were raised, enough to make it possible a separate issue.

- It was suggested that the calendar be stretched out to allow Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meetings time to consider the proposals sent by the Budget Committee, at Monthly Meetings for Business. Currently, there is insufficient time to consider and respond to the proposed budgets.
 - Perhaps it is simply that Monthly Meetings aren't fully aware of the current budget preparation time line.
 - In addition, it might be good to change the start of OVYM's fiscal year to earlier in the year so that the fiscal year does not start before the annual Yearly Meeting. By allowing more time and making OVYM business issues a matter for Quarterly Meeting, Friends will be better educated and more involved, and the Executive Committee will have better feedback and a greater likelihood of unity across OVYM.
- 6) The second function of OVYM is the spiritual refreshment of individual Friends and the strengthening of the OVYM community.
- How can our business sessions reflect this openness to the Spirit and still proceed with our many tasks?
- 7) A suggestion brought by a Friend at Yearly Meeting sessions was to hold discernment circles as has been done in other yearly meetings to discern the how best the Yearly Meeting can support its Monthly Meeting.

Executive Committee - February 6, 2016 Conference Call

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse
 Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
 Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley
 Assistant Recording Clerk: (vacant)
 Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
 Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)
 Auditing: Veronica Frost
 Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
 Budget & Finance: Wilson Palmer
 Children's Program: Hannah Branson (regrets)
 Earthcare: Bill Cahalan (regrets)
 Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale & Rex Sprouse
 Middle Youth: Rachel Moore (regrets)

Naming: David Garman
Nominating: Yoshiya Togami (regrets)
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Paul Buckley
Religious Nurture & Education: David Garman & Nikki Coffey Tousley Teen
Activities: David Funck & Peter Hardy (regrets)
Yearly Meeting Planning: Heather Snediker-Morscheck & Martha Viehmann (regrets)
Dinah Duvall (reporting)

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost
Whitewater: Paul Kriese

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Marci Ankrom (Regrets)
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Frank Huss (regrets) and Deborah Jordan
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: Kay Wheeler (regrets)
Fall Creek: Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Green Plain: Caroline Taylor (regrets)
Hopewell: (no representative present)
Lafayette: Ann Pellegrino
Lexington: Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell
Louisville: David Klaphaak
Maple Grove: (no representative present)
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Doug Jones
White Rose: (no representative present)
Yellow Springs: Deb Kocisewski (regrets) & Carol Simmons

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: (vacant)

1. Prior to calling in for the meeting, Friends were asked to spend 15 minutes in worship.
2. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives.
3. The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved.

4. Clerk's Table

Chris Harmer was proposed to serve as an Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee for an initial term ending in 2018.

Approved.

The clerk received an informal report from one member of the ad hoc Committee on the Structure of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The committee was asked to bring an update to the April 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

5. Audit Committee Report – report attached [Appears earlier in this document.]

The committee has reviewed the financial documents from the 2014-15 fiscal year and found only minor problems. The committee believes that these records accurately reflect OVYM's financial situation. The report was **accepted** with gratitude.

6. Minutes 1-5 were approved.

7. Treasurer's Report – report attached

We are midway through the current fiscal year. There is nothing remarkable to comment on. **Accepted** with gratitude.

8. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

No decision has been reached on whether to host joint quarterly meeting in 2016. The issue will be taken up at their meeting on February 21, 2016. **Accepted.**

9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

The quarterly meeting has laid down Maple Grove Friends Meeting. **Accepted.**

10. Minutes 7-9 were approved.

11. Naming Committee Report

David Garman reported that despite numerous attempts, the Naming Committee has been unable to find people to fill the current vacancies on the Nominating Committee.

The Executive Committee took time for a period of worship during which the difficulty of filling the Nominating Committee was held in prayer. It was noted that Nominating Committee members need not know people from across the yearly meeting. One suggestion was that quarterly meetings or monthly meetings might be asked to suggest names of people who know useful Friends in a smaller area. This might help us to get beyond hearing the same stalwart names repeatedly. Current yearly meeting committee members might also suggest others who could fruitfully to join them. One Friend offered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The clerk suggested naming a task force to bring a concrete proposal on how to proceed to the next Executive Committee meeting. Friends **approved.** The members of this task force are the presiding clerk, assistant clerk, recording clerk, Yoshiya Togami, and David Funck. The presiding clerk will take responsibility for calling the task force meetings.

12. Minute 11 was approved.

13. Faith and Practice Committee – report attached

The committee presented a corrected proposal for the expedited revision process. At the October 2015 EC meeting, it was stated that new sections would always be laid over for consideration at a second annual session before being approved. The committee had intended

to propose that, if the yearly meeting is prepared to approve a section on its first presentation, it will not be brought back the next year. The change was **approved**.

14. Teen Activities Committee Report

A task force of people from the Teen Activities and Middle Youth Committees and others has been considering whether to combine the Youth Secretary and Middle Youth Coordinator positions.

They believe this would be in the best interests of our youth. This experiment would create a single one-half time position, and is subject to review as they move forward. **Approved**.

A new job description is being prepared and will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee. When that is done, the search for a new staff members will begin. The goal is the have a candidate ready for Executive Committee approval in April 2016.

15. Minutes 13-14 were approved.

16. Religious Nurture & Education Committee – report attached

The committee is working on preparing “outreach/inreach” information packets.

They have been considering how to best use the Spiritual Nurture Fund. They are planning a Spring Retreat on April 23 at Quaker Hill in Richmond – open to all at low or no cost. The theme will be “Bringing Newcomers and Elders Together.” **Accepted**.

17. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report

The 196th annual sessions of OVYM will be held at Earlham College on July 27-31. The theme is “One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society.” Our two plenary speakers will be Michael Birkel, an Earlham faculty member and author of *Qur'an in Conversation*, and Niyonu Spann author of *Beyond Diversity*. Workshop leaders are being finalized. Last year’s experiment, changing the workshops from Thursday and Friday to Friday and Saturday will be continued.

Friends Music Camp will meet on the Earlham College campus at the same time and interacting with the music camp will be a wonderful opportunity. **Accepted**.

18. The remaining minutes were reviewed, edited, and approved.

19. The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Faith and Practice Committee

Corrected Proposal for Expedited Revision Process OVYM Executive Committee

February 6, 2016

Explanation: The proposal for an expedited revision process that was presented to and approved by Executive Committee at its October 2015 meeting included an extra step. The Faith and Practice Committee, therefore, presents this corrected version of the committee’s proposal for an expedited revision process.

Corrected proposal for an expedited *Faith and Practice* revision process Background:

Discipline Revision Process 1978 OVYM *Book of Discipline*

“Proposals for change of discipline may originate in the Monthly Meeting, and if so, they should receive the approval of the Quarterly Meeting, and then be transmitted to the Yearly Meeting for final action; or they may originate in the Yearly Meeting itself. In this case, final action may not be taken until the following year after the proposed change has appeared in the minutes of the Yearly Meeting or has been presented in a printed form for approval.”

Faith and Practice Committee Corrected proposal for increasing the pace of the revision process

Our proposal was developed in keeping with the guidelines in the *1978 Book of Discipline*.

Goal – Complete the revision in 3 years.

Prioritize and focus on the topics most important to OVYM Friends; some topics that are less essential may be left for development at a later date.

Develop a coherent book.

We ask Friends to remember that the perfect is the enemy of the good. To achieve a revised book of *Faith and Practice* in a reasonable amount of time, we must accept that text will meet the standard of adequacy to convey our faith and practices rather than a perfect expression of them.

To speed-up the process of getting feedback from monthly meetings:

Newly written texts: Under most circumstances, each newly developed text will go through only two drafts. The first draft will be Friends' opportunity to make suggestions for substantive changes. Draft 2, developed in consideration of this feedback, will be published in the *Quill* and then presented for approval at annual sessions.

The proposed schedule for this work is

September – November: Committee develops text and distributes it to monthly meetings. Meetings will be reminded that this is the time for suggestions for substantive revisions.

March: Responses from monthly meetings due back to committee

April: Committee develops the final draft after consideration of feedback from monthly meetings.

May/June: The final draft is published in the *Quill*. The distribution of the *Quill* will remind Friends that it includes *Faith and Practice* text that will be brought for approval at YM sessions.

July-August: The final draft is presented for approval at annual sessions.

Texts retained (with minor changes) from the 1978 Book of Discipline: They will be printed in the *Quill* and brought for approval to next yearly meeting session.

Texts that have not been changed will not require approval.

The Faith and Practice Committee will distribute larger chunks of text at a time to monthly meetings

The Committee is currently revising the working Table of Contents so that our 3-year goal for completion will be achievable.

Executive Committee - April 2, 2016 Business Meeting

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:	Rex Sprouse
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk:	Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk:	(vacant)
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer:	(vacant)
Statistician	Frank Huss
Committee Clerks	
Adult Young Friends:	(no representative present)
Auditing:	Veronica Frost
Braddock Fund:	Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance:	Wilson Palmer
Children's Program:	(no representative present)
Earthcare:	(no representative present)
Faith & Practice:	Betsy Neale & Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth:	(no representative present)
Naming:	David Garman (regrets)
Nominating:	Yoshiya Togami
Peace & Social Concerns:	Richard Mitchell
Personnel:	Paul Buckley
Religious Nurture & Education:	David Garman (regrets) & Nikki Coffey Tousley
Teen Activities:	David Funck
Yearly Meeting Planning:	Richard Mitchell
Quarterly Meeting Clerks	
Miami:	Veronica Frost
Whitewater:	Paul Kriese (regrets) – Dinah Duvall (reporting)
Monthly Meeting Representatives	
Bloomington:	Marci Ankrom
Campus:	Linda Sears (regrets)
Clear Creek:	Larry Habschmidt
Community:	Frank Huss & Deborah Jordan
Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills:	Wilson Palmer
Englewood:	(no representative present)
Fall Creek:	Rex Sprouse
Fort Wayne:	Terre Holada & Fred Feitler
Green Plain:	(no representative present)
Lafayette:	Ann Pellegrino & Michelle Tomarelli
Lexington:	Betsy Neale & Richard Mitchell
Louisville:	(no representative present)
Miami:	Lonny Burger (regrets)
North Meadow:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford:	Steve Angell (regrets) & Doug Jones (regrets)

White Rose: (no representative present)

Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Youth Secretary: (vacant)

1. Opening worship
2. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others
3. The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved
4. Treasurer's Report – report attached

We are three-quarters of the way through the current fiscal year. "Income is coming in nicely and bills are being paid as they come along." He hopes all meetings will be able to make their projected contributions.

Community Friends Meeting made a \$621 contribution to the Teen Activities Fund that was in their teen fund.

The report was **accepted**.

5. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

A joint quarterly meeting will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, 2016 at Camp Kern near Lebanon, Ohio. The report was **accepted**.

6. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report – 10/18/2015 WQM minutes attached

WQM asked the yearly meeting to review the calendar, timeline, and procedures of the Budget & Finance Committee and create a procedure outlining the way in which concerns are presented to B&F. The underlying concern was that there is not adequate time for enough discernment of the yearly meeting's priorities and how they are reflected in the budget. One person present clarified that a two year budget process was being suggested.

