

# Minutes

of the 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions of the

## **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

*“Moving Together with the Spirit”*

June 14-18, 2017

Held on the campus of Earlham College  
Richmond, Indiana

## Table of Contents

Agenda .....	3	Earthcare Committee Report .....	41
Minutes of the 197th Business Meetings .....	4	Quaker Heights Care Community Report .....	42
Roll Call of Monthly Meeting Representatives .....	12	Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report .....	43
2017 Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting .....	13	Friends General Conference (FGC) Report .....	44
Epistle from the Teens/Middle Youth .....	14	Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report .....	46
Epistle from the Children .....	15	Letter from Friends World Committee for Consultation .....	47
Registrar's Report .....	15	Friends Peace Teams (FPT) Report .....	48
Summary of Epistles Received .....	16	Quaker Heritage Center Report .....	49
Executive Committee Report .....	17	William Penn House .....	50
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report .....	17	Executive Committee Minutes 2016-17 .....	51
Miami Quarterly Meeting Report .....	18	State of the Meeting Reports .....	66
Audit Committee Report .....	19	Bloomington Friends Meeting .....	66
Budget and Finance Committee Report .....	19	Campus Friends Meeting .....	67
Treasurer's Report .....	19	Clear Creek Friends Meeting .....	67
Statistical Report .....	25	Community Friends Meeting .....	68
Records Committee Report .....	27	Dayton Friends Meeting .....	69
Braddock Fund Committee Report .....	27	Eastern Hills Friends Meeting .....	70
Nominating Committee Report .....	28	Englewood Friends Meeting .....	71
Youth Services Committee Report .....	29	Fall Creek Friends Meeting .....	72
Planning Committee Report .....	29	Fort Wayne Friends Meeting .....	73
Website Administrator's Report .....	30	Lafayette Friends Meeting .....	73
Administrative Secretary Report .....	30	Lexington Friends Meeting .....	74
Quaker Quill Report .....	31	Friends Meeting of Louisville .....	76
Faith and Practice Committee Report .....	31	Miami Monthly Meeting .....	77
Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report .....	36	North Meadow Circle of Friends .....	78
Ad Hoc Committee on OVYM Contributions Report .....	39	Oxford Friends Meeting .....	79
		Yellow Springs Friends .....	80
		Summary of the State of the Meeting Reports .....	82
		Memorial Minutes .....	84
		Bruce Ashley .....	84
		Sherilyn Ruth Brandenstein .....	84
		Mary Danzeisen .....	86
		Herbert W. Fraser .....	87
		Paul A. Lacey .....	88

## Agenda for Business Meetings for 197th OVYM Annual Sessions (2017)

Wednesday 6/14 3 pm – 5 pm	Thursday 6/15 10 am – 12:30 pm	Friday 6/16 10 am – 12:30 pm	Saturday 6/17 10 am – 12:30 pm	Sunday 6/18 10 am – 11 am
Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes Epistolary Committee Appt. for Epistle Summary Gratitude to youth workers and appt of visitors to youth business <b>Reports:</b> State of Society Report Whitewater Quarterly Executive Committee Closing Worship	Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions and Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes <b>Reports:</b> Religious Nurture and Education Statistician Treasurer Budget and Finance Comm. Braddock Fund Quaker Heritage Center Quaker Heights Care Community Closing Worship	Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes <b>Reports:</b> Friends Music Camp Ad Hoc Committee on External Contributions Earthcare Committee Records Miami Quarterly American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Closing Worship	Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes <b>Reports:</b> Faith and Practice revisions Friends General Conference (FGC) Web Administrator Youth Service Comm. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Nominating Committee Epistle summary Closing Worship	Centering Worship Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes <b>Reports:</b> Nominating Committee Children's Program Comm. Registrar 2018 Sessions info Visitors to youth programs 2017 Epistles from the Youth Children Adults Minutes of appreciation Closing Worship
<b>Thursday 6/15 3:30pm – 5:00 pm</b>				
Centering Worship Greetings <b>Reports:</b> Nominating Comm. –initial Planning Committee Faith and Practice Comm. Closing worship				

Friends, please note:

Our agenda for business should be understood as TENTATIVE. Central to our business practice is an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. In particular, if time is short, we may have to make do with the written versions of some items that do not appear to call for the discernment of the gathered body.

# Minutes of the 197th Business Meetings

**Wednesday, June 14 at 3PM**

*There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath different names: it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no form of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity.*

— John Woolman

1. The first business session opened with a period of centering worship.
2. The Presiding Clerk Betsy Neale welcomed Friends.
3. Ben Griffith will be joining the clerk's table to help fill the absence of our Assistant Clerk, Rex Sprouse.
4. The clerk explained how we will proceed as far as the time for speakers and also using the microphones to amplify our voice and to act as a Talking Stick.
5. 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 other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.
6. Richard Mitchell is asking for a volunteer to read the epistles from other yearly meetings, summarize them, and then report to the Executive Committee.
7. An epistolary committee is needed to write our epistle. The clerk asked for suggestions of volunteers and volunteers. Ben Griffith agreed to serve. Lisa Cayard was mentioned. If she cannot serve, David Garman will.
8. Gratitude was expressed to those working with our youth during these sessions: Hannah Branson, Chie Togami, Lucas Blanchard Glueckert, Dylan Cahalan, Andrew Hardy, Lupe Witte, Susan Hyde, Paz Santana, Maria Hernandez and Gabby Hernandez.
9. David Duvall will be a visitor to the teen and middle youth program. Deborah Jordan will be a visitor to the younger children.
10. Summary of the State of Society Reports. Nikki Coffey Tousley. The report is attached.
11. Whitewater Quarter Report is attached.
12. Executive Committee Report is attached. Presiding Clerk Betsy Neale highlighted some parts of the report. Attendance is a challenge, so the committee is looking at the use of "Go To Meeting," software that allows all logged in to see each other on screen. The Youth Service Committee is seeking a Youth Secretary. Religious Nurture and Education is making a commitment to increase intervisitation. The

Nominating Committee is struggling, and the Executive Committee asked each Monthly Meeting to appoint a representative to the Nominating Committee.

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

#### **Thursday, June 15 at 10AM**

*The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious, and devout souls are everywhere of one religion, and when death takes off the mask, they will know one another though the diverse liveries they wear here make them strangers.*

— William Penn

14. The second business session opened with a period of centering worship.

15. In the temporary absence of our presiding clerk Betsy Neale, Ben Griffith will be the acting clerk.

16. 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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends and other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.

17. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey Tousley and Shannon Isaacs. Currently, all the committee members are from Miami Quarter, and the committee would love some Friends from Whitewater Quarter. The primary focus has been, and continues to be, developing and implementing a program on intervisitation within the Yearly Meeting. They have prepared a proposal full of wonderful ideas to promote spiritual growth through intervisitation in our yearly meeting. The committee is asking Yearly Meeting Monthly Meetings, committees and Friends to commit to the spirit of their proposal. Those attending are asked to share this proposal with their home meetings. Monthly Meetings and committees are requested to respond to the Religious, Nurture and Education Committee by early October. Friends united behind this proposal. The report is attached. Approved.

18. Statistician Report, Frank Huss, The full report will be corrected. Our current membership should be 612. Frank noted that the statistics show that we are definitely an aging society. Appreciation was given for the age statistics hoping that this can be used for future planning. The report was approved.

19. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer. The report and proposed budget is attached [Note: Only the approved budget is included in this document]. Friends are reminded that we have not finished the current Fiscal Year. Due to the change of date of Yearly Meeting sessions, this current budget will show some yearly meeting expenses that will overlap. This will not happen again. There is a proposed surplus of approximately \$5,000.00. This is partly due to the vacancy of a Youth Secretary and lack of activities with the youth. The report was accepted.

20. Finance Committee, Wilson Palmer. There is no clerk for this committee. The proposed budget is attached [Note: Only the approved budget is included in this document]. The proposed proportional share of \$120.00 is unchanged. Bloomington's pledge has changed to \$5,000.00, which is different than shown. There is a projected loss which is not really a concern as history has shown. Friends are

reminded that there is a Development Committee whose responsibility is to help raise funds in event of a shortage. Friends approved the budget and the proportional share.

21. Braddock Fund, Wilson Palmer. There is a new brochure available. It was requested that a copy be sent to each Monthly Meeting. The report is attached. The report was accepted.

22. Quaker Heritage Center, Ruth Brindle. The report is attached. Friends are asked to visit their table and their website. They are especially proud of their exhibit of posters from the Marshall Plan. Outreach and visitation has increased to non-Quakers. Thanks was expressed to the Yearly Meeting for our annual contribution.

23. Quaker Heights Care Community, Wilson Palmer. The report is attached. There currently is a capital campaign going on. There is also work in progress to make all the rooms single occupancy with a full bath with a shower. The struggle continues between quality care and staying in business. The partnership with Ohio Living, a Presbyterian organization, did not happen. Approval was given to a new board member, Peggy Clark who is a member of the Waynesville community. The report was accepted.

24. After announcements the session closed with a period of waiting worship.

#### **Thursday, June 15 at 3:30PM**

*...there is a place in our midst for evangelism in the best sense of that word—an evangelism that might be rooted in Jesus, Buddha, God or Goddess, nature, the hunger for scientific knowledge, or simple human love and compassion.*

*Twin Cities Friends Meeting Draft Minute on Theological Diversity (2006)*

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

26. The Presiding Clerk, Betsy Neale, who has returned to us, thanked Ben Griffith for filling in, and she welcomed Friends. She reminded us of our friendly procedures.

27. 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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends and other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.

28. Nominating Committee initial report, Richard Mitchell. The report is attached. There has been a problem populating this committee. Executive Committee is requesting that each Monthly Meeting send one person to serve on this committee. The report was accepted.

29. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Martha Viehmann. The report is attached. More committee members are needed. Members of the committee were thanked for their work. Friends thanked Martha for her obedience to the Spirit and detailed work on this committee. The report was accepted.

30. Faith and Practice Committee, Lisa Cayard. The report is attached. The following revisions were

presented: Queries, Spiritual Friendships, Trustees and Marriage Procedure. Several Friends suggested changes. Some Friends expressed faith in the work of the committee, which has been diligently working through all the revisions, many of which have been presented to monthly meetings and this body previously and have been changed along the way. Notes were taken on suggestions. Betsy Neale read the introduction to Faith and Practice to remind Friends that we acknowledge the tapestry of individual Spiritual practices, beliefs and vocabulary about the Divine. Gratitude was expressed to the committee. It is proposed that the committee meet soon to consider suggested revisions and report again at a later session. This was approved.

31. After announcements the session closed with a period of waiting worship.

### **Friday, June 16 at 10AM**

*Prayer is limited in its ability to create compassion – creation of compassion requires action, moderation, cultivation. There is no room for violence.*  
— The Dalai Lama

32. The fourth business session opened with a period of centering worship.

33. Presiding Clerk Betsy Neale welcomed Friends and reviewed our procedures.

34. 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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends and other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.

35. Friends Music Camp, Heather Snediker-Morscheck. There are 25 staff working with 75 campers, and they enjoy the use of the facilities at Earlham. Friends Music Camp is awesome and everyone should go! The report was accepted.

36. Ad Hoc Committee on Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Contributions, Peter Hardy, Michele Tomarelli and Fred Feitler. The report is attached. After conducting a survey, the committee recommends not making any changes at this time. They also recommend revisiting this on a regular basis since this has not been done for 8 years. There is not unity with the recommendation to continue with the current donations. Comments that were made by those in attendance are as follows: a Friend suggested having more equity with our donations since our donations could be interpreted as showing favoritism to some organizations; the scope of the impact on the world of the organization should influence our donation; some organizations have greater needs than others; we need to be attentive to new organizations that reflect current movements of the Spirit among Friends; there should be a mechanism to add new organizations, including having them be present at sessions; individuals wishing to have Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting support an organization should be responsible for presenting their reasons; there should also be a way of removing an organization; how our donation impacts the organization is a concern; we should choose organizations that align with our priorities; there is a concern that Friends should not be made to feel guilty because they are not able to donate more; there is hope that the committee will actively seek out younger Friends to be heard; there should be a way to address urgent needs; there was a reminder that some of this should start at the Monthly Meeting level and work its way up; and there should be a formal review periodically.