The current budget preparation and approval process from the OVYM Handbook was read aloud. The clerk asked if adding an annual session on yearly meeting priorities might be helpful. He also commented that addressing this issue might require restructuring the yearly meeting.

The current timing of the fiscal year was also mentioned as a problem. Because the fiscal year starts on July 1 and the annual sessions are held about a month later, the costs of the annual sessions are incurred before they are approved.

Several members recollected the budget discussions at annual sessions in the 1990s with horror. They admonished the meeting not to go back to that process.

The current budget process does not include any explicit priority setting or consideration of future directions for the yearly meeting. The clerk suggested allocating time during our annual business sessions to allow such discernment. Discussion during that session and any resulting minutes might then inform the creation of the budget that would be brought for approval the following year.

Executive Committee asked the presiding clerk to discern how to best include this in the agenda.

7. Minute 6 was approved.

8. Minutes 1-5 were approved.

9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report (continued)

WQM also suggested re-assigning some the quarterly meetings functions to the yearly meeting:

Quarterly meetings would no longer play a role in the endorsement of traveling minutes. Monthly meetings would originate and endorse traveling minutes for service within the yearly meeting and OVYM would consider endorsement of traveling minutes for service beyond the yearly meeting.

OVYM would assume primary responsibility for shepherding new meetings into the yearly meeting.

OVYM would share responsibility with the quarterly meetings for offering spiritual support to troubled monthly meetings.

OVYM would share responsibility with the quarterly meetings in speaking to the wider society.

It was suggested that these proposals be sent to Miami Quarterly Meeting prior to consideration by Executive Committee.

Several people spoke to the number of layers of approval required for a traveling minute – both pro and con. It was felt that the monthly meeting is in the best position to know its own members and whether granting a traveling minute is appropriate. Further discussion was postponed until after MQM has an opportunity to review the suggestions and decide how to proceed.

The report was **accepted**.

10. Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Restructuring Report

The Ad Hoc Committee is not in unity about the purpose and future of this committee. Members were asked to submit reports individually to the Executive Committee. A report was received from Michele Tomarelli which advocated a thorough examination of the yearly meeting to ensure that it functions efficiently while staying true to Friends' values. In order to do so, she suggested a number of specific actions:

- change the OVYM Handbook to allow changes in the amounts donated to other organizations
- review and edit the Handbook to be consistent with the book of *Faith & Practice*
- evaluate the structure and purposes of the yearly meeting
- eliminate committee reports during the annual sessions
- provide self-education about Quaker business process
- move some work to the quarterly meetings
- possibly reconfigure the quarters to add a third quarterly meeting
- consider the proper function of the Executive Committee

In discussion, another member of the ad hoc committee stated that the charge to the committee was too broad. They need specific guidance what to focus on. Another ad hoc committee member described the great breadth of issues that came out in their discussions and their lack of agreement on which issues are most important.

Updating the Handbook was seen as an achievable task by one Executive Committee member.

Another Executive Committee member asked if we are holding each other accountable.

One early recommendation of the ad hoc committee was to have discernment sessions at the yearly meeting annual sessions. This is similar to the budget discernment session acted on above.

At their request, the ad hoc committee was laid down.

11. One EC member suggested that we ask ourselves what is vital to our work today. Her answer is Spiritual Growth and Ministry to the wider world. Her sense is that debating process questions will not motivate the members of our monthly meetings to attend the annual sessions and become involved in the yearly meeting, but a focus on these aspects of our work would. The work of the yearly meeting needs to be done, but it cannot obscure achieving these more fundamental challenges. When we lose sight of why we are doing things, it is time to step back and regain a sense of our spiritual purpose.

Maybe we don't need the current committees and procedures. We should judge whether or not they continue to meet our needs or engender our basic values.

The clerk challenged those present to be specific. What are the particulars that we need to address? How to better involve youth was identified as another critical issue.

In addition to the items listed above, it was suggested that we examine the fiscal year, the roles of the quarterly meetings, and the particular set of yearly meeting committees. It was proposed that the presiding clerk, assistant presiding clerk, and recording clerk discern how to move forward.

The clerk suggested that our existing committees could be charged with addressing many of these issues. He also asked that we be willing to advocate clearly for change when we see it as needed, even at the risk of making others uncomfortable.

Worry and exhaustion may be powering a lot of the comments being made. Joy is necessary to undertake the work of renewal.

We were reminded that a survey of the yearly meeting membership was conducted several years ago. It may be useful to remind ourselves of what it found.

Querying our existing committees about how their work contributes to spiritual growth and witness to the outside world may be a step forward.

The presiding clerk, assistant presiding clerk, and recording clerk were asked to discern concrete steps to move forward. They were charged to bring a prioritized list of suggested assignments for the yearly meeting committees to the June Executive Committee meeting.

12. Minutes 10 and 11 were approved.

13. Budget & Finance Committee Report

The committee met earlier in the day and considered a draft budget for fiscal year 2016-17 (starting on July 1, 2016). A few small changes were made during that meeting. The Religious Nurture & Education Committee asked that \$500 be added to the budget to fund an annual retreat for all yearly meeting members and the number of budget members in one meeting was corrected. The per-member proportional share is set at \$120 per budget member, resulting in a budget within \$865 of being exactly balanced.

The draft budget was **accepted**.

B&F also discussed the yearly meeting donations to other Quaker organizations. There are some who feel they need to be reviewed and revised. About a decade ago, the yearly meeting

minuted that an ad hoc committee should periodically adjust these donations – we are long over-due to do that. This issue will be brought to the annual sessions. **Approved.**

14. Task Force on Nominating Committee Report

The task force recommended that Executive Committee fully staff Naming Committee today and empower them to invite Friends to immediately become acting members of Nominating Committee. The names of those who accept would then be brought forward for approval at the June Executive Committee meeting.

David Garman is a current member of the Naming Committee and is willing to continue service in order to orient the new members. The task force believes Rachel Ernst Stahlhut is also willing to serve in this capacity.

The task force brought forward the name of David Funck for Naming Committee for a term to begin immediately and end at the rise of annual sessions in 2019. **Approved.** He will convene the committee.

Friends **approved** Michele Tomarelli who volunteered to serve on the Naming Committee until the rise of the 2018 annual sessions. One additional member is still needed to serve a one-year term.

15. The remaining minutes were reviewed, edited, and approved.

16. The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Clear Creek Meeting, Richmond IN Tenth Month 18, 2015

Minute 1 (OVYM budget process and timeline)

Whitewater Quarterly asks the Yearly Meeting (OVYM) to review the calendar timeline and the procedures of the Budget Committee stated in the handbook. We ask that a procedure be drafted outlining the way in which concerns are presented to the Budget Committee, and that the outlines be well circulated among the Monthly Meetings.

Minute 2 (re-assignment of certain functions from the Quarterly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting)

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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting would consider endorsement of traveling minutes for service beyond the Yearly Meeting.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (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.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (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.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (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.)

Executive Committee - June 4, 2016 Business Meeting

Present:

Officers

Presiding Clerk:	Rex Sprouse
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk:	Paul Buckley
Assistant Recording Clerk:	(vacant)
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer (regrets)
Assistant Treasurer:	(vacant)
Statistician:	Frank Huss (regrets)

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends:	(no representative present)
Auditing:	Veronica Frost
Braddock Fund:	Wilson Palmer (regrets)
Budget & Finance:	Ann Pellegrino
Children's Program:	(no representative present)
Earthcare:	(no representative present)
Faith & Practice:	Betsy Neale & Rex Sprouse
Middle Youth:	(no representative present)
Naming:	David Garman
Nominating:	(no representative present)
Peace & Social Concerns:	Richard Mitchell
Personnel:	Paul Buckley
Religious Nurture & Education:	David Garman
Teen Activities:	(no representative present)
Yearly Meeting Planning:	Richard Mitchell

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami:	Veronica Frost
Whitewater:	Diann Herzog

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington:	Marci Ankrom
Campus:	(no representative present)
Clear Creek:	David Garman
Community:	Deborah Jordan
Dayton:	(no representative present)
Eastern Hills:	Wilson Palmer (regrets)
Englewood:	(no representative present)
Fall Creek:	Diann Herzog

Fort Wayne: (no representative present)
 Green Plain: (no representative present)
 Lafayette: Ann Pellegrino & Michelle Tomarelli
 Lexington: Betsy Neale & Richard Mitchell
 Louisville: David Klaphaak (regrets)
 Miami: Lonny Burger (regrets)
 North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
 Oxford: Steve Angell & Doug Jones
 White Rose: (no representative present)
 Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
 Youth Secretary: (vacant)

1. The minutes of this meeting were reviewed, edited, and approved as each was written.
2. Opening worship
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others
4. The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved
5. Treasurer’s Report – report attached

We are nearly at the end of the current fiscal year. The treasurer is facing serious medical problems and will need help to produce an adequate report for the annual sessions. He will create a final end- of-year report later in the summer.

He hopes all meetings will be able to make their projected contributions by June 15. The reports in advance will be reporting on income and expenses for the current fiscal year just before his surgery and he does not have a firm date for that.

Our investment with Friends Fiduciary Corporation’s Green Fund has shown a net loss this year. That is reflected in reduced balances for several of our funds.

The report was **accepted** with gratitude.

6. Administrative Secretary Report

Friends were reminded that materials needed for the reports in advance are due June 15.

Updates for the yearly meeting directory are due July 15.

The clerk asked that committee reports delivered to the yearly meeting in session would note the spiritual aspects of the work they have accomplished in the past year – in addition to bringing forward any action items and reporting on the essential activities of the committee. The reports in advance are an appropriate place for a more detailed listing of committee activities.

It was noted that the instructions for monthly meeting state of the meeting reports in the current *Book of Faith & Practice* put much emphasis on the spiritual aspects of the meetings and one member felt that some meetings neglect to adequately report on their temporal condition or on essential activities of the meeting. The Faith & Practice Revision Committee was asked to carefully consider whether these instructions need to be revised.

One member thought it would be helpful to have a workshop at the annual sessions on how to write a state of the meeting report.

Another member asked if we are in unity in our understanding of what is spiritual.

7. Middle Youth Committee Concern

The committee has too few active members and no staff. The new Youth Secretary position has not been filled. With the annual sessions less than two months away, the clerks are concerned about having a program in place to serve our pre-teens. Volunteers are needed and Executive Committee representatives are asked to share this request in their monthly meetings.

A member of the Middle Youth Committee reported that a list of committee activities was circulated earlier this year within the committee. He feels much will not get done unless one or more highly organized individuals can be found to manage all the details.

Several people present offered to help with this work.

It was noted that this is not the only yearly meeting committee that is in need of more energy. Michelle Tomarelli was **approved** to serve on the Middle Youth Committee until the end of this year's annual sessions.

8. Personnel Committee

A draft Provider Agreement for the new Youth Secretary position was presented.

It was noted that the dates of the agreement will be changed to reflect the actual contract period.