Friends approved that with the addition of Elaine Emmi, and the current members who are willing to continue, this ad hoc committee should continue this work in light of these comments. They are also asked to keep a closer eye on the organizations we donate to in regards to their budget and how they align with our values and priorities. A special charge was given for gathering input from younger Friends to capture their enthusiasm and energy.

It is hoped that the donations will be formally reviewed every three years. Appreciation was given to the work of this committee.

37. Earthcare Committee, Bill Cahalan. The report is attached. Bill was thanked for his work and his passion for this work. The report was accepted.

38. Epistolary committee members are finalized as Ben Griffith and Lisa Cayard. Friends accepted their service,

39. Records Committee, Susan Hyde. Report is attached. Wilmington College thanked us for our donation to help purchase archival materials and improve the archival abilities. Please contact Wilmington College for more information. Christine Snyder is the other member of this committee. The report was accepted with thanks.

40. Miami Quarter, Veronica Frost. Report is attached. The Joint Quarterly Meeting at Camp Kern was very successful, and we will use them again. Green Plain Meeting has asked to be laid down, and Miami Quarter is working with them and taking responsibility for the property. Thanks were expressed to Veronica for all her work on the process related to Green Plain Meeting. The report was accepted.

41. American Friends Service Committee, David Duvall. AFSC is celebrating its centennial this year. They have been challenged by fiscal concerns, which have led to closing some programs. There is more information available at their table. The report was accepted.

42. Friends Committee on National Legislation, Alicia McBride. Thanks were given to the many Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for their help to FCNL. Due to the challenges happening with the federal government, Friends are thanked for holding FCNL and its workers in the Light. Friends are invited to attend Alicia's workshop tomorrow. The report was accepted.

43. After announcements, the meeting closed.

### **Saturday, June 17 at 10AM**

*The universal God speaks in many voices. If we do not remain open to all of them, we may fail to hear the most important message that will ever be sent to us. How can we know unless we are listening and seeking and growing?*

—Joy Weaver

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

45. Presiding Clerk Betsy Neale welcomed Friends and reviewed our procedures.
46. 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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends and other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.
47. Faith and Practice Revision, Lisa Cayard. The Section on Spiritual Friendships as attached was approved. The section on Trustees as attached was approved. The section on Marriage Procedure as attached was approved. A Friend reminded us that this process began in 1999 with the intention of having something more up-to-date to place in the hands of people new to Quakerism. The committee substantially rewrote the queries from those that were initially sent out to Monthly Meetings after discerning that they should be more simple and open-ended. Since this was a change from previous practice, substantial discernment occurred on the floor of the yearly meeting, resulting in clarity to move forward. Those present approved the committee making the final edits and then that version of the Queries will be published in the Minutes as approved.
48. Friends General Conference, Rachel Ernst-Stallhuth. The report is attached. The institutional assessment on racial inclusion and diversity has been fully funded and will be happening this year and concluded this coming year. The Gathering will be in New York July 2nd through July 8th. Next year it will be in Toledo, Ohio. There are new resources for children using the Faith and Play model including materials on Margaret Fell, Elizabeth Fry, John Woolman and Images of God. There is also a Spiritual Deepening program that has been developed, which includes small groups, eRetreats and Content such as Silence & Light and Beloved Community. The report was accepted.
49. Pat Brubakker has been approved to serve on the ad hoc committee for OVYM contributions.
50. Website Administrator, Lonny Burger. The report is attached. We now have access to Mail Chimp for the Quill and announcements. Friends may sign up on our website. Just a reminder that we do have a presence on FaceBook that Friends can Like. Thanks was given to Lonny. The report was accepted.
51. Youth Service Committee, David Funck. The report is attached. We are inviting Friends to help us find a Youth Secretary. Friends are asked to take the leadership role in introducing themselves to our children and starting a conversation. The report was accepted.
52. Friends World Committee for Consultation, Anne Hutchinson and Phyllis Martin. The report is attached. They shared a letter from the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office, which is attached. They also shared part of a Sustainability Minute, which is also attached [Note: This minute is available at <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary>]. The report was accepted.
53. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell. A partial report is attached [Note: This report has not been provided by the Nominating Committee, and is not included in this document]. The report was approved.
54. Epistle Summary, Deb Kociszewski. The report is attached. The report was accepted with extra gratitude.

55. After announcements, the meeting closed with thankful worship.

### **Sunday, June 18 at 10AM**

*...only true silence can center us in that emptiness in which our thought and speech are purified and made new. Then we shall know all things from within, not through the mediation of words, so that our language will be no longer an obstacle to love, but a true and natural expression of it. This is the great potential of our silent worship, that it can empty us of delusion, purify our thought, and lead us from conviction to conversion.*

— George Amoss

56. The sixth and final business session opened with a period of centering worship.

57. Presiding Clerk Betsy Neale welcomed Friends.

58. 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 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends and other visitors introduced themselves. These are also listed on the roll call.

59. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell. The list of nominating committee members and additional names to the roster were approved. The complete nomination roster is attached [Note: This roster has not been provided by the Nominating Committee, and is not included in this document].

60. Teen and Middle Youth Epistle, Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson and Maryam Tonne. The Epistle was received with gratitude and smiles and is attached.

61. Registrar's Report, Eric Wolff. The report is attached. The report was accepted.

62. Children's Program Epistle, The report was accepted with thanks and appreciation to the staff who worked with them. A parent expressed thanks and awe to the staff who worked with them and thanks was given to the parents who brought these wonderful children. The epistle is attached.

63. A special thanks was expressed to Chie Togami for filling in at the last minutes for Teens/Middle Youth. It was noted that several of the staff working with the Teens/Middle Youth had attended OVYM as youth.

64. Children's Committee, Susan Hyde. Thanks was given to the staff, many of whom come yearly - including Lupe Witte who has been coming for 19 years. A special thanks to Hannah Branson who has been doing this work for 21 years. It was great to have 14 children this year. The report was accepted.

65. Planning Committee, Martha Viehmann. 2018 sessions will be at Earlham College, June 13 - 17th.

66. Visitor to the Children's program, Deborah Jordan. The children were delightful and even worship was in motion. Report was accepted.

67. Visitor to the Teens and Middle Youth, David Duvall. The visit to the youth was a learning experience for all. He was also able to help with the Simply Speaking activity. The report was accepted.
68. The OVYM Adult Epistle, Lisa Cayard and Ben Griffith. The Epistle is attached and was accepted with gratitude.
69. It was approved that Michele Tomarelli serve as convener for the ad hoc committee for OVYM contributions.
70. The clerk, Betsy Neale, raised a concern in regards to younger Friends feeling heard and valued by the Yearly Meeting. She is accepting help from all who share this concern. Please contact her if interested.
71. A thanks was expressed to the clerk's table and that gratitude was reflected back to the body for their support.
72. Thanks to Kaitlin and all Earlham staff who supported us this week.
73. The minutes for these sessions were approved.
74. The meeting adjourned to move on to worship at Stout Meeting House to reconvene June 13, 2018.

## Roll Call of Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington Monthly Meeting:	Elaine Emmi
Campus Monthly Meeting:	No Representative
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:	No Representative
Fort Wayne Monthly Meeting:	Bob Holada
Green Plain Monthly Meeting:	No Representative
Lafayette Monthly Meeting:	Michele Tomarelli
Lexington Monthly Meeting:	Richard Mitchell
Louisville Monthly Meeting:	Chris Harmer
Miami Monthly Meeting:	David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
North Meadow Monthly Meeting:	David Duvall
Oxford Monthly Meeting:	Andy Garrison
White Rose Monthly Meeting:	Anne Hutchinson
Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting:	Deb Kociszewski

### Representatives and Visitors from Other Quaker Organizations

Friends General Conference	Janice Domanik
FWCC Section of the Americas Representative	Benigno Sanchez-Eppler
AFSC - Indianapolis	Erin Polley
Quaker Heritage Center	Ruth Brindle
Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting	David Eley
FCNL and Baltimore Yearly Meeting	Alicia McBride
Earlham School of Religion	Matt Hisrich
Friends General Conference	Rachel Ernst-Stalhlhut

## 2017 Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Greetings to Friends Everywhere!

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met for its 197th Annual Sessions at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana from June 14 -18, 2017. Our theme was "Moving Together with the Spirit." With great joy we reconnected with familiar Friends and welcomed many who were attending for the first time. As one person put it, each year we reconstitute the Body! Or as another Friend exclaimed, "We have a love fest!" The date for annual sessions was a month earlier this year in hopes of accommodating the schedules of more families, and we did see an increase in the number of children attending.

As we gather here this year, we discover Spirit in all the usual places. Worship sharing groups going deep, workshops providing tools for nurturing relationships, children laughing, exchanged smiles and reacquainting hugs, little pods of people engaged in conversations, sharing meals in the cafeteria, early morning walks and worship, singing together, catching up with old Friends and learning about the lives of new Friends. The annual Variety Show united us in laughter, music, and celebration. These usual finding places are important to us as we reaffirm that we are moving together in Spirit.

In our business sessions we were challenged to create openings for the Spirit to move throughout the Yearly Meeting. We approved a proposal developed in response to a leading that came to us last year to create a program of intervisitation among monthly meetings to bring life and nourishment to all parts of our body. We committed as individuals to visit other meetings in the Yearly Meeting, and as meetings to plan shared events or activities with other meetings. Older friends were challenged to listen to younger voices, and to reconsider some traditional practices. In our discernment about which wider Quaker organizations to support financially, we heard the concerns and enthusiasm of young Friends to support the work of newer organizations where life of the Spirit is breaking through, and we were challenged to make such changes at a faster pace. We approved several additions and revisions to our Faith and Practice in the more expedited approval process, with the goal of completing the revision by 2018. The revisions included a set of greatly simplified queries, which prompted considerable discernment about the approval process.

Lynn Newsom presented a powerful plenary session on the work of Quaker House, work that bridges the divide between the largest military base on the planet and a little house in Fayetteville, North Carolina. This work includes support for veterans with PTSD and moral injury, support for conscientious objectors, and raising awareness about torture, sexual abuse, suicide, and domestic violence in the military. It is remarkable that Quaker House is now welcomed onto the military base at Fort Bragg, and accepted by the local community as a faith-based organization advocating for the needs of veterans. Lynn reminded us that veterans are children of God who have been injured and who need compassion and a place to go for support.

Benigno Sánchez-Eppler of the Friends World Committee for Consultation shared with us his ministry of crossing languages, cultures and theologies. He urged us to resist the separating spirit and to mend separations among Friends. We learned about the longing and frustration of wanting to be part of what others are experiencing through singing a hymn that only some of us knew. He compared being separated from a home language, culture, or spiritual practice, or even forgetting or devaluing what we used to know and love, to losing a great treasure. He reminded us that we are a body with a womb that can be filled with a quickening of the Spirit. What is the new life that is eager to be born? We were

reminded that some Friends experience a walking away from the treasure box of Christian language, by forgetting a language that used to be our own. We were admonished that Friends might need to do some inner work to reclaim this treasure. Losing the language of Early Friends, do we not lose some of their wisdom? We were urged to cross borders, recreate relationships, and heal the injuries that caused our separations.

In our worship sharing groups we shared personal experiences of the movement of the Spirit, and listened compassionately to one another about times of conflict in our meetings. We found it healing to reach deeply into the sacred center of our lives and move together with the Spirit in these small groups.

As we have moved together this week, we continue to find new and awakening manifestations of the Spirit. We want Friends to know that the living Spirit deeply binds us together. We are learning to live as the body of Christ. “Our differences will want us to fight for them, but our love will make no room for the violence!” Spirit blows us together, it loves us together, and we move with its breath and instruction as we turn ourselves inward to hear the Teacher and Guide.

## **Epistle from the Teens/Middle Youth**

For the hundred ninety seventh yearly meeting sessions, we had a total of eleven youth between the ages of twelve to seventeen attend. On the 14th through the 18th day of the sixth month in the year 2017, we engaged in a variety of activities that informed our ideas of Quakerism.