The requirement that a candidate be a member of the Religious Society of Friends was modified to allow an otherwise qualified person to be hired: "These qualifications include active membership in the Religious Society of Friends." is changed to "Active membership in the Religious Society of Friends is preferred."

The parties who are executing the agreement are the provider and the OVYM presiding clerk.

There was discussion of the reporting relationships and whether the use of contractors is appropriate.

The agreement as edited was **approved** (attached).

9. Update on Naming Committee and Nominating Committee

Richard Mitchell was **approved** to serve on the Nominating Committee starting immediately and continuing until the end of the 2019 annual sessions.

Friends **accepted** Michelle Tomarelli's resignation from the Naming Committee.

10. Queries for OVYM committees

A list of seven proposed queries that was drawn up by the clerks' table was presented:

- What is the central work of your committee?
- How does the work of your committee contribute to the spiritual growth of the Yearly Meeting?
- How does the work of your committee contribute to our Quaker witness to the wider world?

- Does the actual work of your committee correspond to the charge in the Yearly Meeting Handbook? If not, is it your discernment that the Handbook should be revised or that your committee should re-focus its work?
- Is your committee adequately staffed for the work you are led to undertake? What do you feel is the appropriate number of members for your committee?
- Is your committee's work frustrated or inhibited by the current structure of Yearly Meeting committees? Is there another committee with which your committee could or should merge?
- Does the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee support the work of your committee? Does your committee clerk (or a representative) attend Executive Committee meetings? What would better facilitate your work?

It was suggested that the first three questions could be combined into a single query. The recording clerk will make this edit (attached).

It was asked if the answers to these queries could be included in committee reports that are in the reports in advance. Given the current deadlines, this did not seem possible.

One member was pleased to see the spiritual aspects of our work held up for consideration.

Friends **approved** sending these queries to the committee clerks. Written responses are requested before the Joint Quarterly Meeting this fall.

11. Miami Quarterly Meeting

The Joint QM will be held at Camp Kern, near Cincinnati, October 29-30.

The Oxford Meeting minute on gun violence was edited and approved by Miami QM and will be included in the reports in advance.

MQM considered proposals from WQM on the responsibilities of QMs. MQM could not unite with the proposals related to changing the procedures for endorsing traveling minutes and shepherding new monthly meetings into the yearly meeting. MQM felt that the other two proposals on sharing responsibility with the QMs were not needed, because these are our current practice.

One member felt our current procedures needlessly duplicate work of our QMs and with the Executive Committee. He suggested it was time to consider liberating the spirit in the way we do business.

12. Closing worship

We entered into a period of worship during which Friends remembered Roland Kreager who died eight days ago. Roland contributed much to Right Sharing of World Resources, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and the wider Religious Society of Friends over the past four decades. His selfless example inspired us. He taught us more than we knew we were learning.

YOUTH SECRETARY PROVIDER AGREEMENT

This Agreement between Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) and _____(Provider) is effective June 1, 2016 and will terminate May 31, 2017. This Agreement may be extended for one year periods or another term of contract based upon the agreement of the parties hereto.

Provider shall perform all contracted functions as the "Youth Secretary." OVYM contracts with Provider to perform all functions of the Youth Secretary. Provider agrees to provide programs and to coordinate activities for young Friends of junior high and high school ages

at the yearly meeting level and at Whitewater and Miami Quarterly Meetings to provide new experiences, spiritual nurture, and opportunities for service and leadership. Specific responsibilities include the following.

- Work with Teen Activities and Middle Youth Committees and with youth leadership in Whitewater and Miami Quarterly Meetings to organize and publicize youth activities and to attend such sessions and youth activities.
- Attend appropriate committee meetings and work with the Middle Youth and Teen Activities Committees to assist transitional activities for twelve and thirteen year old children.
- Provide assistance and leadership in organizing work camps, service projects and other special opportunities.
- Organize and attend youth retreats and other related activities.
- Encourage youth participation in wider Friends youth activities and coordinate with other Friends youth workers.
- Maintain communications, assist, and visit with youth activities and needs in OVYM monthly meetings.
- Assist and lead in the spiritual nurture of young Friends in OVYM.
- Directly assist youth in OVYM:
 - to work within their communities;
 - to network with each other throughout yearly meeting;
 - to attain an understanding and vision of Quakerism;
 - to participate in developing activities;
 - to help older youth serve as mentors for younger youth.

Provider must meet the qualifications which have been established by OVYM. Active membership in the Religious Society of Friends is preferred. Provider must possess a working knowledge of the Bible and Friends' testimonies, writings, the OVYM *Book of Faith & Practice*, relevant sections of the OVYM *Handbook*, and other procedures as developed by OVYM. Provider shall be aware of Friends' social concerns and organizations and be adept at understanding concerns of pre-teen and teen age youth. It is important that Provider exhibits the ability to interact effectively with youth. Experience with major Friends' traditions is vital to success as well as an understanding of religious diversity. Provider must possess a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent course work and experience. Provider must have access to an automobile; must be available for weekend travel and be able to accept overnight hospitality.

Provider must be energetic, friendly and able to have fun and be serious. Leadership qualities are required.

Provider must submit to a background check as designated by OVYM and any periodic background checks which OVYM may determine to be appropriate. Provider must notify the Clerk of the OVYM Personnel Committee or OVYM Treasurer, if the Clerk of the Personnel Committee is unavailable, within twenty-four hours of any arrest for any matter including traffic violations or citations. Provider must show proof of automobile insurance, including

liability for personal automobile, to OVYM Treasurer and at a level of liability as designated by OVYM.

Provider shall be paid on a flat amount monthly, \$1,356 per month. OVYM agrees to pay this monthly fee based on a total of 1,040 hours in annual service. It is expected that the number of hours worked in each month will vary. Provider is required to work extended hours during annual sessions of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and any other field trips or workcamps as designated by the Clerk of the Teen Activities and Middle Youth Committees. Provider is required to gain prior approval from the Clerks of the Teen Activities and Middle Youth Committees to bill any work or projects beyond this amount.

Provider shall be reimbursed for travel at the rate per mile pursuant to IRS standards in effect at the time of the travel. Provider shall also be reimbursed for any other reasonable expense including per diem (IRS) and lodging costs if said meals and lodging costs are not provided by OVYM or a designated representative. Provider must provide original copy receipts for such expenses not more than forty-five (45) days after they are incurred. Receipts for travel and lodging expenses must be submitted to the Treasurer of OVYM. Provider shall submit an itemized invoice once each month to the Treasurer of OVYM and copy the clerks of the Middle Youth and Teen Activities Committees. This invoice shall provide detailed information regarding the activity of Provider and the number of hours worked during the month. The invoice must be submitted prior to the issuance of payment to Provider. The invoice must include a return address and Social Security number.

Provider agrees that this Agreement establishes no employment relationship, that he or she is not entitled to contributions pursuant to Social Security and Medicare or any medical, life, or other insurance or any other fringe benefit or paid employment leave. Provider agrees that she or he will be compensated based on fee for service and that no federal, state or local income tax will be withheld. Annual payments to Provider will be reported to Provider and the Internal Revenue Service using Form 1099-MISC in January 2017.

Provider agrees to protect, defend, indemnify and hold harmless OVYM from and against any and all losses, penalties, damages, settlements, costs or liabilities of every kind and character arising out of any acts of the Provider which may be negligent or otherwise.

This Agreement may be extended by written mutual agreement of the parties for a period of time that is acceptable to them. This Agreement may also be re-negotiated for one year periods or another term that is agreed by the parties hereto.

This Agreement may be canceled by either party without cause by providing a thirty (30) day written notice of cancellation to the other party. OVYM may terminate this Agreement for cause immediately upon written notice to Provider.

Provider may submit any dispute regarding the terms of this Agreement to the Clerk of the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee shall review the dispute and submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee of OVYM. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

The parties, by executing this Agreement, understand that it represents all terms and conditions of the contractual relationship between them.

Queries for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Committees

Sixth Month 2016

What is the central work of your committee? How does it contribute to the spiritual growth of the Yearly Meeting and/or to our Quaker witness to the wider world?

Does the actual work of your committee correspond to the charge in the Yearly Meeting Handbook? If not, is it your discernment that the Handbook should be revised or that your committee should re-focus its work?

Is your committee adequately staffed for the work you are led to undertake? What do you feel is the appropriate number of members for your committee?

Is your committee's work frustrated or inhibited by the current structure of Yearly Meeting committees? Is there another committee with which your committee could or should merge?

Does the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee support the work of your committee? Does your committee clerk (or a representative) attend Executive Committee meetings? What would better facilitate your work?

2016-17 OVYM Nominations

OFFICERS	
Presiding Clerk	Betsy Neale
Assistant Presiding Clerk	Rex Sprouse
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk	Paul Buckley
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	
2016 SESSIONS	
Epistolary Committee	Lisa Cayard, Deb Kociszewski
<i>Summary of Epistles received</i>	Susan Lee Barton
<i>Memorial Meeting</i>	Paul Kriese

2017	2018	2019
RELIGIOUS NURTURE AND EDUCATION		
Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs (2M)	Shannon Isaacs (1M)	Nikki Coffey Tousley* (2M)
	Gail Koehler (1M)	Anne Hutchinson (1M)
	Andrew Garrison (2M)	Rod Dixon (2M)
YEARLY MEETING PLANNING (9) (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.)		
Martha Viehmann* (2M)	Terre Holada (1W)	Carol Simmons (1M)
Richard Mitchell (1M)	Kay Wheeler (2M)	
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
Beth Parrish (4M)	Susan Hyde (4M)	Hannah Branson (7M)*
Carey Bryson (2W)		Maria Franzini (1M)
YOUTH COMMITTEE (9 - Maybe 6)		
Carey Bryson (2W)	Rachel Moore (2M)*	Michele Tomarelli (1W)
Michelle Lori (1M)	Peter Hardy (2M)	David Funck * (3M)
Emmett Olis-Cartmell (2W)		Anna Margaret Greene (1W)
		Cassie Murray (1M)

2017	2018	2019
EARTHCARE COMMITTEE		
This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Bill Cahalan*	Ria Collee	David Duvall
Janette Shetter		Jane Stowe
BRADDOCK FUND COMMITTEE		
Wilson Palmer		
Wilhelmina Branson		
Christine Snyder		
PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS		
This committee will submit its own nominations at our yearly sessions for approval.		
Frank Huss (M)	David Duvall (W)	Russ Wheeler (M)
Carol Simmons (M)	Gilbert Kuhn (W)	Richard Mitchell* (M)
AUDITING COMMITTEE (Two year terms)		
Bob Holada	Veronica Frost (3M)	
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (3+)		
(ex-officio, Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer – who is Clerk of B&F)		
Fred Feitler (2W)	Ann Pellegrino (1W)	
Paul Buckley (3M)		
FAITH AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE		
Rex Sprouse (4W)*		Betsy Neale (5M)*
Mary Garman (2W)		Lisa Cayard (4M)
Paul Buckley (3W)		
Wilson Palmer (Invited Member)		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
Cecilia Shore		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
Susan Hyde & Christine Snyder		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2017	2018	2019
STATISTICIAN		
Frank Huss	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR		
Lonny Burger	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
	Ben Griffith (1M)	
	David Duvall (1W)	
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
	Anne Hutchinson (1M)	
	Phyllis Martin (1W)	
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
Chris Harmer (1M)	Paul Kriese (1M)	Rex Sprouse (1W)
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
	Frank Huss (1M)	Paul Kriese (2W)
	Ken Bordwell (1M)	
The following are one-year YM appointments to the named organization		
FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CONCERNS		
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE		Paul Kriese
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS		
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS		Frank Huss
<p>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.</p>		

State of the Meeting Reports

Bloomington Friends

A strong and faithful core of members and attenders come together for our meetings for worship. Overall, our spirit is good despite our concerns about dwindling attendance in the past year or so. We experience the comings and goings common in a university town and some do not attend due to the poor - even unhealthy - state of our meeting house.

Some members and attenders have left, while others have either joined us or returned after a long absence. Julie and Bruce Pearson transferred their membership to the Rochester (Minn.) Meeting; David Duffee and Donna Eder found a new community in Berea, Kentucky; and Chandra Romel left us to take up a new position in Washington State. As some leave, others arrive and take up responsibilities. James Farmer became a member last spring and agreed to clerk the Building Committee. Elaine, Phil, and Matthew Emmi transferred their membership from Salt Lake City Meeting. Elaine is now clerk of our Capital Campaign Committee and both she and Phil are active in FCNL.

Recognizing more urgently the unhealthy state of our meetinghouse, we approved extensive modification to our building master plan, "Green Embrace." Our new version "Green Embrace Re-imagined" is simpler, less costly, and will meet our needs while embodying our ongoing values of sustainability and accessibility. Under the guidance of the Building Committee, we have chosen a contractor and plan to start construction in the summer. At the same time, the Capital Campaign has drafted an appeal letter and engaged in conversations with possible sources of finance. In the midst of all this, we installed twenty solar panels as well as a new roof.

Five years ago, our state of the meeting report spoke of an increase in the number of children in First Day School and that we were nearing the limit of classroom space. Several of these children were teenagers and have moved on to college and other pursuits. We have now entered a rebuilding phase in our First Day School with a lively group of very young children. Our children report to adults on their activities at the rise of meeting for worship. It is a time that brings us joy.

We express our community values of friendship, social engagement, and mutual support through the activities of our committees. Our Fellowship Committee organized many celebrations, including an Evening of the Arts, spring picnics, dinners for eight, and a lively Christmas party. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee coordinated our commitment to serve at the Community Kitchen and led a forum on environmental issues. Ministry and Counsel offered forums on how to listen and speak in the meeting for worship and on how to clerk, as well as an ongoing monthly second hour event called "Conversations: On Being a Quaker." Our Retreat Committee organized a warmly regarded overnight retreat. Our Property and Finance Committee kept us informed of our overall financial situation as we embark on the expense involved in the renovation of the meeting house and invited Friends to answer "Why I contribute to the Meeting" in the newsletter.

Throughout it all, we are companions on a road "less traveled" as a member once reminded us as he spoke out of the silence. Being open to continuing revelation demands patience.

Campus Friends

Query #1 How does your monthly meeting live into those things that have life in them?

We thought of this query in two parts, the physical/outer life and the spiritual/inner life. Campus Friends strives to affirm Life in our activities as a meeting and as individual Friends by expressing our concerns about the environment by taking care to sustain life on earth as we go about our daily and professional lives. Friends express their ongoing yearning for peace with the monthly peace vigils. As teachers and professors, we emphasize faith AND practice as we ask questions about things that really matter.

Campus Friends affirms and seeks to strengthen and nurture the inner life of our members and attenders with a monthly Sunday School discussion on a current Pendle Hill Pamphlet and with our annual retreat. This year's retreat was an opportunity to identify our Truth and share our core beliefs with each other. It is our sense that this retreat has led to mutual feelings of spiritual intimacy.

Meeting for Worship continues to provide opportunity for sharing personal insights, leadings and praises and concerns. We gather and worship in the power of Love.

Query #2 How do we make ourselves available to the Lord?

In our unprogrammed worship, we enter that space of openness to the Spirit, and recognize once again that we have already been given everything we need to be faithful people. We are open to the leadings of the Spirit and to being led in the ways in which we understand God's movement in our lives.

Query #3 How do you distinguish between that which is living and that which is dead?

We come to the Spirit to listen. Campus Friends has a deep commitment to the clearness committee process of discernment in both our meetings for worship with attention to business and in our individual decision-making. In the Presence of God and these gathered Friends, we seek to distinguish that which gives life from that which is detrimental to a healthy physical, mental and spiritual life.

Clear Creek Friends

Worship remains at the center of our life together, and many relate that they are touched and encouraged by the depth and quality of our worship. While completely silent meetings are not uncommon, we have held conversations to invite all to be open to leadings to offer vocal ministry. We are enjoying a sense of groundedness and vitality. We feel that we have been welcoming to newcomers, who have returned. New members bring energy and ideas, and we rejoice that they have chosen to be a part of our community.

Our spiritual life is enhanced by activities outside of meeting for worship. We held a day-long retreat in June based on experiences of Friends in our meeting who had attended an FGC event entitled Grow Our Meetings. After-meeting discussions have offered occasions for us to gather as a meeting and consider important matters. Adult Religious Education held monthly discussions on a variety of themes, including Quaker Quest queries on worship and vocal ministry, on death and dying and advanced directives, and on "that of God in everyone." We had discussions of *Qur'an in Conversation* (a book by a meeting member written in an effort to promote interfaith understanding).

The experience of worship calls us to try to mend the world, both locally through the efforts of individual members and more widely through our participation in Friends' organizations such as AFSC and FCNL. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee led us in consideration

of issues from mental health and incarceration to white privilege, to nonviolent movements, and efforts for peace abroad. We discussed climate change and are supporting one another in efforts to reduce our carbon footprints.

Small group activities continue to flourish, and these in turn enrich our meeting. A book discussion group offers time for consideration of spiritual themes. A men's group functions similarly. The Friends in Unity with Nature group organized walks in local woods and gathered in the summer for a memorable observation of the Perseid meteor showers. Pondering the wonders of creation renews the spirit.

We strive to remain open to leadings and to live faithfully.

Community Friends

The past year brought Community Friends Meeting opportunities for learning how to live in a spiritual community more deeply. We have been given lessons in gratitude, in living out our testimonies more fully, in working through conflict through deep listening, in ministering to one another, and in loving and letting go.

We received some of these opportunities through the blessing of major bequests left by dear members Ed and Agnes Moon, and Eileen Bagus. These generous gifts will continue to support our leadings and our spiritual community for many years to come. As often happens when financial decisions are involved, however, there were differences among us about how to handle the bequests. These differences gave us the opportunity to listen to that of God in one another and seek God's will together.

A major accomplishment, supported in part by the bequest funds and also by a capital campaign, was the installation of 33 solar panels on the roof of the Meetinghouse. This step was joyfully taken as a witness to our testimony of sustainability. The solar panels are expected to generate enough electricity to meet our Meetinghouse needs, and they are already generating interest about solar energy in the local community.

This past year we said farewell to members who moved away from Cincinnati to enjoy retirement. Eugenia Mills moved to Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond, Indiana. Kate Anthony and Jamie Fota moved to the Chattanooga, Tennessee area to enjoy a warmer climate. These Friends have been dear and faithful members of the Meeting for many years and they will be greatly missed, although we know they will be back to visit when they can. In the past year we welcomed five new members of all ages, from the youngest to eldest: Oliver Ernst Stahlhut, John David Sniegocki, Eileen Crowe, Alvin Jose, and Don Rucknagel. We have also been blessed with several newer attenders who bring a variety of gifts to the meeting.

We have supported one another's leadings in ministry through a number of anchoring and ministry support committees, including the Pfaltzgraff-Carlsons' leading to travel to visit Friends in Japan. We held a Meeting Renewal in the fall on the theme of the Gathered Meeting. We were richly blessed by Stephanie Crumley-Effinger's leadership in considering how we can enter "The Door Before" in preparation for worship. We learned that every moment can be a prayer if we notice that daily interactions are opportunities to speak to that of God in others, and that natural beauty is God's invitation to step into the living stream.

The Adult Religious Education Committee planned and hosted another successful Quaker Diversity event which offered the experiences of four Friends from various Quaker traditions who shared their own paths to ministry. This committee also arranged for several Inreach

Groups on topics such as reading Quaker books together and scripture reading. Community Committee initiated groups of “Friendly Sixes” to help us get to know one another better through shared meals and sharing our life stories. Realizing the vital need to make the Society of Friends more visible and accessible, the Outreach Working Group is helping us to become a more intentionally welcoming meeting. We listened to the experiences of newer attenders who often find it difficult to become integrated into the life of the meeting, and we are now offering opportunities before worship each Sunday to share about our spiritual lives and discuss Quaker faith and practice as a way to grow and deepen our spiritual community.

We were blessed with enough children for both a primary and an intermediate First Day School class this past year, but all our teens have now moved on to college. It’s a great joy to welcome them back to meeting when they are home for holiday breaks. Four young Friends from the meeting travelled to Costa Rica as part of the OVYM teen service trip this past summer, a vivid experience that deepened their identity as Friends. Community Meeting was again well represented at OVYM sessions and at the FGC Gathering. These opportunities enrich and inspire our experience as Friends through speakers, workshops, and deeper connections with the wider Quaker world.

Meeting for worship continues to be the spiritual center of our meeting community. We are often blessed with spirit-led vocal ministry from a variety of perspectives and experiences. We feel that this variety enriches us, challenges us, and opens us to the motion of love that binds us together as Friends.

Dayton Friends

Dayton Friends Meeting is blessed with a Spirit of Love, which radiates and strengthens us as a community. We find ourselves more aware of and more responsive to the needs individuals within the meeting over the past year. Our care for one another has helped to attract and integrate new members and attenders over the past few years, though we remain a small meeting. We have a core of about twenty Friends, although some are unable to attend regularly because of work, family obligations or health concerns. In the past, the needs within our meeting have sometimes seemed like a burden, but in responding, we have found them a source of renewal.

We are thankful for the gift of newcomers with a wide range of age and experience, which allows them to share the leadership of the Meeting. We are also grateful that the young adults raised in the meeting remain connected to Quakerism, serving the Meeting, studying at Earlham and working for Friends United Meeting’s global ministries program. We will celebrate the wedding of Anna Henry this May, under the joint care of Dayton and Cleveland Meetings. Another young adult new to the meeting began a M. Div. degree at Earlham School of Religion last fall.

We have tried to foster connections within the meeting through new practices and reviving old ones. A new writing group meets monthly to write and share around a spiritual theme. We are ready with a First Day School lesson each week. Although none of our children are able to come every week, we are blessed by their wisdom and energy a few times each month. Two of the children are Muslim, though they attend occasionally with their grandmother, and we hope to arrange a time of sharing with their Mosque. Attendance at our second hour discussions has waned, but we now hold a monthly potluck to build the community. Our monthly men’s breakfast remains vital and we have revived the tradition of asking one Friend to share their spiritual journey in an “Evening With” potluck event. We held a retreat in April

focused around the theme “Sharing our Stories: Times of Challenge and Times of Strength.” We did just that in December, when we held a special meeting for worship to support a member on the anniversary of her husband’s death.