Lynn Newsom met with us to speak about Quaker House and conscientious objection. We wrote letters in support of incarcerated veterans. Despite the inclement weather, an impromptu trip to Whitewater Lake gave us the opportunity to swim, paddle-boat and canoe around. We enjoyed watching movies with friends. Cooperative games taught us how to interact with one another and the larger Quaker community. We enjoyed the improved quality of food and the community that we formed around meals. This increased community led to a well-organized and coherent skit this year. At business meeting we helped to plan this skit and brainstormed ways to encourage youth participation throughout the year. In particular we discussed the need for attendance at Quarterly Meeting to build our community.

Along with the programming, our downtime was just as important to us. Whether it was playing sports outside, or taking naps on couches, we were able to bring the Quaker Spirit into our everyday activities. We appreciate any opportunity we have for increased independence and autonomy.

Every year the Youth of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting include a request for increased participation of youth at Annual Sessions. This year, we would like to extend our request for Monthly Meetings to make concerted efforts to encourage their youth to attend both the Annual Sessions and Quarterly Meeting so that we can continue to develop deeper concepts of Quakerism and community. Thank you for your continual support.

Signed by,

Maryam Tonne, Elana Branson, Cecilia Branson, Toby Dean, Charlotte Dean, Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, and Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson



## Summary of Epistles Received

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has received epistles from 18 bodies in the wider Quaker world since we last met at Earlham College in 2016. The epistles received represented the 21st to the 356th gathering of those bodies and were attended by anywhere from 26 to 500 Friends.

- Alaska Friends shared that climate disruption is a place where the world's great need meets their great love.
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends shared experiences of change and movement.
- Friends from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) shared stories of listening and transformation.
- Lake Erie Yearly Meeting shared their theme of "What Would John Woolman Do?"
- New England Yearly Meeting shared a theme of radical faithfulness and a renewed sense of energy, purpose and urgency.
- New York Yearly Meeting shared a yearning for a more economically and racially diverse body.
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Friends shared concerns and work on themes of racism and white supremacy.
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting shared themes related to climate change.
- Indiana Yearly Meeting shared a sense of revitalization and energy.

We also received epistles from Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, the Europe and Middle East, Section of Americas FWCC, Central European Gathering of Friends, Ireland Yearly Meeting, Japan Yearly Meeting, Nairobi Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand, and Tanzania Yearly Meeting of Friends Church.

A universal expression of warmth pervades the epistles. The work of these bodies demonstrates faith in action. The gratitude for visiting Friends to each of these bodies is sincere. Themes that were expressed throughout the epistles include climate and environmental issues, racial inequality, and faithfulness.

The Friends depicted in these letters are amazing and wonderful. They are honest in their struggles and joy-filled in their blessings. This summary is brief; the full texts are available on the clerk's table and online. All expressed joy and gratitude as they perform the work of the Spirit. I am grateful for the opportunity to come to know these dear Friends.

Deb Kociszewski

## **Executive Committee Report**

As of this writing, the Executive Committee has met three times, in October, February, and April. The February meeting was by conference call. The committee will hold another conference call meeting in May in place of the usual early June meeting, which this year would fall too close to our annual sessions.

The Executive Committee is the representative body of our yearly meeting that conducts business between our annual sessions. Unfortunately, it is difficult for all our monthly meetings to send representatives. Travel to our meetings requires a lot of time and involves the burning of lots of fossil fuel.

At the April meeting we discussed the challenges of traveling long distances for our face-to-face committee meetings. For Friends at the edges of our region, this travel alone can take up to 7 hours. From an environmental standpoint, it can also mean burning a great deal of gasoline. We discussed software options for meeting online whereby all attending the meeting can see each other onscreen. Other Quaker groups have used such programs with success. Religious Nurture and Education reported that they are exploring this option for their meetings. Would the use of such software increase the participation of monthly meetings in Executive Committee meetings?

Please review the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings for details of the business conducted. Here are a few important issues that were addressed.

Youth programming – The Youth Services Committee is active, but unfortunately, the person hired as Youth Secretary had to resign after a few months. The committee is actively seeking candidates for the position and has hired Chie Togami to lead the youth programming at our annual sessions.

The Religious Nurture and Education Committee has made a commitment to support monthly meetings and is visiting various meetings and joining them in worship. We continue to have difficulty finding Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee. In April we agreed to ask each monthly meeting to appoint a Friend to serve on Nominating.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Contributions to Friends Organizations distributed a questionnaire to all Friends. Based on the responses it was decided not to make changes in the contributions at this time.

Yearly Meeting revitalization – other business consumed most of our time at our meetings. We are encouraged by efforts at inter-visitation among Friends.

Betsy Neale, Presiding Clerk

## **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report**

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends have made it clear that there is love and support for our Quarterly Meeting. Even though our meetings are often sparsely attended, those who do attend are committed and faithful to be present, to thoughtfully attend to business and to carry our spiritual concerns. We are in the process of discerning the way forward to renewed energy and involvement. At our last meeting on April 23, 2017 we approved this minute: "Minute of Concern - our quarterly meeting is struggling with both lack of involvement in QM and the underlying causes of non-participation. Some

feel a deep appreciation while others are disconnected. Time and distance affect some Friends' ability to attend. We are minuting this concern and now seek reflection from our community of faith on what hopes, needs and opportunities can be served by and at our quarterly meetings."

Diann Herzog, Clerk

## **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report**

Due to the shift of OVYM to an earlier time frame, this report only addresses two out of the three Miami Quarterly Meetings.

After a late decision to host Joint Quarterly Meeting in Tenth Month 2017, a very successful Joint Quarterly was held at a new location. Over 65 people came to enjoy Camp Kern, a YMCA facility near Lebanon Ohio. Despite the later Tenth Month date, the weather was lovely and the location was enjoyed by all. Bathrooms in the cabins, paved walk paths and parking near all the event locations allowed participation by all attendees. We look forward to another event at Camp Kern in the future.

A report and minute was given by Christine Snyder from the Quaker Heights Friends Care Community to those gathered for Worship with Attention to Business. Whitewater Quarterly met with Miami Quarterly for that portion of the business and both Meetings accepted the minute. The Treasurer position has still not been transferred so Frank Huss gave the Treasurer's report and we are grateful for his willingness to continue serving.

The big issue that Miami Quarterly will be continuing to address for months involves the laying down of the Green Plain Meeting. Green Plain has not actively met for years but has continued to be a part of OVYM financially. The remaining ten members have decided to lay the meeting down. The meeting owns an 1844 meetinghouse with a still active burial ground. An Ad Hoc committee was formed to address the issue.

Second Month 2017 meeting was held at Eastern Hills with Campus as a co-host. Reports were made about OVYM and FGC matters. A decision was made to sign an Amicus Brief in support of Transgender Rights. The financial status of Miami Quarterly continues to be in transition and some discussion was held around financial issues.

The Ad Hoc Committee about Green Plain presented a proposal to the Meeting for Worship, Attention to Business. Since OVYM Faith & Practice procedures about laying down a meeting with property require transference and conveyance of all meeting assets to Quarterly Meeting, the proposal includes an acceptance of the minute to lay down at the same time that Miami Quarterly accepts a deed for the property. We hope to accomplish that at the Tenth Month Meeting which is being held at Yellow Springs. Since Yellow Springs was originally a preparative meeting of Green Plain, that seems only fitting. There are several members of Yellow Springs who have personal ties to Green Plain and are willing to serve on the proposed Green Plain trust.

While many of the same f/Friends are seen at all Quarterly Meetings, the rotation process of hosting allows for increased participation and is appreciated. Meetings for Worship, the fellowship of a meal, the Adult Program and MFW-Attention to Business deepens our involvement both with each other and the Light Within. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of.

## **Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee met on Third Month, 4th Day, 2017 to review Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's financial records for fiscal year 2015-2016. The clerk apologizes for the tardiness of this report.

We were able to successfully reconcile all accounts, with a few minor discrepancies. As usual, there were several contributions made to the Wider Quaker world that were unacknowledged.

We would like to commend the treasurer for his fine job, despite some personal challenges.

## **Budget and Finance Committee Report**

Budget and Finance Committee does not have a clerk so the committee activity was light this year. The OVYM Treasurer prepared a sample 2017-18 budget based solely on the previous year's budget and spending activities. A few emails from committee members adjusted the numbers slightly. Two members of the committee were joined by others from the yearly meeting on the morning of the April OVYM Executive Committee meeting. We agreed to leave the suggested proportional share amount at \$120 per member. This budget was forwarded to Executive Committee where it was approved. That budget is listed in the right-most column of the Treasurer's spreadsheet in the reports in advance.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

## **Treasurer's Report**

Because Yearly Meeting Sessions are scheduled to occur before the end of our fiscal year on June 30, the enclosed report is not complete. The second to last column shows our income and expenses so far this fiscal year. The right most column is the proposed 2017-18 budget approved by Executive Committee in April, 2017

I want to express my thanks to Meetings and persons who support OVYM in all ways, including financial. Also, those Meetings which fulfill or begin to fulfill their pledges in the first 10 months of our fiscal year are a large kindness to me and an easing of my burdens as Treasurer. Thank you.

Wilson Palmer

**2016-17 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017  
and Approved 2017-18 Budget**

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget
<b>Table 1. Fund Balances</b>							
FWCC Triennial (Table 2)	2,175.67	3,175.67	4,175.67	683.65	1,683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65
Benevolent Fund-Inv. (Table 3)	5,805.61	5,808.98	5,800.00	5,773.66	5,823.66	6,583.41	6,633.41
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
Capital Fund-Inv. (Table 5)	5,642.68	5,634.56	5,636.56	5,599.75	5,649.75	6,385.11	6,435.11
Faith & Practice Printing Fund-Inv. (Table 6)	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,014.98	4,532.47	4,572.47
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)	159.49	34.44	-	655.44	-	685.44	-
Spiritual Nurture Fund-Inv. (Table 8)		7,160.09	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,185.22	8,113.12	8,183.12
Braddock Fund-Inv. (Table 9)		68,817.26	65,402.51	68,498.36	69,098.36	76,256.73	76,856.73
General Fund Reserves-Inv				27,223.65	27,420.00	31,041.74	29,200.00
General Fund (Table 10)	44,804.09	43,104.51	44,749.51	38,735.06	39,240.06	44,304.50	34,394.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,577.54</b>	<b>140,235.51</b>	<b>139,424.34</b>	<b>160,759.77</b>	<b>162,615.68</b>	<b>182,086.17</b>	<b>171,458.99</b>

<b>Table 2. FWCC Fund</b>							
Starting Balance	1,175.67	2,175.67	3,175.67	3,175.67	683.65	683.65	1,683.65
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
Disbursements (Peru 2016)				3,492.02			
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2,175.67</b>	<b>3,175.67</b>	<b>4,175.67</b>	<b>683.65</b>	<b>1,683.65</b>	<b>1,683.65</b>	<b>2,683.65</b>

<b>Table 3. Benevolent Fund - Invested</b>							
Starting Balance	5,803.21	5,805.61	5,808.98	5,808.98	5,773.66	5,773.66	6,583.41
Gain or (Loss) from investment	2.40	3.37	3.00	(35.32)	50.00	809.75	50.00
Disburse to QM (65%=Miami, 35%= WW)			11.98				
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,805.61</b>	<b>5,808.98</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>5,773.66</b>	<b>5,823.66</b>	<b>6,583.41</b>	<b>6,633.41</b>

<b>Table 4. Peace Witness Fund - Friends Meetinghouse Fund</b>							
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Income	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Disbursements - Peace Tax Fund	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>

<b>Table 5. Capital Fund - Invested</b>							
Starting Balance	5,639.64	5,632.68	5,634.56	5,634.56	5,599.75	5,599.75	6,385.11
Gain or (Loss) from investment	3.04	1.88	2.00	(34.81)	50.00	785.36	50.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>5,632.68</b>	<b>5,634.56</b>	<b>5,636.56</b>	<b>5,599.75</b>	<b>5,649.75</b>	<b>6,385.11</b>	<b>6,435.11</b>

<b>Table 6. Faith &amp; Practice Printing Fund - Invested</b>							
Starting Balance	3,000.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,974.98	3,974.98	4,532.47
Gain(Loss) or transfer from General Fund	500.00	500.00	-	(25.02)	40.00	557.49	40.00
Disbursements							
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>3,974.98</b>	<b>4,014.98</b>	<b>4,532.47</b>	<b>4,572.47</b>