Our weekly worship begins with a reading chosen by someone in the meeting, and we find that contribution enriches the silence and vocal ministry that follows. We find a good balance between silence and spoken ministry. We read a query before business each month, and transition directly from worship to worship with a concern for business in order to keep the sense of open waiting in our decision making.

The challenge before us is to take the Spirit of Love we share together outside of the Meeting as we seek a permanent home. The meeting closed on our first Meetinghouse in late Fourth Month. Although it seemed a search last year had failed, it prepared us to be open to this opportunity. The new location is better suited for our use. Although it will need renovations, which will draw our energy and focus for a time, we are envisioning a space that allows new opportunity for hospitality and witness. The neighborhood is diverse, including people on limited income, new refugees, and many younger people committed to living within the city. We hope that the new building will be a home- a body to contain our heart and spirit as we look for ways to be of service to the community.

Eastern Hills Friends

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting is a small, aging meeting. Given these facts, we have been concerned about the meeting’s future, and so in the Fall of 2015 we held two Second Hour discussions on the future of the meeting. Using queries developed by Linda Chidsey, a recorded minister of New York Yearly Meeting, we explored such issues as our hopes and vision for the future of the meeting, our relevance in the world, whether we can sustain ourselves as a vital meeting, and what we find in this meeting that we do not experience elsewhere. Our discoveries in those Second Hours and in the preparation of this report have made clear that much in Eastern Hills Meeting has life in it.

Our spiritual life as a meeting has many components, foremost perhaps our experience of a loving, sustaining community. This community is nurtured by corporate worship. In our singing at the beginning of Meeting for Worship, in the expectant waiting of worship, and in vocal ministry, we are brought close to the living, present God. We strengthen our faith community in other ways, as well. In our Second Hours we explore spiritual issues and challenges. In addition to the sessions on Eastern Hills’ future, other Second Hour topics included exploring what we mean by the word “spirituality” and the meaning of Sabbath (presented by the core teachers of the School of the Spirit). We have begun holding quarterly Meetings for Healing focusing on members, attenders, or others who need healing of any sort. Some of us, along with members of other Cincinnati meetings, participate in spiritually supportive Koinonia groups, communions of individuals who wish an opportunity to be intentional and accountable for the life of the Spirit within themselves through a sharing of their spiritual lives. Some of us participate in a Bible study group. In our periodic newsletters, Ministry and Counsel provides spiritual practices for us to follow. Finally, once a month, a member or attender opens Meeting for Worship by sharing some aspect of his or her spiritual life.

Eastern Hills Friends also find life in the ways we provide many forms of hospitality: inviting others into our meetinghouse and worship, inviting Friends into our homes, and inviting others into our hearts. We have co-sponsored with Greater Anderson Promotes Peace

at our meetinghouse a monthly interfaith gathering to pray for peace and have hosted meetings of Cincinnati's Interfaith Dialogue. We also provided hospitality for various traveling Friends: the core teachers of the School of the Spirit, American and international Friends in Cincinnati for Community Meeting's Quaker Diversity program, and others. We care for others in our community through our donations, for example, at Christmas to the East End Wellness and Outreach Mission, and in the hospitality of food once a month at the Jimmy Heath House, a residence for those who struggle with substance abuse. Like the Benedictines who welcome others as Christ, we try to see the Divine in others and in that name to make our gifts manifest and our love visible.

We strive to live in right relationship with those in our faith community, in our wider community, and with God. We know that these efforts have life for us by the ease, willingness, and love with which we do them. Indeed, our members' activity in the wider Quaker organizations (including yearly and quarterly meetings, Quaker Heights, and Friends World Committee for Consultation), as well as community organizations, is further testament to the vitality of spirit and faithfulness our small meeting fosters.

In the Fall of 2015, we thought we were looking at the impending death of our meeting, given our small numbers and graying heads, but when we took inventory of what we value in our meeting, we found much that has spiritual life in it. In fact, we found that we are very much alive and that, our small numbers notwithstanding, we have life to offer others. In the last year we have added two new members and three new attenders.

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 21st 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 on September 11, 2016. We have become a part of the Northmont Community Table which is an organization of local churches that helps school children and other poor people in our community. 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, another member is 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 helped a young woman who recently graduated from 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.

In May we hosted Maxine Kaufman-Lacusta, a Friend from Canada, who spoke to us about the nonviolent actions being taken by joint Palestinian and Israeli groups some of which she was involved to oppose Israeli settlement of the Palestinian West Bank. Several Friends from other Friends meetings and members of the community attended.

We had a workshop in August to help us determine ways we might draw folks to our meeting and portray Friends in a positive manner in our community. Several of us spent time and energy to make our meetinghouse more inviting. We have also developed a 5-year plan for our meeting to become more involved in social action in the community.

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 assemble quietly and reverently at 10am on First-Day mornings, as well as at 1pm on the first First-Day of each month. It is apparent that our members find meeting for worship a central part of their lives and that we approach meeting for worship as a special opportunity to hear what God has to say to us individually and as a body. Most of our resident members attend meeting for worship very regularly, although some of us have been occasionally or even frequently prevented from attendance this past year due to our own illness, illness of a family member, or other issues that arise.

Fall Creek Friends are disposed to assist according to their ability in making meetings profitable. This includes proper arrangement and care of the meetinghouse, worshipful participation, loving fellowship, and vocal ministry as we feel led by the Inner Light. As a body, we feel that there is neither too much nor too little vocal expression during meeting for worship. When vocal ministry is given, it is almost always helpful and acceptable to the gathered body and almost never irrelevant or lacking spiritual value.

The Committee for Ministry and Counsel consists of two members, and over the course of the past year, our work has been extremely light. We confess that we have made no special effort to help the membership understand and appreciate the nature of meeting for worship in the manner of Friends, nor have we taken special care to keep the basic principles of Quaker worship before our members. At this time in the history of our meeting, we feel that Fall Creek Friends have a strong foundation in Quaker worship, grounded in both theory and experience.

Fall Creek Friends are faithful in reading and responding to the twelve Queries in the 1978 Book of Discipline, considering one query each month at the beginning of our regularly appointed meeting for business. This practice affords us a monthly opportunity for regular reflection on our faithfulness to the basic understanding of Quaker faith and practice as outlined by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and our faithfulness to the leadings and prompting of the Inward Guide. This practice also has the highly desired effect of providing an additional layer of spiritual grounding before we proceed to other matters of business.

None of this is to suggest that our meeting is without challenges. Although there is a deep sense of Quakerly love among us, we remain a small and geographically scattered group. For some of us, there is little or no direct contact with other members between First-Days. It has proven difficult for us to plan and carry out projects relating to outreach to the Pendleton or Anderson communities or desperately needed major renovations on our aging meetinghouse. We feel that we have found a spiritual pearl of great price, but we fear that we have not found the empowerment to share it with the wider world.

Fort Wayne Friends

Although small in number, Fort Wayne Friends Meeting is blessed with members and attenders who share their gifts and spiritual journeys together on a regular basis. We are especially grateful to have four youth, including one teen, who attend/worship with us often.

We appreciate having several new attenders, who share their spiritual search with us, as we seek spiritual guidance through sharing and meditation together. The Meeting struggles with sharing vocal ministry out of our worship together. We are reminded to seek to live in the Spirit of Christ as we strive to fulfill our Quaker testimonies of peace, equality, integrity, and simplicity in our region and throughout the world.

Having young people in our Meeting and activities challenges us to provide opportunities for thought, learning, Quaker history, and Biblical understanding for our youth. They amaze us with their creativity and enthusiasm. We also have scheduled post worship discussion and potlucks. Periodically we view pieces of the “QuakerSpeak” video series, with lively discussion of topics presented.

Occasionally the Meeting joins with Plymouth Congregational Church to provide meals for the homeless in the Fort Wayne area. We have also provided toiletries and other needed items to help those in need, especially during the winter months. This past year we provided items for a needy family and personal care items. We have continued to provide financial help to Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, and winter clothing for Vincent Village, another social service organization. We see this as our Christian and Quaker witness to help those less fortunate. Additionally, the Meeting makes contributions to major Quaker service and witness groups such as FGC, FCNL, Friends Journal, and AFSC; these groups provide assistance to the wider world needs, on our behalf.

Fort Wayne Friends look to the future for continued contributions of both members and attenders. We hope all feel nurtured and continue to grow in the Spirit.

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.

Hopewell Friends

[No report received. The meeting is in the process of being laid down.]

Lafayette Friends

Things are generally going well here in Lafayette. We have a number of new attenders, two of them children. Their arrival has caused us to consider how we welcome newcomers into

the meeting, to make arrangements for teaching and to think about new curriculum for the youngest Friends. We had a recent visit from a Conservative Friend, Bill Elly, who spoke on a passage from Galatians in meeting. He is a retiree with a traveling minute from his meeting in Lancaster, PA, who feels called to drop in on meetings of all flavors of Quakerism on his travels. Bill arrived with the daffodils and then got back on I-65. We applaud his efforts, like those of our former member, Erik Cleven, to build bridges among all branches of Quakerism. We have been led to care for one another. One long-time member has been having trouble getting around and so has been unable to come to meeting. We go and have meeting at his home more or less monthly, as his energy permits, leaving one Friend at the meeting house in case of visitors. We are supporting one of our young adult Friends in his efforts to connect with Quaker students at Purdue and create a Quaker student organization on campus. We are also supporting one of our most active young Friends, Julia, who has just embarked on a 10-week Pickett Fellowship working with inner city youth in California. We are sad that she will soon be moving out of state permanently but rejoice in her upcoming marriage.

As always, we are reaching out into the Lafayette community by continuing to participate in local missions, such as the Lafayette Urban Ministry, a coalition of the churches in the area. A number of Friends are pursuing more personal missions in nursing, in addressing mental health issues in the local jail population, and in other areas.

We have a leading to greater involvement in OVYM and to pursue changes therein. Several of us are now on OVYM committees and we regularly participate as a meeting in considering the revisions to the *Faith and Practice* and in OVYM budget issues. We are feeling a sense of struggle over budget matters and related governance issues even as we value and support OVYM's continued work to seek ways to strengthen our Quaker society and enhance its presence in the wider world.

Lexington Friends

We recognize that the spiritual health of our meeting should be assessed by examining all its major components: the quality of vocal ministry; the spirit of community outside meeting for worship; the functioning of meetings for business; the activities of service; and religious education. We find our meeting to be spiritually strong, but not without challenges. Meetings for worship are well attended, and often have multiple messages. Our worship is generally rich and deep and we strive to keep messages centered in the Spirit.

The Meeting enjoys the arrival of new Friends who feel the Meeting is supportive, enriching, and a respite from their busy lives. Many of the newcomers are families with young children. We welcome them wholeheartedly and endeavor to provide inspiring religious education for children and adults. We are saddened when health problems prevent Friends being able to attend worship. We continue to support and minister to them. Long-attending Friends speak of how central the Meeting is in their lives and often attend activities at the meeting house on multiple occasions throughout the week. We struggle to identify our own privilege and unconscious biases that might be keeping a wider, more diverse group of Friends from joining us.

Our renovated meeting house is popular among local organizations, and the space is rented most evenings of the week. These activities help connect us with the larger community. For example, we rent to an African-American church and to a Hispanic religious group. We struggle to expand this relationship from that of a landlord and tenant to friends embarked on a similar spiritual path. Maintaining the meeting house, however, takes sustained effort.

Our Meeting is challenged to respond to ongoing disruptive behavior. We discuss it openly, identify problems, and work to develop better spiritually led methods for dealing with it.

Lexington Friends Meeting is actively engaged in outreach and service. A preschool started last August in the basement of the meeting house. While not a Quaker school, the school uses a teaching philosophy closely aligned with Quaker values, and many Friends actively participate in its operation. Enrollment is already at capacity and the school is thriving. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee is active in writing letters, settling refugees, and educating our members about social concerns. Our Care and Nurture committee works diligently to look after Friends with concerns by visiting and ministering with them, holding clearness committees, and sending notes. The Ministry and Worship Committee is active in enriching the worship of the Meeting. All committees are fully engaged in the life of the meeting.

We always strive to be a loving community, trying to care for one another, and to be open and sensitive to the Spirit in each of us. We are also conscious of unmet needs and acknowledge that we must continually labor to better serve one another and the Spirit.

Louisville Friends

There is much to be hopeful and thankful for in our Meeting. There are also opportunities for us to grow.

Waiting worship over the past year at Louisville Friends Meeting was rich, if quiet. The vocal ministry was meaningful and spoke to the condition of many. The new practice of reading spiritual passages and queries during the 15 minute settling period has helped with our centering and enhanced worship. We have also set aside the last few minutes of worship as a time to share joys, sorrows, and requests for holding others (or ourselves) in the Light. This seems to have filled a need, as it is common for several people to share requests and personal news.

Visitors and newcomers have expressed their joy in experiencing waiting worship with us. We are encouraging these individuals to participate in the community's life and work outside of Meeting for Worship and hope that their participation will continue to increase.

We are missing the Burundian Friends who have been with us for nearly a decade. They have planted their own Friends Church across town that is programmed in the Evangelical tradition and where they can lift up their voices in their native language. Our eyes have been opened to the many and continuing needs of immigrants and how privileged we are to have our lives intertwined in their adjustment to American life. Their strong family life and the encouragement from the community have helped their children excel.

First Day School teachers are blessed to get to know the young people of the meeting. The children's varying gifts, abilities, and personalities help shape the lessons and projects that lift up Friends' practices, testimonies and history. Now there is an average of just two or three children, rather than the six or more since the Burundians are not in attendance. One of the highlights of the year was the children's 12th month program presented to Meeting through song and skits, which lifted up some modern day interpretations of scriptures that are "Gifts of Peace."

Our First or Second Hour programs, providing adult religious education, social awareness, or an opportunity for fellowship, are often attended by 6 or less. Twenty-five to thirty people

attend weekly. Vocal ministry only arises 5 to 6 times per month. Two out of three of local members do not attend. Are these numbers a reflection of our vitality?

The monthly Women's Worship Sharing and weekly Friendly Bible Study continue to provide small group opportunities for fellowship and thought-provoking conversation. These groups are also a point of contact with Friends for individuals who do not attend Meeting for Worship.

We are seeking ways to involve more people in the working of the Spirit in our Meeting beyond First Day through committees. Our experiment to divide Ministry and Nurture committee into the Ministry and Worship and the Care and Nurture committees has engaged several additional people and allowed us to do more work in these critical areas. A small group of Friends provides a majority of the support for the Meeting's committees and functions. Several other committees continue to be un-clerked, understaffed, and meet sporadically. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has been inactive for several years.

This year some Friends found Meeting for Business to be unresponsive to immediate needs and found ways to gather individuals' support to move forward. One was to provide money for a young person to be an intern at Vienna's Peace Museum (in Austria) and the other was to sponsor a Syrian family through Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Conflict continues over our financial practices and use of our assets. This lack of unity provides opportunities for us to examine how we communicate with one another. An Audit Committee has been formed and is using FGC's Friendly Audit guidelines as a means of reviewing our financial procedures.

This leaves us with a need to search for answers to many questions in the year ahead. How do we retain and involve newcomers in our meeting? How best can we teach, reinforce and share our Quaker faith and practice to newcomers and experienced Friends alike? How do we open ourselves, not to avoid conflicts, but to be transformed by them? How do we respond to individual leadings? We have faith the Spirit will lead us and a path will open.

Miami Friends

Friends labored in 2015 with the state of the meeting and, despite our small numbers, a lot has been accomplished at Miami, in terms of the Spirit among us, our outreach to the community, and the upkeep of our historic buildings and grounds.

Adult First Day School remains a vital source of spiritual understanding and growth. In 2015, we dug deeply into the Epistle of James, the book of Nehemiah, Social Change and Religion in America, the Quaker Message: A Personal Affirmation, and Witness and Testimony in the Biblical and Quaker Traditions. We also studied the History of Quakers and other Dissenters in England and how they changed the world. Discussions are open and lively.

Putting faith into practice, Miami moved its investments to the Friends Fiduciary Green Fund, divesting its funds of any investments in fossil fuels. We also investigated alternative energy sources and are making improvements in facility insulation and lighting efficiency.

A lot of our energy has been spent in maintaining our facilities and grounds. The White Brick flooding issues have been ameliorated by the installation of a sump pump. Old trees threatening our buildings have been removed, replaced by new ones further from the meetinghouses. Gutters and downspouts have been repaired and replaced, and several work days were attended by the group of regulars.

We have been pleased to welcome new members and attenders to the Meeting this year, as well as several one-time visitors, some of whom have located us through our website. We

receive 2-3 messages each month from our Contact Us page from visitors to our Site who are seeking more information about the Meeting or are researching ancestors who were members in prior decades or centuries.

A historic marker was unveiled on June 6th to mark the site of Butterworth Station near Loveland, Ohio, which was a much used stop on the Underground Railroad. The Stone family, descendants of the Butterworth family, were on hand at the ceremony attended by community leaders and friends. The Butterworths contributed land as a station and helped hundreds of fugitive slaves fleeing north in the decades before the Civil War and slaves sheltered in a safe room in the Butterworth home before continuing their journey North.

The threat of rain did not interrupt our annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic, held July 12 at the historic Native American Site in Warren County, and attendance was good with a number of new visitors joining in worship and fellowship.

Eight of our members car-pooled to Cincinnati for the premier of the documentary Quakers: That of God in Everyone at Kenwood Cinema. The documentary was filmed for the bicentennial of Cincinnati Friends Meeting, who hosted a reception luncheon following the premier during which there was much positive discussion of the film and Quaker history.

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.

During the year, our members participated in the Quaker Diversity Conference, and Miami Quarterly and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, returning with stories of spiritual growth and passing on materials from those gatherings. Members also ministered to the local community during the year, participating in events at Quaker Heights Care Community, including leading the Annual Memorial Meeting for Worship, and sharing the Quaker Testimony with members of the local Ministerial Association. We have maintained our regular ministry to the residents of Quaker Heights 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 Quaker Heights 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. 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.

North Meadow Circle of Friends

North Meadow has had an exciting year. Many members and attenders of our meeting have become involved in a program that AFSC is initiating about Small Group/Social Change. Some members of our meeting were led to meet together to discuss their feelings and concerns about how they could change to more effectively work for justice. This small group has gradually grown to include many people from the meeting. There are now regular meetings that help those attending to spiritually and experientially explore their own social consciousness and awareness. Some of this has been done in conjunction with KI EcoCenter, a group for young African Americans that helps create change and growth in their lives and in those wanting to learn from them.

We have several new attenders who want to know more about Quakerism. For the first time in several years we have had a Quakerism 101 course that met for six sessions. It has been exciting to see the interest that this generated.

Over the last year we developed a regularly scheduled Friendly Bible Study that meets once a month. This is a method that was introduced at FGC that does not involve a lot of study or reading outside of the meeting time. A very enthusiastic group of attenders has grown around this study.

Again this year our meeting along with several other meetings joined with the many varied religious groups in the Indianapolis area at a Festival of Faith. This was held on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the end of August in a downtown park. It is good to work with people from area Friends Meetings and Churches as well as to observe the diversity that is present in Indianapolis.

In the spring of last year one of our members died. Stan Zarowin had been a member for 12 years and had come to us from New York Yearly Meeting. A very moving memorial meeting was held for him.

We average about 25-28 people in attendance at meeting for worship. And our joy in the presence of so many children is very evident. At the prompting of our insurance company, we have been considering the safety of children in the meeting and have developed some policies regarding their care. This concern about the welfare of the children brought about some soul searching among us as we explored our feelings about some of the things that arose from this. We came to clearness on how to make our children as safe as we can and still be caring for all involved. Many of us have been trained in meeting safety. We have made it a firm rule that when there are children present there will always be two adults in the room.

In December we celebrated the holiday season by having a musical evening. The year before was the first time we did this. We were enriched by people of all ages bringing instruments and voices. The look of joy on many of the attenders' faces was beautiful.

We continue to have monthly pitch-ins and worship sharing. A Quaker bike ride has been organized by part of our meeting community. We treasure the respect, joy and love that is shared in our meeting.

One of our ongoing painful challenges this year has been that we have had to postpone or eliminate some of our contributions to other organizations with which we feel in sympathy. It has led to several discussions about how to avoid this decision but we felt that it was not fiscally responsible to contribute money that we did not actually have. Our contributions have been static for several years but our expenses have not. We continue to search for ways to reach out to those we have helped support.

Oxford Friends

Oxford Friends Meeting is a fairly small meeting, often with less than a dozen attendance at meetings for worship on First Days. We have been encouraged by the presence of several new attenders during the past year, as well as Friends who have applied for membership. The meeting for worship is fairly quiet; vocal ministry is infrequent, although other Friends have experienced it as deeply meaningful when it occurs. We also have an “afterthoughts” period after worship, and there is often meaningful spiritual expression during that time also.

We have an active First Day School, with three children, and several adults in the Meeting have taken turns in providing leadership for the First Day School. We have also allotted time

after meeting for a First Day School report, and the children's responses to First Day School activities are much appreciated, and they are creative ministries to the meeting.

We would also like to mention several social concerns we have been led to address during the past year. We approved a minute on reducing gun violence, a minute which we have taken to our Quarterly Meeting, and which Quarterly Meeting has approved, and we also plan to bring it before the Yearly Meeting. We have taken part again in the "empty bowls" ministry, an ecumenical project in the Oxford community, one which our late member Camilla Flintermann helped to start, and that went well and raised a lot of money. We look forward to working with the Community Choice pantry this summer. Various members of the meeting are connected to the Opening Minds through Art project, which helps senior citizens with dementia connect with their creativity through artwork, aided by others who have been trained for this work; OMA has taken hold at the Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond, where one of our members serves as a chaplain. Our fall potluck focused on the issue of child poverty and its root causes.