<b>Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 21</b>							
Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance	(240.51)	159.49		34.44	-	655.44	-
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt)	400.00	(125.05)		621.00		30.00	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>159.49</b>	<b>34.44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>655.44</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>685.44</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested</b>							
Starting Balance		-	7,160.09	7,160.09	7,115.22	7,115.22	8,113.12
Income		7,160.09			-		-
Disbursements							
Gain or (Loss) from investment				(44.87)	70.00	997.90	70.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>7,160.09</b>	<b>7,160.09</b>	<b>7,115.22</b>	<b>7,185.22</b>	<b>8,113.12</b>	<b>8,183.12</b>

<b>Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry - Invested</b>							
Starting Balance		-	68,817.26	68,817.26	68,498.36	68,498.36	76,256.73
Income		68,817.26		600.00			
Disbursements				952.92			
Gain or (Loss) from investment				34.02	600.00	7,758.37	600.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>68,817.26</b>	<b>68,817.26</b>	<b>68,498.36</b>	<b>69,098.36</b>	<b>76,256.73</b>	<b>76,856.73</b>

Appeal Letter Income 2014-15 (becomes Other Income 2015-16)	3,430.00						
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**2016-17 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017  
and Approved 2017-18 Budget**

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget
<b>Table 10. General Fund Summary</b>							
<b>INCOME</b>							
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	66,647.50	72,220.96	71,575.00	68,114.96	69,780.00	65,994.00	64,460.00
Other Income - Appeal letter income			5,000.00	3,980.00	-		-
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	652.27	340.34	600.00	514.06	300.00	120.00	300.00
Donated Travel Costs	3,563.77	4,618.62	4,250.00	1,688.15	4,250.00	2,115.31	2,700.00
Sales of Disciplines							
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>70,863.54</b>	<b>77,179.92</b>	<b>81,425.00</b>	<b>74,297.17</b>	<b>74,330.00</b>	<b>68,229.31</b>	<b>67,460.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Operating Expenses (Table 12)	27,379.10	27,059.19	31,670.00	18,867.41	28,745.00	21,091.83	28,840.00
Committee Expenses (Table 17)	8,548.87	8,130.08	9,000.00	1,298.00	8,900.00	2,886.26	8,400.00
Representative Travel (Table 23)	4,227.71	6,529.99	6,200.00	3,100.00	6,050.00	1,464.10	4,500.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24)	13,784.98	15,810.24	12,060.00	7,157.48	9,280.00	16,367.68	14,780.00
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
Transfer to Faith & Practice Printing Fund	500.00	500.00	-		-		-
Donations by OVYM (Table 25)	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>75,290.66</b>	<b>78,879.50</b>	<b>79,780.00</b>	<b>51,272.89</b>	<b>73,825.00</b>	<b>62,659.87</b>	<b>77,370.00</b>
<b>Net General Fund Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>(4,427.12)</b>	<b>(1,699.58)</b>	<b>1,645.00</b>	<b>23,024.28</b>	<b>505.00</b>	<b>5,569.44</b>	<b>(9,910.00)</b>

**Table 11. Meeting Contributions**

<b>Bloomington (8760)</b>	4,300.00	4,542.00	5,500.00	2,000.00	9,120.00	7,400.00	5,000.00
Campus	1,650.00	1,550.00	1,450.00	1,425.00	1,740.00	1,400.00	1,740.00
Clear Creek	8,448.00	11,512.00	9,250.00	9,250.00	8,160.00	8,160.00	8,640.00
Community	8,800.00	8,799.96	9,125.00	9,159.96	8,520.00	8,520.00	7,320.00
Dayton	1,210.00	1,200.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	2,040.00
Eastern Hills	1,320.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,560.00
Englewood	929.50	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	960.00	1,500.00	960.00
Fall Creek	1,430.00	1,320.00	1,625.00	1,625.00	1,560.00		1,200.00
Fort Wayne	660.00	720.00	750.00	850.00	720.00	840.00	840.00
Green Plain	400.00	182.00	300.00	300.00	1,320.00		
Hopewell			300.00	500.00			
Lafayette	1,680.00	1,700.00	1,400.00	1,300.00	720.00	720.00	720.00
Lexington	4,400.00	4,920.00	5,375.00	5,375.00	5,040.00	5,040.00	4,800.00
Louisville	8,000.00	7,080.00	8,000.00	8,080.00	5,640.00	6,000.00	5,400.00
Miami	4,510.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	5,125.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,920.00
North Meadow	4,070.00	4,440.00	4,625.00	4,625.00	4,440.00	4,309.00	4,440.00
Oxford	1,760.00	1,870.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	2,280.00
White Rose	1,300.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,440.00	1,000.00	1,440.00
Yellow Springs	11,780.00	13,260.00	11,375.00	11,625.00	10,920.00	11,625.00	11,160.00
<b>TOTAL Meeting Contributions</b>	<b>66,647.50</b>	<b>72,220.96</b>	<b>71,575.00</b>	<b>68,114.96</b>	<b>69,780.00</b>	<b>65,994.00</b>	<b>64,460.00</b>

**Bold = Meetings who pledged support for 2017-18**

**2016-17 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017  
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	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget
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**Table 12. Operating Expenses**

Administration (Table 13)	1,154.31	927.00	1,370.00	922.10	1,125.00	960.45	1,170.00
Clerical support (Table 14)	181.44	781.88	190.00	151.40	190.00	51.64	190.00
Staff (Table 15)	23,132.62	23,252.09	26,860.00	15,449.43	24,680.00	17,426.26	24,580.00
Publications (Table 16)	2,610.73	1,798.22	2,950.00	2,044.48	2,450.00	2,353.48	2,600.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,379.10</b>	<b>27,059.19</b>	<b>31,670.00</b>	<b>18,867.41</b>	<b>28,745.00</b>	<b>21,091.83</b>	<b>28,840.00</b>

**Table 13. Administration**

Bank Charges		12.00	-	10.96	15.00	68.50	30.00
Liability Insurance	684.85	897.00	900.00	857.14	930.00	870.95	1,000.00
Background Checks	63.00	18.00	50.00	54.00	60.00	21.00	40.00
Officers' Expenses	400.00		400.00		100.00		100.00
Treasurer's Expenses	6.46		20.00		20.00		-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,154.31</b>	<b>927.00</b>	<b>1,370.00</b>	<b>922.10</b>	<b>1,125.00</b>	<b>960.45</b>	<b>1,170.00</b>

**Table 14. Clerical Support**

Office Expenses	20.00	194.11	60.00		60.00	11.68	60.00
Postage	96.56	384.99	80.00	85.29	80.00	9.80	80.00
Copying	64.88	202.78	50.00	66.11	50.00	30.16	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>181.44</b>	<b>781.88</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>151.40</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>51.64</b>	<b>190.00</b>

**Table 15. Staff**

Compensation	21,460.14	21,533.84	25,000.00	14,488.02	23,700.00	16,922.40	23,700.00
Workers Comp	276.96	346.80	360.00	330.53	350.00	222.34	250.00
Cell Phone	456.00	456.00	450.00	190.00	-	-	-
Internet Access	427.70	190.00	250.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00
Travel	311.82	725.45	600.00	260.88	200.00	101.52	200.00
Professional Development	200.00		200.00		250.00		250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,132.62</b>	<b>23,252.09</b>	<b>26,860.00</b>	<b>15,449.43</b>	<b>24,680.00</b>	<b>17,426.26</b>	<b>24,580.00</b>

**Table 16. Publications**

Quill	1,466.39	401.44	1,500.00	605.44	1,000.00	691.85	850.00
Web site expenses							
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	953.53	1,149.18	1,200.00	1,189.04	1,200.00	1,296.91	1,350.00
Directory	190.81	247.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	364.72	400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,610.73</b>	<b>1,798.22</b>	<b>2,950.00</b>	<b>2,044.48</b>	<b>2,450.00</b>	<b>2,353.48</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>

**Table 17. Committee Expense**

Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18)	543.50	-	200.00	561.53	700.00	1,254.70	700.00
Middle Youth (Table 19)	480.37	-	50.00	-	50.00	-	-
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 20)	-	55.80	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
Teen Program (Table 21)	4,150.41	6,300.00	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 22)	(440.00)	82.17	600.00	50.00	600.00	18.14	300.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program	133.89	200.00				174.12	350.00
Travel - Donated	2,338.14	1,354.53	1,500.00	519.72	1,000.00	1,283.31	500.00
Travel - Reimbursed	1,342.56	137.58	300.00	166.75	200.00	155.99	200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,548.87</b>	<b>8,130.08</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>1,298.00</b>	<b>8,900.00</b>	<b>2,886.26</b>	<b>8,400.00</b>

**2016-17 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017  
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**Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee**

Pamphlets, copying and printing	5.00		10.00	25.03	10.00		10.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	538.50		150.00	536.50	650.00	962.29	650.00
Resource Materials			40.00		40.00	292.41	40.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>543.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>561.53</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>1,254.70</b>	<b>700.00</b>

**Table 19. Middle Youth Committee**

Joint Quarterly Gathering	16.51						
Staff	390.00						
Supplies and Programming	73.86		50.00		50.00		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>480.37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Table 20. Peace & Social Concerns**

Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop			5.00		5.00		5.00
Postage		55.80	45.00		45.00		45.00
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials							
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55.80</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50.00</b>

**Table 21. Teen Program**

<b>INCOME</b>							
Contributions	400.00	22,245.00		621.00			
Fundraising		1,690.00				30.00	
Registration Fees	1,800.00	14,750.00					
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)	4,150.41	6,300.00	6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,350.41</b>	<b>44,985.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>621.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
Publicity							
Teen Events	947.79						
Service Trips	5,002.62	45,045.90	6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00
Cost of Fundraising		64.15					
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>5,950.41</b>	<b>45,110.05</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>

<b>Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>(125.05)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>621.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>-</b>
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**Table 22. Adult Young Friends**

(Income)	(580.00)	(295.27)	(300.00)		(300.00)		(150.00)
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions	140.00	377.44	400.00	50.00	400.00	18.14	200.00
Scholarships			500.00		500.00		250.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(440.00)</b>	<b>82.17</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>18.14</b>	<b>300.00</b>

**Table 23. Representative Travel**

Normal (\$300 per trip)	2,050.00	2,768.00	2,700.00	1,160.00	2,000.00	600.00	1,500.00
Additional Reimbursement	952.08	497.90	750.00	771.57	800.00	32.10	800.00
Donated Travel	1,225.63	3,264.09	2,750.00	1,168.43	3,250.00	832.00	2,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,227.71</b>	<b>6,529.99</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>3,100.00</b>	<b>6,050.00</b>	<b>1,464.10</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>

**2016-17 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017  
and Approved 2017-18 Budget**

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Budget	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Budget	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget
<b>Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions</b>							
<b>INCOME</b>							
Contributions	1,590.64	1,914.00	3,000.00	3,975.54	3,500.00	3,011.00	3,000.00
Registration	4,860.00	4,470.00	4,650.00	4,920.00	4,920.00	3,660.00	3,750.00
Room & Board Charges	13,476.00	12,376.50	12,400.00	11,524.00	16,600.00	13,566.00	14,600.00
Bookstore Income	983.89	917.04	950.00	893.88	900.00	1,786.06	1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,910.53</b>	<b>19,677.54</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>	<b>21,313.42</b>	<b>25,920.00</b>	<b>22,023.06</b>	<b>22,350.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Administration			425.00	890.00	900.00	2,080.71	1,500.00
Adult Program	693.25	2,249.75	2,000.00	1,249.33	2,000.00	1,521.96	2,000.00
Next year's Sessions deposit	2,275.00	2,163.00		2,193.54	2,200.00	2,447.30	2,550.00
Teen Program - 2017-18 = Coffee Service	1,228.69	1,007.07	1,200.00	1,122.35	1,200.00	1,385.00	1,000.00
Middle Youth Program - 17/18 = Teens, too	1,434.40	1,375.44	1,500.00	1,294.10	1,400.00	4,175.80	2,700.00
Children's Program	3,738.17	3,116.81	3,000.00	2,753.73	2,900.00	5,929.82	3,000.00
Adult Room & Board	12,344.00	11,921.01	11,600.00	8,424.85	13,000.00	11,159.05	14,200.00
Room & Board Subsidies							
Children, middle youth, teens	6,700.00	7,773.00	7,800.00	4,601.00	5,000.00	4,048.00	4,500.00
Staff, officers, and registration discounts	2,654.00	2,523.72	2,200.00	1,960.00	2,000.00	3,030.00	2,500.00
Guests	400.00	524.00	525.00	538.00	600.00	282.00	500.00
YAF attenders subsidy	1,117.00	1,177.00	1,150.00	2,064.00	2,200.00	1,083.00	1,500.00
First-time attenders subsidy	1,161.00	707.50	700.00	1,190.00	1,400.00	570.00	700.00
Simple Meal Donation	650.00	390.00	400.00	100.00	300.00	210.00	220.00
Bookstore Expenses	300.00	559.48	560.00	90.00	100.00	468.10	260.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>34,695.51</b>	<b>35,487.78</b>	<b>33,060.00</b>	<b>28,470.90</b>	<b>35,200.00</b>	<b>38,390.74</b>	<b>37,130.00</b>
<b>Net Cost of Session</b>	<b>13,784.98</b>	<b>15,810.24</b>	<b>12,060.00</b>	<b>7,157.48</b>	<b>9,280.00</b>	<b>16,367.68</b>	<b>14,780.00</b>