In regard to the wider world of Friends, we are delighted that one of our members was able to represent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (and us) at the Friends World Committee for Consultation plenary in Peru in January. At our "Advent Event" in December, we made a quilt square for her to exchange. In return, we received a quilt square from Cuba, and this was especially meaningful to us since one of our members had traveled to Cuba and visited among Friends four times, and he has shared his experiences with us.

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.

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

Worship: Yellow Spring Friends Meeting offers early worship on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, and a Worship Sharing group on Thursday afternoons. A small, faithful group attends each of these gatherings. Regular Meeting for Worship is at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, typically filled by between 25 to 40 members and attenders. Several Antioch College students worship with us and we appreciate their insights and energy. We cherish all Ministry and plan to offer more guidance to newcomers about creating silence between messages as well as following the practice of waiting at the door to enter if someone is speaking. These "mechanics" of ministry are important in deepening our worship. We plan to experiment with this teaching, including leaving a small card on each chair from time to time, listing guidelines for vocal ministry. Like most Meetings, we hold a wide space for beliefs with some Friends very committed to a Christian identification, and space for those who would not so identify to express their truth as well.

First Day for Children: The First Day program at 10:00 a.m. draws its lessons from the Godly Play curricula. Between two and eight children will arrive on Sunday and our loving and adaptable First Day Committee modifies the program for whoever shows up. Children spend the first 15 minutes of the Meeting for Worship with us. When they leave, they typically explore Antioch's Glen Helen nature preserve for the rest of the hour guided by caring adults. Like many other Meetings we long for more families able to commit to regular attendance in order to fully plan each First Day program, and we are grateful for those who attend and enrich our community. We continue to plan intergenerational events that build our relationships with young attenders, organizing a game night, a talent show and retreat activities that bring us all together.

Membership and Pastoral Care: The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee fulfill its traditional functions, offering clearness committees for marriage and or membership. They have joyfully done both this year, supporting two weddings, one under the care of the Meeting and one event for a cherished young couple. The committee has also made an effort to inform the community of its Pastoral Care resources through announcements that identify what they do. A survey has been offered to members and attenders to help the committee better understand unmet needs in the Meeting.

Ministry and Advancement: Adult religious education meets from 10:00-10:35 and continues to struggle with a compressed timeframe for its programs. A group has been exploring a time change for all parts of First Day schedule, and a tentative plan is being considered by our Meeting for Business to offer more time to the programs. For our 2015 annual retreat we took advantage of the Earlham School of Religion Traveling Ministries program. Facilitator, Stephanie Crumley-Effinger led us in an exploration of the connections between our body and our spiritual lives, exploring the need for rest and daily spiritual practices for the body.

Fellowship and Community Building: YS Meeting holds a potluck social time every Sunday at the rise of Meeting to stay connected and welcome any new faces. Friends also meet for a monthly mid-week lunch at our Meeting House. In February we held a group book read *The Leap: How to Survive and Thrive in the Sustainable Economy* by Chris Turner, a book that takes Global Warming seriously, but with encouragement that communities could make a difference. Between 8-10 Friends met weekly at the Friends Care Community Center.

Outreach: We publish our schedules in the local paper weekly, on our Facebook page and on our website, quakercloud.org/cloud/yellow-springs-friends-meeting. This year a Friend has improved the content of our website and made it useful research tool for members - it now has all of the MFB minutes and newsletters from 2014 to present as well as other resources. We look for opportunities to host interdenominational programs and expect to offer a new outreach program in 2016.

Peace & Social Concerns New committee: Many Friends in the Meeting are activists with social justice causes like ending the death penalty, supporting Black Lives Matter campaigns, addressing climate change and prison reform. The meeting appreciates the information and understanding that is shared from Friends involved in this work. A few Friends renewed our Peace and Social Justice committee in 2015 and have initiated a monthly letter writing campaign during social hour. Friends continue to hold a weekly interdenominational Peace Vigil along U.S. 68, affirming the importance of Peace Witness. A WYSO Public Radio "Rediscovered Radio" program, "A Peaceful Protest" celebrated this Witness in February.

Wider Quaker World: Several families and individuals stay very involved in OVYM. Miami Quarterly Co-Clerks, Veronica Frost and Faith Morgan, are both members of Yellow Springs Meeting. Another member, Carol Simmons, former OVYM Youth Secretary, helped organize, facilitate and chaperone an OVYM Youth visit to Costa Rica staying in the Quaker community of Montverde for their service project. Our Meeting offered strong support. Yellow Springs hosted a Quarterly meeting in 2015, and a sizable contingent from Yellow Springs attended the Yearly gathering in 2015 as well. We continue to encourage and support participation in Quarterly and Yearly gatherings, The Gathering, and other events in the wider Quaker world.

Ongoing Concerns: The aging of our Meeting's membership is always a concern. Each loss is felt keenly. Our beloved friend Bill Houston who died hiking in the Canadian Rockies this past summer was the primary caretaker for his wife Hazel Tulecke, and a member of the Meeting's Membership and Pastoral Care Committee, the Meeting Statistician, and a founder and stalwart presence at the 10-plus-year-old weekly peace vigil downtown. We have also been saddened by the loss of Jean Putnam, a co-founder and co-director of Friends Music Camp. Jean was a stalwart worker for Peace. Meeting also mourns the death of Lorena Hyde, after a long illness. Lorena is remembered for her strong convictions and willingness to bring order to problems. She organized Meeting archives, making many trips to Wilmington College where OVYM archives are housed. She led the memorial Committee as Clerk to design a protocol for deaths. She remains present in the love of our community, and we celebrate her legacy of family and conviction. These dear Friends strengthened our Meeting and they remain with us in spirit and love.

Finances: All of our financial assets are now fossil fuel free and in socially responsible institutions. Our financial assets are in institutions that reflect our values, i.e. our local credit union, the National Cooperative Bank and a recently opened account in Friends Fiduciary Corporation's Green Fund. A new initiative has been to create a special fund to assist young people in the Meeting who want to attend a private school holding Quaker values.

Our Library: We have started a campaign to make our small library more useful to the Meeting. We are starting with unlocking it! It has suffered some neglect in past years even though it is stocked with wonderful Pendle Hill Pamphlets, books on Quaker history and materials meant to teach and inspire on all of our testimonies. Part of the challenge has been the multiple use of the building by many groups and the need to secure some items like the Torah belonging to the Hauvarah group using our chapel. A small committee has taken on the challenge and progress is being made.

We continue to benefit from the vision and ideas of our former clerk, John Eastman who died suddenly in 2014. Through his reshaping of our nominating process for last year, each of our committees has renewed their commitments to mission and responsibilities, offering revitalized spirit-led service to the meeting.

Memorial Minutes

Helen Cope

Helen Marie Adolph Cope died peacefully at Friends Fellowship Community on 12/13/2015. She was born in Jinan, China on 4/10/1920 to William H. and Katharine Witmer Adolph who were working in Shandong Province under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Mission. William taught biochemistry and nutrition at Shandong University and Katherine was a nurse at the Mission. Helen spent her first seven years in China.



After two years back in America, the family returned to Yenching University in Beijing. Helen remained in China until her senior year of high school when the family returned on sabbatical to New Haven Connecticut. She graduated from New Haven Hillhouse High School and then attended Mount Holyoke College, graduating in 1940.

After her time in graduate school at Cornell University Helen worked at Mills College in California, returning to Ithaca in 1942 where she met Cornell biology student, James Cope. They were married in 1944 and lived in Maryland while Jim was working in Civilian Public Service doing alternative service as a conscientious objector.

Helen and Jim Cope joined the Earlham Community in 1946 and settled on a 28-acre farm in Centerville, Indiana. Here they raised their family of five children and their home became a place of hospitality and a second home to many. Helen worked in the Science labs at Earlham, raised a huge garden, and provided love and nurture to a growing family which included 'adopted' students who spent time at the Cope farm. As her children matured she continued her work with land and nature by teaching science for 14 years at Centerville High School. Helen and Jim's love of nature, education, and sustainability became the Cope Environmental Center. Since 1992 the center has provided educational opportunities to people of all ages in sustainability and alternative energy.

Helen and Jim Cope were among the founding members of Clear Creek Meeting. They attended faithfully for decades, often bringing with them students who visited their home. Helen served the meeting in numerous ways including a lengthy term as treasurer. Quakerism was at the center of who she was.

Helen moved to Friends Fellowship Community after Jim's death in 2002. She continued her energetic life style with daily walks and sharing her cheerful, friendly, and joking self with residents and staff alike.

Ruthlessly practical and committed to the environment and wise use of the land, Helen was an inspiration to all. At her Memorial Service held at Stout Meetinghouse on 4/9/2016, family, friends, members of Clear Creek Friends Meeting, former students, and numerous Earlham alums who were taken under her wing attested to her deep caring for nature, teaching, children, and the importance of hospitality. Helen leaves a legacy of love, and an example of one who truly "walked cheerfully over the Earth answering that of God in everyone".

William Hoch

William (Bill) Hoch died at age 92 on March 11, 2016 while residing at Elmcroft Senior Living in Miamisburg, OH.

William B. Houston

The Yellow Springs Friends Meeting was unprepared for the death of Bill Houston on Aug. 17, 2015, during a hiking excursion in the Canadian Rockies. Bill had been taking solo hiking trips each summer since the 1970s, and while at 86 years of age he had faced a variety of life-threatening situations, Bill always seemed to persevere and overcome any challenges with grace, humility, and a distinctive youthful exuberance.

As the primary caretaker for wife Hazel Tulecke, as a member of the Meeting's Membership and Pastoral Care Committee and the Meeting Statistician, as a founder and stalwart presence at the 10-plus-year-old weekly peace vigil downtown, and as a loving and engaged presence at Meeting for Worship, his absence is keenly felt.



Born on July 3, 1929, in Macon, Ga., Bill was raised as a Baptist and retained a thorough knowledge of the Bible, which he often shared as part of vocal ministry messages that were invariably profound and wise and often punctuated by his keen wit.

He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Georgia Tech, and went on to get his Ph.D. at MIT. He married Gay Anne Hendrixson in 1955, and they had two daughters, whom they raised as part of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting after moving to Yellow Springs in 1962, when Bill took a faculty position in mathematics at Antioch College. Bill divorced Gay in 1987, and in 1988 married Hazel, who also raised a family in the Meeting.

An activist for peace and social justice throughout his adult life, Bill was a role model and inspiration for others in the Meeting and Yellow Springs community. Bill's FBI file, which he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, reveals that they took note of the fact that he was given Conscientious Objector status by the Selective Service in 1956, also of his participation in fundraising and support for the Freedom Project in Mississippi in 1964, and of his activities with the Dayton Area Committee for Peace in Vietnam in 1965.

Among the more recent peace and social justice efforts in which Bill participated were:

- the Alternatives to Violence Project;
- the Jicaro, Nicaragua, Sister Village project;
- Peace Brigades International (he traveled to Haiti with Hazel during the Haitian election in 2000 to provide a protective presence for nuns who were working to preserve voters' rights);
- the School of the Americas protest movement, (he served six months in prison for stepping over a line at the November 2000 protest in Georgia);
- the anti-death penalty movement; and
- local Black Lives Matter actions.