**Table 25. Donations by OVYM**

<b>OVYM Ministries</b>							
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
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>
<b>Major Quaker Organizations</b>							
AFSC	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
FGC	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
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>12,250.00</b>
<b>Quaker Education and Outreach</b>							
Earlham College	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
Quaker Heritage Center	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
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>
<b>Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus</b>							
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	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
William Penn House	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
Quaker Earthcare Witness	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
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>	<b>19,850.00</b>

# Statistical Report

## MIAMI QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	ENG	GP	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQM
<b>MEMBERSHIP 12/31/15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>402</b>
Correction by addition			2							4	5	11
Births/Adoption												0
Request of Parent(s)		2										2
Convincement		2	1				1					4
Children accepted as adults												0
Transfers to									4			4
<b>TOTAL GAINS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
Correction by subtraction												0
Deaths							1	1	2		1	5
Removal by request								1	1		1	3
Children becoming adults												0
Transfers from		7									1	8
Loss of contact		7			3		2					12
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
Net gain or loss	0	-10	3	0	-3	0	-2	-2	1	4	2	-7
<b>MEMBERSHIP 12/31/16</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>395</b>
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	0	1	3	0	0	0	20	5	0	0	5	34
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	0	5	2	1	0	2	5	1	2	1	2	21
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	4	2	12
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	2	12	0	2	0	0	10	2	0	0	5	33
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	4	10	3	2	0	0	20	0	8	3	11	61
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	19	26	9	13	0	4	60	38	17	9	41	236
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	12	21	3	12	13	3	25	24	16	6	30	165
Resident Membership – Adult	18	42	10	16	11	0	34	36	22	13	53	255
Resident Membership – Associate	0	9	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	15
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	6	7	5	2	7	5	9	18	1	23	95
Non-resident Membership – Associate	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	13
United Meetings	*			*	*							3
Budget members	14.5	61	17	13	6.5	11	40	45	41	19	93	361
Worship attendance – adults	9	30	15	13	13	0	31	19	15	10	32	187
Worship attendance – children	0	3	2	1	0	0	5	1	0	2	6	20
Regular non-member attendance	3	8	15	2	5	0	31	7	5	2	14	92
First Day School (children)	0	3	2	1	9	0	5	3	7	2	4	36
Friends in school/college	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	1	6	21

## WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
<b>MEMBERSHIP 12/31/15</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>661</b>
Correction by addition									0	11	8
Births/Adoption									0	0	0
Request of Parent(s)									0	2	0
Convincement		1							1	5	9
Children accepted as adults									0	0	0
Transfers to		4		1					5	9	11
<b>TOTAL GAINS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Correction by subtraction	2				6				8	8	13
Deaths	1	1							2	7	6
Removal by request		2							0	3	8
Children becoming adults									0	0	1
Transfers from			3		5				8	16	6
Loss of contact									0	11	24
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>58</b>
Net gain or loss	-3	4	-3	1	-11	0	0	0	-12	-19	-30
<b>MEMBERSHIP 12/31/16</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>631</b>
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	7	3	3	1	0	2	6	3	25	59	74
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	27	28
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	21	22
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	8	12	0	0	0	0	2	0	22	55	80
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	6	10	4	2	0	1	5	2	30	91	98
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	34	38	8	5	8	12	16	6	119	355	375
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	20	32	1	3	0	2	14	1	73	238	240
Resident Membership – Adult	49	39	10	7	0	5	29	7	143	398	424
Resident Membership – Associate	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	8	23	33
Non-resident Membership – Adult	19	30	0	0	0	1	6	2	60	155	147
Non-resident Membership – Associate	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	20	25
United Meetings											3
Budget members	73	72	10	7	0	6	37	12	217	578	603.5
Worship attendance – adults	31	35	5	9	0	9	18	2	109	296	308
Worship attendance – children	4	1	1	0	0	0.5	2	0	8.5	28.5	42
Regular non-member attendance	14	10	1	5	0	4.5	0	0	34.5	126.5	124
First Day School (children)	4	1	1	0	0	0.5	4	0	10.5	46.5	51
Friends in school/college	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	23	31

## **Records Committee Report**

Patti Kinsinger, Head Reference Services Quaker Researcher Coordinator for the Watson Library, Wilmington College, would like to express their thanks to OVYM for their \$300 donation to support the archives. The archives will be purchasing archival boxes and folders in the new fiscal year. The donation will be helpful for that.

Watson Library at Wilmington College has been working with two campus partners, the Quaker Heritage Center and the Peace Resource Center towards more digitalization efforts. The library has purchased a new larger flatbed scanner that can be used for all collections, the PRC, Quaker collections and campus archives.

Copies of the Quaker Collections Newsletter will be on the Wilmington College table Thursday afternoon. We would like to encourage all monthly meetings to deposit their minutes and publications with the Wilmington College Watson Library Quaker Rare Collections once or twice a year.

If Meetings have questions or need more information, they can contact Susan Hyde of Yellow Springs 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, and so we also accept applications directly from prisoners and ex-prisoners who want school scholarships. Current committee members are Wilhelmina Branson, Christine Snyder and Wilson Palmer.

## Nominating Committee Report

During most of the past year, the Nominating Committee has consisted of only two members approved by the YM Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was unable to find Friends who were willing to serve on a Naming Committee, whose job would have been to name additional members to the Nominating Committee. At its fourth-month meeting, the Executive Committee approved a new policy that requested each Monthly Meeting to name one member to the Nominating Committee.

As of the date of this report, five Friends have been named by Monthly Meetings to serve on the Nominating Committee. Consequently, the Committee is now filled by seven people, from seven Monthly meetings. Four members are from Miami Quarter and three are from Whitewater Quarter. We feel this is good progress. The notice to fill the committee was received late in the Yearly Meeting's year, so it is not surprising that some Meetings have not yet been able to make an appointment. We expect that all but the smallest Monthly Meetings will have appointed one of their members to our Committee by the Fall of 2017.

The newly configured Nominating Committee is different from previous Nominating Committees in that it will be a Monthly-Meeting-centric committee. We hope to create stronger links between our Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting. Since Committee members will know the talents and interests of Monthly Meeting Friends, we will have a larger pool of Friends from which to seek nominees for our committees, officers, and representatives. Its potential weakness is that some of its members will have relatively little experience with the Yearly Meeting.

Here is my initial proposal for how the Committee will work:

- Committee members will be nominated by their monthly Meeting.
- Attendance at YM or knowledge of the YM, although desirable, will not be a requirement for Nominating Committee service.
- The primary requirement for Nominating Committee service will be knowledge of the members and attenders of the member's Monthly Meeting. Committee members will suggest Friends from their home Meeting for nomination. We will be looking for nominees who have gifts that align well with the needs of YM committees or with other YM jobs.
- Committee members at YM will work during YM sessions to contact potential nominees in person about service to the YM.
- The maximum term of Nominating Committee members will be three years. We will randomly assign initial nominees to one, two, and three-year terms. One third of the Committee will be assigned to each term period so that one third of the Committee will cycle off annually.
- To set out assignments and get to know one another, the Committee will meet in person one time each year, normally in October.
- The Committee will meet by conference call a minimum of three times a year - in January, March, and April.
- If our work is not done by April, we will schedule additional conference calls.

This year the Nominating Committee will have an initial meeting by conference call in early June.

Richard Mitchell  
Clerk, Nominating Committee

## **Youth Services Committee Report**

Just prior to the 195th meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting our committee hired Jason Dean as the Teen Secretary. Jason on short notice pulled together an excellent program for the youth. Though we had few teens or middle youth we combined the two groups and carried on with our traditional activities. These included a canoe trip, crafts, discussions and a wonderful pair of entertaining plays during the variety show, and two thoughtful and inspired epistles. The youth committee also conducted a successful retreat at the Joint Quarterly meeting at Camp Kern in October. Unfortunately no other youth activities were held since that time. In February Jason resigned. His resignation has activated our Teen Services Committee to begin the search for a new Youth Secretary and to begin planning of a youth program for yearly meeting. This report outlines work our committee has done on these two topics.

Toward identifying candidates for the youth secretary position we have used the description of the position developed in 2016 when the secretary for middle youth and the teen secretary positions were combined into a single Youth Secretary. We advertised this position as widely as we could think of places to advertise including sending the advertisement to all clerks in our yearly meeting. We posted the position on the OVYM and other Facebook pages. We also distributed the notice the Quaker colleges: Earlham, Guildford and Wilmington hoping to draw the position to the attention of soon-to-be graduates of these Quaker colleges. In response we received two applications neither of which seemed appropriate.

Recognizing the risk that no suitable candidate would be found in good time to plan the youth program at yearly meeting we have also begun to plan that program ourselves. To help us in this work we have hired Chie Togami. With these arrangements we are confident we will be able to provide a vital program for youth at the 2017 annual session of OVYM. We are making use of a list of youth in our YM compiled by Jason and we have plans to reach out to the parents of those youth to ensure they have the new date for the annual session and to assure them a vital youth program will occur there.

Respectfully,

David Funck, Anna Margaret Green, Peter Hardy, Michelle Lori, Rachel Moore, Cassie Murray

## **Planning Committee Report**

By the time you read this report, the Planning Committee will have had five meetings, including one at Annual Sessions, one conference call, two meetings in Cincinnati, one site visit and final planning meeting at Earlham. While five meetings is typical and allows for better attention to all the details of programming, we have made a few small changes in the way we carried out our planning: committee members recruited two workshops during the 2016 annual sessions (although one was withdrawn because of a scheduling conflict), and we recruited a new member recruited during Joint Quarterly; this addition was essential and even with it we still remain uncomfortably small.

This year we reconnected with the Children's Committee and welcomed input from them at two meetings, but the youth secretary position was again left vacant before our planning was complete, and the Youth Committee did not send a representative. Planning Committee has relied on prior experience and previous materials to help support MY and teen program needs.

This year we made one big change: moving sessions to an earlier week. The decision was made with input from business meeting, from evaluations completed by attendees, and from a survey of monthly meetings. The meeting survey added little to our knowledge of the impact of the move. While more time to consider the decision allowed for better understanding of potential conflicts to develop and lended time for doubts to be addressed, the request for additional input from those who were not present at the 2016 Annual Sessions did not change the decision. The primary motivation for the planning committee was regaining access to preferred facilities, including light-filled, spacious lounges for the children's and youth programming and classrooms for workshops and other break-out activities. It is also our hope that more families will be able to attend and overall attendance might improve.

Planning Committee tasks are mainly practical attention to details, but as we discern our yearly theme and propose names for key roles, spirit breaks in. The meetings are a wonderful reminder of Quaker process at its best. I hope more people will be moved to join this fulfilling service to OVYM so that the details can be spread among more hands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Viehmann, clerk

## **Website Administrator's Report**

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your website administrator for the past eight years.

Very little on the site has changed during the past year and the work has been mostly maintenance and information additions and updates.

Total and average visits continue to run much the same as last year with the largest number of visits happening in the two months prior to Annual Sessions.

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 Face Book page and the 127 people who "liked" and are following our Face Book page receive notifications of all published announcements. There is a link to our Face Book page on each page of the OVYM.Quaker.Org website.

In mid April, the whole of the Quaker.org domain was offline for several weeks, which caused quaker.org and all other websites hosted on that domain to be unavailable. This situation was remedied by the domain administrator on April 22nd.

In joy,  
Lonny Burger

## **Administrative Secretary Report**

It's amazing to realize that I've been serving the Yearly Meeting for almost ten years. Annual sessions are always a time of refreshment after the work of gathering reports and compiling directories. May we all find our places of deep rest and renewal amidst the demands of life.

## Quaker Quill Report

As the *Quill* Editor, I have been grateful to a number of resources in the Yearly Meeting. Photos and news from the OVYM website have been useful supplementary materials or links to additional information to be included. I am grateful to Susan Lee Barton for her sharp-eyed proof-reading. I am especially thankful to the OVYM Planning Committee and OVYM secretary for compiling and distributing registration materials for our June OVYM annual sessions. That entailed a great deal of additional and/or earlier work for them. This will make the June edition of our *Quill* a completely new venture, as it has always consisted almost entirely of Yearly Sessions information and registration. In fact, it is scheduled to come out DURING Annual Sessions, and so the role of this issue in the life of our community is unprecedented, and it will be interesting to see how Spirit moves in shaping it.

Cecilia Shore

## 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 2016-2017*

OVYM Friends are now in the second year of our 3-year expedited *Faith and Practice* revision process. The committee is prioritizing consideration of the topics most important to Friends. This year we circulated drafts of three topics to monthly meetings: queries, spiritual friendships, and trustees. The committee has considered the responses received from monthly meetings and made revisions to reflect the understandings and concerns of Friends.

It has been a challenging year for this committee due to illness, treatment, injury, and other unexpected events. We have relied more than usual on phone calls and internet communications to keep up with our work. In considering the Queries text, we confronted a need to make significant revisions as a result of Friends' responses and our practice. We realized that the initial set of queries circulated to monthly meetings was too cumbersome. We have, therefore, written a more succinct set of queries, which we are submitting for consideration, and, we hope, approval. We have done light editing on the Spiritual Friendships and Trustees texts.

A fourth topic, marriage procedure, was lightly modified, largely to eliminate language indicating that the marrying couple consists of a woman and a man. It was then published in the *Quill*.

The following four texts were approved by OVYM Friends in annual sessions.

## QUERIES

The queries invite Friends, both individually and as a meeting, to examine themselves periodically relative to the grounding principles that Friends have established. Faithful consideration of the queries in openness to the Spirit has been found to enrich the life of the meeting and its members.

Friends have found different ways to make use of the queries. Some read them as a starting point for personal inward reflection. Meetings may consider a query in a period of meditation and worship at the beginning of their business meetings. It is good practice to consider each query at least once a year. A meeting's responses to the queries may provide a basis for writing its annual state of the meeting report. The presentation of the queries to the local meeting is the responsibility of the clerk unless assigned to a committee, such as Ministry and Counsel.

First Query: What is Quakerism or the Quaker way? What does that mean to me? What marks our meeting as Quaker?

Second Query: What does worship mean to me, and how do I worship? How does our meeting worship as a community?

Third Query: What helps me seek Divine guidance in business meeting? How does our meeting seek and follow the group's spiritual discernment in our meetings for business?

Fourth Query: What spiritual disciplines enliven my spirit? How does our meeting facilitate spiritual growth?

Fifth Query: What binds me to my meeting community? What fosters mutual love and communion in our meeting? How does our meeting resolve conflicts when they arise?

Sixth Query: How do I seek to act with integrity? How do I follow the ever-opening pathway of Truth? How does my meeting help me to be faithful?

Seventh Query: How does simplicity guide my days? How does our meeting practice simplicity?

Eighth Query: How is my life a daily example of nonviolence? How does our meeting nurture peace in the wider community?

Ninth Query: How do I live in harmony with all creation? How does our meeting community exercise responsible stewardship?

Tenth Query: How do I affirm that of God in everyone? In what ways is our meeting an open and affirming community, welcoming to all? In what ways do we need to grow?

Eleventh Query: How have I fallen short in the past year? When has our meeting avoided doing things that are hard to do?

Twelfth Query: Where have I experienced the Divine Mystery in my life? How do we keep the Divine Spirit at the center of the life of our meeting?

*Approved in OVYM sessions, June 17, 2017*

## **SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIPS**

A Spiritual Friendship is an intentional, structured relationship between two or more people committed to help one another in their spiritual journeys. The focus is on each person's relationship with God and how God's presence may be felt – or not felt – in their lives.

The establishment of spiritual friendships can deepen and strengthen the life of a Meeting. Two or perhaps three people agree to meet for at least two hours on a regular basis. The topics of conversation can vary according to the needs of each person, but the overall goal is to support one another during conversations through deep, Spirit-led listening and to pray for one another between gatherings. Often such friendships last for years.

Those Friends seeking assistance in forming a spiritual friendship can consult *More Than Equals: Spiritual Friendships [Pendle Hill Pamphlet, #345]* where Australian Friend, Trish Roberts explores the particular ways that Friends can benefit from such relationships. She grounds the practice in Quaker theology and suggests three key features: confidentiality, mutuality, and intentionality.

*Approved in OVYM sessions, June 17, 2017*

## **TRUSTEES**

Friends recognize that all worldly property belongs to God and that we are merely its stewards. In some cases to meet the requirements of the law, a number of individuals are named as the legally responsible agents for real property or a financial asset. These **trustees** exist to fulfill the requirements of financial institutions and state and local governments. Although they may be the legal owners of a meeting's property, they are the agents of the meeting and subject to the authority of the business meeting in all matters. To prevent problems, all legal correspondence should be directed to the Meeting's mailing address.

*Approved in OVYM sessions, June 17, 2017*

## **MARRIAGE PROCEDURE**

(Read Section on Close Relationships)

The covenant of marriage is solemn in its obligation, fundamental in its social significance, and should be lifelong in its duration. When a Meeting assumes oversight of a marriage, it makes an enduring commitment to support and strengthen that marriage. The Meeting is asked not only to approve the wedding and see it performed in good order but also to care for and share in the marriage and help in its success with advice and counsel. Friends consider that asking a Meeting to take a marriage under its care places responsibilities on both the couple and the Meeting.

For its proper accomplishment under the care of our Society, the following procedure is recommended:

1. The couple proposing marriage should communicate their intentions to the Monthly Meeting under whose care the wedding will be held by writing a letter, signed by them both, requesting the meeting's approval for marriage.

2. The Ministry & Counsel Committee will then name a Clearness Committee to meet with the couple. When one or both members of the couple is a member of another religious community, an invitation may be extended to them to participate in the clearness process.
3. The Clearness Committee will meet one or more times with the couple to determine their readiness for marriage. The couple is part of the committee and participates in this discernment.
4. If the Clearness Committee recommends approval, this is presented to the next Monthly Meeting for Business for its approval. The Monthly Meeting should approve that the marriage be carried out.
5. Two or more Friends are appointed by the Monthly Meeting to have care and oversight of the wedding. Proposed names for the Oversight Committee may be brought forward by the couple.
6. The wedding is held under the care of the Meeting.
7. This Oversight Committee shall report to the next Monthly Meeting concerning the following: the observance of good order in the wedding, delivery of the marriage certificate or duplicate to the recorder of the Monthly Meeting for recording, compliance with legal requirements and the names assumed or retained by the couple.

### **Clearness Committee**

The Clearness Committee for a proposed marriage was originally intended to determine if the couple was clear of any obstacles to marriage. It inquired into the character and obligations of the couple, compliance with the provisions of state laws, and to see that the rights and feelings of any children were taken into account. Contemporary committees assume a broader role: searching deeply into the relationship of the couple and helping them determine their readiness for the commitments of marriage. If one or both of the partners has been divorced, the committee should determine that the special challenges of re-marriage have been carefully considered.

The committee should help the couple explore questions and areas of their relationship that they perhaps have not considered. Such a procedure is intended to enable the couple to understand as fully as possible the new relationship into which they may enter, as well as to identify their own expectations and capabilities.

The committee obviously cannot present all of the possibilities of a marriage to a couple, nor can all potential problems be considered, but deep searching in a spirit of love and tender seeking can help the couple find a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of marriage.

### **Marriage of Two Non-Members**

When two non-members request oversight of their marriage, the Ministry & Counsel Committee should inquire into the reasons for the request. If the Committee approves the Meeting's assuming the responsibility, they shall bring their recommendation to Monthly Meeting. If the Monthly Meeting agrees to the oversight of the marriage, a Clearness Committee shall be appointed. This Committee shall proceed in the manner of Friends, with the same care as when one or both parties are members of the Society of Friends.

### **Marriage Ceremony**

When a marriage has been authorized and the meeting is gathered at which it is to be accomplished, it is advised that a period of silent worship be observed, during which the parties to the marriage should rise,

and taking each other by the hand, each should declare in words to this effect: “In the presence of God and before these, our friends, I take (you/thee), \_\_\_\_\_, to be my (husband/wife/spouse), promising, with Divine assistance, to be unto (you/thee) a loving and faithful (husband/wife/spouse), as long as we both shall live.”

After these declarations, the marriage certificate should be signed by the couple and read by someone from the Oversight Committee. Worship should continue and the meeting closed by the Oversight Committee.

Changes may take place in wedding forms and procedures with the approval of the Oversight Committee. The marriage certificate may be modified and the wedding may be planned to suit the needs of the couple.

### **Form of Certificate**

The form of the certificate may follow one of these examples:

#### ***Traditional Certificate Example:***

Whereas, A.B, of \_\_\_\_\_, child of C.B. and D.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, and E.F., child of G.F. and H.F., of \_\_\_\_\_, having declared their intentions of marriage to each other to \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at \_\_\_\_\_, according to the good order used among Friends, their proposed marriage was approved by that Meeting.

Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_, during an appointed Meeting for Worship, A.B. and E.F., appeared in a meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at \_\_\_\_\_; and taking one another by the hand, did on this solemn occasion declare that they took each other in marriage, promising with Divine assistance to be loving and faithful spouses to one another, as long as they both shall live. And, moreover, they, A.B. and E.F. did, as a further confirmation thereof, then and there, to these present set their hands.

We, whose names are also signed below, being present at the said marriage, have, as witnesses thereunto, set our hands the day and year above written.

#### ***Contemporary Certificate Example:***

R.B. of..., child of F.W.B. and V.H.B. of ..., and C.S. of..., child of T.W.S. and R.G.S. of ..., declared their intention to marry each other, to the ... Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. Their proposed marriage was approved by that Meeting.

On the ... day of the ... month of the year ..., during an appointed Meeting for Worship, R.B. and C.S. declared that they took one another in marriage, promising with Divine assistance to be loving and faithful spouses to one another as long as they both shall live.

R. and C. in an outward and visible confirmation of the marriage then signed this certificate.

We who have signed this certificate have witnessed this marriage while worshipping together.

*Approved in OVYM sessions, June 17, 2017*

# Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report

The primary work of the RNE committee this year has been to develop a program on intervisitation and travel in the ministry, in response to a charge from the Yearly Meeting in 2016. We are ready to present a proposal on intervisitation, outlined below, and plan further discussion and exploration of ways we can support more formal travel in the ministry. We ask Friends to consider uniting with this first portion of the plan.

Other work undertaken by the committee this year included organizing a retreat in the spring on the theme of “Exploring Quaker Roots for Witness in our Times”, leading a workshop on “Spiritual Accompaniment” at Joint Quarter, offering guidance to a monthly meeting, and visiting seven meetings either as individuals or as a committee. We are also beginning to develop a page on the OVYM website with links to help Friends locate materials on First Day School, outreach, and nurture of local meetings. We particularly recommend the FGC Spiritual Deepening Program and the Friendly Play curriculum to Friends.

The committee would welcome more Friends interested in this work to join the committee. Currently, we have no members from Whitewater Quarter.

## PROPOSAL FOR AN OVYM PROGRAM ON INTERVISITATION

### **Background:**

At the 2016 OVYM Sessions, the Religious Education and Nurture Committee was charged with developing a program to foster communion among the Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings, and individual Friends. We are ready to present a proposal on intervisitation, outlined below, and plan further discussion and exploration of ways we can support more formal travel in the ministry and connect Friends.