Without fail, Bill proved to be a clear-eyed, humble and committed presence in the pursuit of a just and peaceful world. In recognition of his service, Bill, along with Hazel, received the Yellow Springs 2014 Community Peacemaker Award at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Bill is remembered by Yellow Springs Friends and community as "gentle, loving, reliable, intuitively helpful, smart and wise," and as one community member noted, he "loved a bad

pun only less than a good one.” He studied and faced the world’s ills, and worked passionately to mend them, yet his spirit remained loving and nonjudgmental, and his smile welcomed all to deeper fellowship. His kindness extended throughout the community in his words, his loving presence, and a multitude of quiet, unsung acts. We miss him and celebrate his life.

Lorena Estlow Hyde

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting mourns the death of Lorena Hyde on April 17, 2015, after a long illness. Lorena’s declining health forced her absence in recent years from the daily life of the Meeting, but she was never absent from our hearts and minds. She remains present in the love of our community, and we celebrate her longtime relationship with Yellow Springs Friends and her legacy of family and conviction.



The daughter of a Methodist minister, Lorena was born Dec.21, 1924, in Fruita, Col. She retained a lifelong love for the Colorado mountains even after her family moved east, and she was raised in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and upstate New York. A 1949 graduate of Antioch College, she married fellow Antiochian Dr. Carl Hyde in 1950, and they settled in Yellow Springs in 1954, raising their four children within the Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting.

At Yellow Springs Friends, during her children’s youth, she led “Family Time,” which became “Meeting for Everyone,” on First Days at 10 a.m. Memories of that time include multi- generational plays and songs. A sociology major who had worked with mentally disabled children and an accomplished pianist and vocalist, Lorena had a unique knack for making up songs that helped children learn and remember.

Her love of music was seen in her membership in Yellow Springs Community Chorus, her regular attendance at local musical performances, and her unwavering support of the musical pursuits of her children and eight grandchildren, with one daughter becoming a professional musician.

Her love of nature and the outdoors had an indelible effect on her loved ones as well. An avid and knowledgeable birdwatcher, she taught her children the names of birds and flowers during frequent forays into Glen Helen and other natural areas. She lived by the ideal that “you have to look and listen, or you’ll miss it all,” which meant for her children and grandchildren that a walk in the Glen might include more stopping than walking.

Lorena had a strong personality and sense of clarity about her convictions. The proud wearer of her mother’s Women’s Christian Temperance Union lapel pin, she took a powerful and difficult action in the 1970s when she withdrew her membership from Yellow Springs Friends, because she felt that the Meeting was not taking a strong enough collective stand against drug use.

If Lorena saw a problem, she acted to make improvements. She brought order to the Meeting archives, making many trips to Wilmington College where the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting archives are kept; and she led the Memorial Committee as clerk to design the protocol for handling deaths. She also spoke with determination and purpose during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Our lives and the life of the Meeting are better and stronger for her time with us. We honor her memory while missing her physical presence.

Roland Deeds Kreager

Roland Deeds Kreager, surrounded by love of family and friends, died Saturday, May 28, 2016, at his home in Richmond, Indiana. Roland was born November 11, 1950, in Angola, Indiana. He was the son of Clyde and Ruth (Deeds) Kreager. Roland graduated from Hilliard (Ohio) High School, Ohio State University, and earned Masters of Arts and Divinity degrees from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His life-long passion for social justice was manifested in volunteer and professional work throughout his life.



After college graduation, Roland served with Quaker Volunteer Service in Indianapolis, Indiana. He went on to work for American Friends Service Committee, Freestore Foodbank in Cincinnati, Ohio and for other non-profit organizations serving poor and marginalized persons. From 1992 to 2011 Roland worked for a Quaker organization, Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR). During his tenure with RSWR, he led the organization to become an independent non-profit with staff persons in the U.S., India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Through Roland's efforts toward economic justice thousands of women and families in the developing world were able to earn a more equitable income. For the last four years of Roland's career, prior to retirement, he was the Development Director of Over The Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) in Cincinnati, OH. There he helped to raise funds for affordable housing.

Roland lived his life in accordance with his Quaker values and served the Quaker community in numerous ways. Most recently he was the clerk of West Richmond Friends Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. An avid runner, a trumpet player, a man who loved working in the garden caring for his land or hiking in the woods, Roland was a man who loved life and brought much love to others. His primary passion and love was for his wife, step-children, granddaughters, and many friends.

Mildred Mahoney

Our beloved friend and Friend, Mildred Mahoney, died on June 15, 2016, after a life of seeking, learning, teaching, and serving. Her example of faithfulness will sustain us as we miss her gentle, calm presence among us.

Born on October 29, 1924, Milly grew up on a farm in northern Indiana, where she flourished despite the economic hard times of that era. She enjoyed the pleasures of rural life including an extended loving family and educational encouragement. Her religious foundation was based on awareness of God's love and the claims of the Golden Rule.



Milly graduated from high school at age 16, and enrolled at near-by Manchester College to prepare herself to teach children. Her college years - 1941-1945 - were both happy and also challenging as she wrestled with a call to commit herself to pacifism. After much thought and

prayer she concluded that she had to "do something by way of positive, constructive contribution to peace-making."

She found opportunities to live out her pacifism over the next few years: during several summers she joined a Peace Caravan organized by the American Friends Service Committee in Kansas, worked with Friends at the Hampton Institute in Virginia, and participated in work-camps in the Ozarks and in Nyack, New York. She found a spiritual home among Friends as she discovered the connections between service and Quaker worship, which "filled a deep need in my life." She taught school for several years in various settings, continuing to spend summers in service among Friends. She served one year in Fuukari, Finland, and then earned a masters degree in education from the University of Chicago. Those years, while challenging, brought Milly more deeply into Quaker community as she joined the 57th Street Meeting and made lasting friendships. In 1951 she went to Paris, France, where she worked on behalf of Friends, organizing work camps and other crucial programs.

Milly returned to the USA with new resolve to teach. She moved to Kentucky in 1953 and became a teacher at Pine Mountain Settlement School and remained there until 1971. During those years her roles in the community expanded. She initiated a summer pre-school project for children in the area which became, in the late 1960s, a model for Head Start and later for kindergarten in Harlan County, Kentucky. She considered this to be her "happiest teaching experience." In addition she organized social events in the community, administered funds granted by federal programs, and visited in the homes of the children in her area.

In 1971 she returned to Indiana to care for her aging parents. She played an active role in the Fort Wayne Quaker community and in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. In 1991 Manchester College honored her with the Alumni Honor Award. She later returned to Pine Mountain as a volunteer, including service as interim director.

She moved to Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond, Indiana, in 2001 where she enjoyed deep friendships and contributed to the life of that community. She joined Clear Creek Friends Meeting where she continued her ministry of encouragement, humor, and steadfastness. She played an active part in the life of the Meeting through committee work and worship attendance, and was a regular participant in Yearly Meeting activities.

Milly Mahoney will be remembered for her loving attention to the needs and concerns that surrounded her no matter what setting or era. She was often quiet, but when she spoke, people listened and recognized the wisdom of her words. Her actions spoke volumes as she walked among us as teacher and friend.

Jean (Unnewehr) Putnam

A long-time member of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, Jean Putnam, age 94, died Jan. 8, 2016, in Warwick, R.I., where she lived under the care of her children after the death of her husband, Harold, in 2007.

Born in Berea, Ohio, on May 31, 1921, Jean called Yellow Springs home and was active in the YS Meeting during two separate periods of her life. The first began soon after her marriage to Harold in 1945. On the suggestion of villagers Meredith and Willa Dallas, whom Jean and Harold had met at an ashram in New Jersey, the young couple came to Yellow Springs and set up housekeeping on a farm outside the village limits. Jean would later remember how the house had no electricity or running water and that she rode her bicycle

into town for groceries and supplies. Jean and Harold became members of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting in 1948, and eventually took up residence in town, where they raised their three children, Mark, Dan, and Nancy.

A magna cum laude graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College, where she had majored in music and mathematics, Jean was an accomplished and devoted musician whose love of music radiated from her and enriched the lives of those around her. She taught music to hundreds of students, both in public schools and in her home, where she gave piano lessons until 2007. She directed and participated in choral groups and eight-handed piano groups; composed, arranged, and annotated a variety of musical works; and hosted countless recitals. She was a founding and active member of the Dayton-area alumni chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, an international, coed, music fraternity, and helped foster a student chapter at Central State University. She also traveled throughout the region to adjudicate piano student performances. In addition, she wrote regular reviews of local chamber music performances for the Yellow Springs News.

Music also brought her in contact with Coretta Scott King, singing with her at Antioch College in 1950, when the then as yet unmarried Coretta Scott was a student, and maintaining a correspondence with the future civil rights leader in the years after.

Jean shared her deep musicality with the Yellow Springs Meeting as well, leading choral groups for Christmas Eve performances and playing Christmas carols – from memory – for the annual Christmas Eve program, during which her colorful Christmas socks might be seen peeking out above her shoes.

In 1980, she and Yellow Springs Friends member Peg Champney co-founded Friends Music Camp, a summer residential camp on the campus of Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. Dedicated to musical growth for young people in an inclusive community informed by Quaker values, the camp continues to provide a unique and valuable experience for young musicians.

Jean and Harold also were deeply committed to world peace, nonviolence and civil rights. Jean regularly participated in local and national demonstrations and helped to publish “The Peacemakers” newsletter through the 1950s and ‘60s. She also compiled a “Songs of Peace and Freedom” songbook, which was endorsed by Pete Seeger. The FBI file of YS Friends member Bill Houston, who obtained the file through the Freedom of Information Act, noted his attendance at a potluck gathering of peace activists at the Putnam home during the Vietnam War.

The Putnam family moved away from Yellow Springs in 1967, when Harold took a job in New Hampshire. Two years later, they moved to Melrose, Mass., where Harold worked at Harvard University, and Jean increased her musical pursuits, including getting a master’s degree in music from UMASS-Lowell in the early 1980s.

After Harold’s retirement in 1987, the couple returned to Yellow Springs, and the pair began their second residency in the village and in Meeting. Jean continued her many musical activities and again became involved in the Meeting’s Peace and Social Concerns committee. She was also an enthusiastic member of the Library Committee and wrote book reviews published in Friends Journal.

A vegetarian before the rest of the world knew what it meant, Jean loved animals and nature. She also enjoyed swimming and professed a fondness for driving. She was also strongly

independent. When the symptoms of Alzheimer's became more pronounced and loved ones took away her car keys, she called the manufacturer for a replacement set.

Jean had a kind and generous spirit, and happily shared what she had with others, from a piece of music, to a Thanksgiving meal. Her natural cheerfulness, love of life and inner strength – and the loving care of her family – helped her cope during her last decade with the loss of Harold and the effects of Alzheimer's.

The memory of her smile continues to warm all who knew her, and the fruits of her influence continue to nourish the life of our community and our Meeting. We are richer and stronger as a result of her time with us.