Since George Fox first undertook his journeys, intervisitation and travel in the ministry have been crucial to the health of the Society of Friends. As Brian Drayton said in conversation with the RNE committee, “intervisitation brings life and nourishment to all parts of the body. It is the blood circulating.” When there is no circulation, parts of the body become numb or fall asleep. Intervisitation by Friends can help address issues that are beyond the resources of a single meeting, offer fresh perspectives, and unite individuals with specific concerns. Some Friends may feel isolated in their local meetings and long to connect with other Quakers who are called to similar work or face similar struggles. Youth and young adults, in particular, need to time for fellowship with Friends in their age groups. Local meetings face challenges, and can benefit from the experience of other meetings or their share creative solutions to a common problem. The work of the committees of OVYM needs to be more directly shared with local meetings so that we can unite with the work being done on our behalf. Intervisitation also provides a chance to nourish the leadings and gifts of individuals and monthly meetings, and to share those gifts with the entire body and the wider world.

Such ministry is not the work of one committee or a few individuals, nor does it take a single form. Intervisitation often involves traveling to attend another monthly meeting, but Quaker lifeblood flows through all the various connections we make as individuals, local meetings, and wider Quaker bodies. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee asks individual Friends, committees and monthly meetings within OVYM to consider committing to the following actions in order to foster connections

within our community. The Spiritual Nurture Fund under the care of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee is available to help support intervisitation. Write to the committee if you need assistance.

**We ask OVYM Friends to unite with and commit to the following practices:**

### **Individuals**

- Individual Friends commit to visiting worship or a special event at another meeting at least once each year. It is often helpful to visit along with a companion. We particularly encourage youth, young adults and newcomers to consider intervisitation. Although formal travel in the ministry under a concern requires careful discernment, anyone can make an informal visit to another meeting.

Individuals are also encouraged to read the Quill and otherwise keep informed about what is happening within the Yearly Meeting and local meetings, and follow up by reaching out to Friends whose work they find interesting. Friends are also encouraged to consider how they might build relationships and find time for informal worship within their meetings, beyond First Day worship.

### **Monthly Meetings**

- Monthly Meetings commit to making a connection to at least one other meeting in the Yearly Meeting at least once during the year.

Possible activities which two meetings might share include coming together for worship, combining youth activities, co-hosting public events, joint retreats, or bringing a speaker to the area. Some meetings are already making such connections, and are encouraged to develop more. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee can help make these connections and identify resource people. Friends are encouraged to plan events that include younger Friends.

- Monthly Meetings commit to sending representatives to Executive Committee and Quarterly Meeting.

Although this has been our practice, attendance has declined at both.

### **Quarterly Meetings**

- Quarterly Meetings commit to sending a representative to the other Quarterly Meeting and developing a plan to foster intervisitation and deepen connections within the Quarter.

The Religious Nurture and Education Committee is available to help plan events and build relationships. The Quarters can encourage the connections between meetings outlined above, or might host an event for a specific group, such as First Day School teachers or Friends interested in a particular social issue.

### **OVYM Committees and Entities**

- OVYM committees commit to developing a strategy to directly share their work with the monthly meetings.

Such sharing might take various forms, including naming a liaison to each Monthly Meeting, offering a formal programs or discussions at local meetings, writing about the work of the committee in the Quill or on the OVYM website, visiting local meetings, creating an online discussions, or holding meetings on Sundays at different local meetings. Friends are encouraged to consider how to engage younger Friends in this work.

- OVYM committees commit to developing a strategy to make committee work more accessible to Friends on margins of the OVYM geographical area.

Too often committees meet in the same area of the Yearly Meeting, and Friends within Whitewater Quarter, in particular, find it difficult to serve. Committees are encouraged to move the location of committee meetings around the Yearly Meeting, which also offers an opportunity for intervisitation. The use of online meeting software may also be a way to allow more participation, and is being discussed by executive committee.

### **Religious Nurture and Education**

- In addition to the above, the Religious Nurture and Education committee commits to further exploration of ways to make connections between Friends. In particular, we would like to develop retreats or other structures, such as online communities, to connect Friends who share particular concerns (such as parenting) or who serve particular roles (such as clerks or treasurers). We also hope to invite some young adult Friends from outside the Yearly Meeting to travel among us.

At sessions this year, we will be asking Friends to consider what kinds of connection and support you long for, as an individual and as a member of a local meeting. We also want to know what your meeting is doing that excites you, which might be shared with other meetings.

- The Religious Nurture and Education committee is developing a page on the OVYM website to help connect Friends to resources on First Day School, outreach, and nurture of meetings, which may be helpful to monthly meetings. We commit to further development over the summer. We particularly recommend the FGC Spiritual Deepening Program and the Friendly Play curriculum to Friends.

Please let the Religious Nurture and Education Committee know about your successes and challenges in undertaking the actions we have recommended.

## Ad Hoc Committee on OVYM Contributions Report

A survey of OVYM members and attenders was conducted between February 16 and March 15, 2017. An invitation was sent by the OVYM Administrative Secretary to the yearly meeting's email list. In addition, a printable copy of the questionnaire was sent to the clerk and the OVYM representative in each monthly meeting to allow a response from those who are unable to respond online or who did not receive the email. It is not known how many of the clerks or representatives announced the availability of a paper questionnaire. A total of 126 responses were collected. One was sent in the mail and the other 125 were collected online.

### Results

The first question asked if the yearly meeting should be making donations to other Quaker organizations. An overwhelming number of Friends (116) answered that the yearly meeting should.

Question 2 was intended to allow an easy exit for those with no opinion about the particular amounts to contribute or who were content to have the yearly meeting discern those amounts. Of the 116 who felt OVYM should make contributions, 57 answered "Yes (they trusted the committee to make the decisions)" and 57 answered "No." Two did not answer this question.

### Data Preparation

Of the 57 who had opinions on the amounts to be contributed, three suggested contributions of \$0 to all organizations and 40 entered at least one non-zero value – many of these were the same as the current donation. The other 14 respondents did not suggest a contribution amount for any organization. It seems likely that Friends left answers blank because they considered the current amount about right. For analysis, blank responses were filled in with the current amounts. In addition, a zero donation to each organization was filled in for the ten Friends who did not feel the yearly meeting should be making any contributions.

### Average Values

In datasets with a lot of variability, the mean value can be unduly influenced by very high or very low outliers. For example, if 9 people answer with \$100 and one with \$1000, the mean value is \$190 – nearly double what nine out of ten suggested. A more stable and representative average value is the median. This is a number that falls in the middle – half the responses are lower and half are higher. For this dataset, the medians seemed better.

For 17 of the 18 organizations, the median suggested contribution was the same as the current amount given. This means that many people suggested an increase as suggested a decrease.

As you can see in the table below, only the median suggested donation to Friends World Committee on Consultation is different from the current amount – the median suggested value is \$2650 vs. the current donation of \$3000.

(Note: there is one error. In the questionnaire, the current donation to Right Sharing of World Resources was erroneously listed as \$500. It should have been \$600.)

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Current Donation</b>	<b>Median Suggestion</b>
Friends General Conference	\$4,000	\$4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$3,000	\$2,650
American Friends Service Committee	\$2,650	\$2,650
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$2,000	\$2,000
Friends Journal	\$600	\$600
Quaker Heights Friends Home	\$2,000	\$2,000
Friends Music Camp	\$1,700	\$1,700
Earlham College	\$300	\$300
Wilmington College	\$300	\$300
Quaker Heritage Center	\$300	\$300
Olney Friends School	\$300	\$300
Friends Peace Teams	\$500	\$500
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$500	\$500
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$500	\$500
Quaker United Nations Office	\$500	\$500
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual & Queer Concerns	\$200	\$200
William Penn House	\$200	\$200
Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation	\$200	\$200

### **Suggested Additional Contributions**

The questionnaire offered Friends the opportunity to suggest other organizations as deserving of financial support from OVYM. Very few suggestions were made; only one organization, the Earlham School of Religion, was suggested by more than one respondent. Three other Quaker organizations were each listed once: Earth Quaker Action Team, Quaker Voluntary Service, and Quaker Hill.

One event, the Midwest Interbranch Young Adult Friends Gathering, was also mentioned once. The associated website does not indicate whether this is a one-time or ongoing occurrence.

Although OVYM has not made contributions to non-Quaker organizations in the past, two were suggested: the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and Christian Peacemaker Teams. In addition, there were two suggestions for the types of organizations that could be considered.

### **Summary**

In general, those who are interested in making changes are more likely to respond to questionnaires. Nevertheless, this survey does not indicate a yearning within the yearly meeting for change. There is a small contingent who wish the yearly meeting did not make any contributions. Likewise, a few Friends

advocated substantial increases in the amounts being donated to other Quaker organizations. Overall, however, these two inclinations cancelled each other. The majority is content with the current amounts, or whatever amounts the yearly meeting discerns. Given a chance to suggest different amounts, most Friends opted out. If there is a mandate, it is for incremental adjustments or none at all.

This process has been informative, but Quakers do not operate on the basis of majority votes or the average response to a survey. Prayerful discernment is essential to the process, but due to illness and bad weather we have been able to sit together in silence only once. Although we have accomplished much by email and on the phone, the committee would still like to meet face-to-face to see where we are led and if any changes are needed. In the meantime, to allow the Budget & Finance Committee to move ahead with their work, we suggested the current total (\$19,850) be used in the draft budget, and that the donations to the current organizations remain unchanged.

The committee understands that the final decision on the budget (and this part of it) rests only with the yearly meeting in session this June.

Paul Buckley, Clerk  
Michele Tomarelli  
Peter Hardy  
Fred Feitler

## **Earthcare Committee Report**

Since the 2016 yearly meeting, we met in October at North Meadow, and had our spring meeting at a coffee shop in Batesville, Indiana. Our five current members are David Duvall, Marjorie Isaacs, Ria Collee, Janette Shetter, and myself. Four attended in the fall, and only three in the spring, with one having left the committee to be home with a declining spouse. The physical problems that come with aging, which I'm sure many of us are familiar with, have impacted our members' ability to drive, to hear each other on the phone, and to retain things we or others have said. I myself have been on the committee as clerk since our founding as a working group in 2005. I have stepped back as clerk, and David Duvall, our youngest member, has agreed to serve as the new clerk. We continue to invite any interested folks to sit in with us and possibly to join. We could use some younger people as well as those of any age.

We will keep working on our crisis-level problems involving the human-Earth relationship, especially in the face of a new federal administration that shows unprecedented intent to do away with hard-won limits on corporate extraction and pollution, and even with the Environmental Protection Agency itself. Since first meeting we have had great concern about the unabated growth in the human ecological footprint. We believe now, more than ever, that the world needs approaches to this crisis that are spiritually grounded and inspired.

We continue our previous concern for the Standing Rock Sioux resistance to the extension of the Dakota Access Pipeline under the Missouri River, endangering tribal water supplies and desecrating burial grounds. However, in light of President Trump removing the previous hold against the extension, the national effort has now turned to pressuring banks to withdraw their pipeline funding. This divestment effort parallels our action two years ago to divest our funds from all fossil fuel extraction companies in

an effort to keep most remaining fossil fuels in the ground, turning to renewable energy sources as well as to better conservation. See [defundapl.org](http://defundapl.org), and we have a handout about this on the Earthcare table.

We presented the FWCC minute “Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth” here last year, and have an action item being presented this year which encourages monthly meeting sustainability action. It involves taking two sustainability actions in the next 12 months and reporting back to yearly meeting on this.

We continue our theme “Reconnecting with neighbors and the land” this year with the permaculture film “Reinhabit” as part of a Thursday night discussion group. We also have a regional watershed map at our table, inviting people to rediscover where they are in the landscape and how they participate in the water cycle. This is part of a focus on neighborhood and local community resilience in the face of climate change and other challenges.

Please sit in any meeting with us, visit the Earthcare table, and bring your concerns, questions and suggestions to us.

Bill Cahalan, May 2017

## **Quaker Heights Care Community Report**

Quaker Heights is continuing to adapt to the changing needs of the surrounding community even in the face of great financial challenges. For example, 2016 brought the full operation 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. The wing is often full and many families report excellent care in the new area.

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. This renovation project started in November 2016 and we are half way through the building as of April 2017. We are adding private showers to each private room. As the generations change there is a shift in desired amenities. The main of which is private rooms & bathrooms. There has been positive feedback for these changes, despite the dust and noise. Phase 2 of our renovation will include more common spaces for our memory care residents and their families in an expanded memory care area of the building. Memory care is a growing area of care needs for most long term care communities.

Next, Quaker Heights launched its first ever Capital Campaign with a very strong start. 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.

Lastly, Quaker Heights continues to seek a strong partner, a joint venture, or to be acquired in the future. Efforts are moving forward to reduce the financial stress through occupancy increases, reductions in expenses, and alignment with a larger support partner. 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.

Leanne Montgomery  
Presiding Clerk

Wendy Waters-Connell  
Executive Director

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report**

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. As Friends, our faith and experience convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for nearly 75 years.

The 2016 election manifested the deep political and social divisions in our country, revealing stark differences in voters' hopes for the future. Amidst these seismic political shifts, FCNL's grounding as a Quaker lobby and our presence on Capitol Hill as a nonpartisan voice for peace and justice are needed now more than ever. Friends remain the bedrock of FCNL's strong network, standing together in a nearly 370-year-old faith-based movement living its faith through action.

### **Spirit-led Action**

At FCNL's Annual Meeting in November, which convened just two days after the election, we gathered to worship, lobby and conduct the organization's business. FCNL's General Committee approved legislative priorities to guide our community's advocacy in the 115th Congress. These legislative priorities, available online at [fcnl.org/priorities](http://fcnl.org/priorities), were the result of widening circles of discernment that included input from hundreds of Quaker meetings and churches across the country, discernment by FCNL's Policy Committee, and consideration by the General Committee. We also renewed our commitment as a community to use the persistent, powerful, and prophetic voice that sustains our work.

There is no question that the divisions in the American electorate — so evident in the presidential campaign — make our lobbying tougher than ever, and we are under no illusions about the challenges ahead. The threats are real. But our relationships on Capitol Hill with both Republicans and Democrats, and the relationships that the FCNL network have established, will take on new significance. Those voices will become even more critical in the months ahead. We encourage all Friends to join us in advocacy. Find out how: [fcnl.org/advocacy](http://fcnl.org/advocacy).

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to be truth-tellers in the halls of power. We will uphold and move forward the priorities that our governing General Committee set for us when they met in

November. We will recognize and affirm the many ways that people may be called to act for change — while remaining focused on our mission to work within our democratic system to influence national legislation.

### **The World We Seek: Now Is the Time Capital Campaign**

As FCNL nears 75 years of faithful witness, we are building a sustainable future through a five-year, \$15 million capital campaign that is strengthening the foundation of FCNL’s lobbying and educational programs. The success of the campaign, however, rests in far more than meeting a specific financial goal. The most important impact of the campaign is the degree to which it is empowering FCNL to fulfill its mission and engage as many people as possible in our work. By the time the campaign ends on June 30, 2017, FCNL will have hosted 35 campaign events in 23 states and the District of Columbia. We have been fortunate to have a broad base of support in this campaign from our national community of supporters — individuals, meetings, and churches — who are helping to ensure the future of Quaker advocacy.

### **Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)**

As our country struggles with deep divisions, it becomes even more urgent to highlight the value we place in one another. We invite Friends to help shift the narrative and spread a message of love by joining the #LoveThyNeighbor campaign: [fcnl.org/lovethyneighbor](http://fcnl.org/lovethyneighbor).

We are grateful to the 25 Yearly Meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL’s General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God’s spirit leads us. Please hold us in the Light this year as we continue to work for the world we seek.

Eric Ginsburg  
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)  
Clerk, FCNL General Committee  
March 2017

## **Friends General Conference (FGC) Report**

FGC has been through two years of contraction in response to budgetary challenges. Having done significant work to make FGC more financially sustainable, Central Committee celebrated the opportunity to turn our attention in the year ahead to strengthening ongoing programs, and to preparing for an institutional assessment focused on addressing systemic racism and fostering faithful inclusion.

### Institutional Assessment

Sparked by concerns raised once again by African American Friends at the 2016 Gathering, Central Committee united around the need to undertake institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization – and to prepare plans for dismantling such structures. We heard from many yearly and monthly meetings about the importance of taking this step. As part of our commitment to collaborate with our affiliated yearly and monthly meetings, we will also be sharing our learnings and new skills from this assessment with Friends across the USA and Canada.

After getting bids from anti-racism consulting firms and building a draft budget, it's become clear that this assessment may cost as much as \$60,000. We do have some pledges in hand for this work, but we need more.

Structural oppression creates barriers that are stumbling blocks to full participation by many in our faith community. In dismantling these stumbling blocks, we acknowledge that structural oppression and systemic racism do spiritual violence to us all. We must act to eliminate them if we wish to be fully inclusive in ways that are more than mere words.

### Spiritual Deepening

After careful planning and preparation, our long anticipated Spiritual Deepening Program launched on October 24. Three topics comprise the first set of the program and are available for use of Friends of all ages. Meetings are invited to engage with the Spiritual Deepening Program, which is a pay-as-led program with a suggested donation of \$20 per participant per set. FGC volunteers from many of our yearly meetings are preparing additional sets of topics that will become available on a quarterly or semi-annual basis throughout 2017 and beyond.

There is excitement about FGC sharing this type of spiritual reflection and community building with and among other Friends. We encourage meetings who are looking to reinvigorate their religious education efforts to explore whether the Spiritual Deepening program would speak to their needs.

### Other Programs

**QuakerBooks** FGC continues to operate a walk-in bookstore at Pendle Hill and an online bookstore, [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org). Over the past year, we have improved our inventory control and customer service systems. We depend on Friends patronage to provide this important service.

**Quaker Press** is actively soliciting proposals for new books and pamphlets related to FGC's major goals and programs.

Our **Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee** brings Quaker perspectives to ecumenical and interfaith events. It also connects us with faith-based conversations about truth, justice, and reconciliation.

The **Quaker Cloud** has recently undergone a number of technical improvements—including out-sourced customer support-- as we seek to provide meetings with an easy to maintain, low cost, and feature rich website that includes a minute manager and member directory.

Our **Ministry on Racism** offers assistance and support to meetings and yearly meetings that want to develop their racial and ethnic awareness, increase their diversity, and strive to address the impact of racism on our Society. Specific projects include the Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color and their Families, and organizing Friends to attend the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC). Last spring more than 400 people from Friends meetings and institutions attended WPC.

**Faith & Play** volunteers continue to create new curricula to explore Quaker practice and faith via the powerful Faith & Play methodology. This group works autonomously with support from FGC.

**Friends Meetinghouse Fund** provides loans for meetinghouse purchases and remodels, and some limited grants as well.

These programs and projects are only possible due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and donors across the United States and Canada. We are grateful for this support. Together we nurture the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends and nourish one another's lives.

## **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report**

In 2017, FWCC is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the decades, the organization has adapted to changing conditions while remaining true to its essential mission of bringing together Friends across cultures, languages, and theological diversity. FWCC Friends are organized in four regional sections: Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. Traditionally, representatives have met at large regional and international gatherings (known as Triennials and now called World Plenary Meetings). The last decade or so has witnessed some far-reaching changes, however, resulting from deep discernment on future directions, the necessity of financial retrenchment, and the enhanced availability of internet communication.

The spirit of continuity and change was evident at the Section of the Americas meeting held at Stony Point, New York, in March 2017. Attended by representatives from Bolivia to Canada and from the Caribbean to Central America and the United States, the gathering was a time of reflection and renewal, an occasion to recharge energies, and a reminder of common Quaker values and their diverse expression. Friends met together in worship, plenary sessions, business sessions, home groups, interest groups, and workshops, all bilingual in Spanish and English.

Friends reviewed progress on implementing the Strategic Plan developed at the Section meeting in Mexico two years ago. While some aspects of that plan have been set aside for now there has been encouraging progress on others. Among achievements highlighted were:

\*A new website: See: [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org) Or [www.facebook.com/fwccamericas/](https://www.facebook.com/fwccamericas/) Or [twitter.com/FWCCAmericas](https://twitter.com/FWCCAmericas) Or [www.instagram.com/fwccamericas/](https://www.instagram.com/fwccamericas/)

\* FWCC has become much more a volunteer organization with emphasis on local and regional gatherings.

\*A Traveling Ministry Corps: the first group of volunteers was selected during 2016. Four are from North America and five from Latin America. Training and support is given by FWCC. Recruiting Young Friends will be emphasized during the selection process in 2017. For information on this exciting opportunity for service go to "Visitation" on the FWCC website.

\* No Section of the America gathering is planned for 2018. Instead the emphasis will be on local gatherings that will utilize visits by members of the Traveling Ministry Corps. OUYM is in the Mid-West region.

\* FWCC - QuakerSpeak Videos: QuakerSpeak is a Quaker YouTube channel that shows interviews with Friends of different backgrounds and asks them core questions about faith and experience. The

partnership of the Section of the Americas with Quaker Speak videos has resulted in eight videos with accompanying discussion guides on topics such as “Are You a Quaker?” ; “How do Quakers approach sustainability work?”; and “How many Quakers are there worldwide (and where are they)?” See: [quakerspeak.com/friends-world-committee-for-consultation/](http://quakerspeak.com/friends-world-committee-for-consultation/)  
For the FWCC world office in London and information on other international sections, see: [www.fwcc.world](http://www.fwcc.world)

Anne Hutchinson and Phyllis Martin  
F.W.C.C. Representatives for O.V.Y.M

## **Letter from Friends World Committee for Consultation**

June 2017

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24*

Dear Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London. We extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting. We trust that God’s presence among you will enrich your fellowship and open your hearts. May your gathering be blessed by visitors from other yearly meetings and other parts of the world. Understanding how our Quaker brothers and sisters in different parts of the world are carrying forward their worship and 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 appreciate the yearly meeting’s continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends, and likewise, FWCC brings Friends together who have similar passions in order to strengthen the Quaker voice in the world. Whether we worship in isolated or small communities or enjoy a larger yearly meeting community, we all need the wider family of Friends to nurture us. We are not alone!

Martin Luther King said in 1967, “Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.” At this time of political unrest, we need each other and we need our faith. Being a Quaker, I take heart knowing I share the broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. Everything has changed and nothing has changed. Our shared work for peace and justice continues, from King’s lifetime til now. From the World Conference minutes in 2012: “In moments of deep sharing of joys and grief, we find love, tenderness, and mutual understanding. Friendships form, and seeds of future partnerships are planted.”

FWCC holds the accreditation for Quaker work at the United Nations, and we appoint Friends from each Section to serve on the Geneva and New York governing committees of the Quaker United Nations Office. Quakers are represented well at the UN. Seek out your own Section appointees if you want to learn more or visit the QUNO web site.

I attach the Sustainability Minute from the World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru in January 2016, drawing your attention to the call for yearly meeting action [See <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary>]. Please let us know what you are doing or considering across time. We will be putting contributions on the FWCC World Office web site to build momentum for the Quaker movement around sustainability.

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.

FWCC is revising the world map, *Finding Quakers Around the World*, and we are in the process of updating the book *Friends Around the World*. We also post all epistles we receive so that all Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to [database@friendsworldoffice.org](mailto: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 enjoy unity within our diversity.

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

In loving Friendship,  
Gretchen Castle  
General Secretary

## **Friends Peace Teams (FPT) Report**

Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific Initiative engages with peace workers in Central Java, North Sumatra, Aceh in Indonesia; Manila, Tagbilaran City, and Davao City in the Philippines; Seoul in Korea; Kathmandu, Pokara and Bhutanese camps in Nepal; and we maintain a concern for peace workers in Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Ukraine, New Zealand and Australia. As our peace-work follows the calling of our volunteers, in 2016 we actively worked in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea supporting nonviolence, peace, trauma healing, conflict transformation, and social justice advocacy for communities recovering from war or religious violence.

We completed earthquake relief activities in Nepal. We also provided a grant to Peace Place in Central Java to expand their training center and school. We continue to develop and support pre-schools, after-school programs, and parent, family and teacher training based on peace and nonviolence. The book, *The Power of Goodness: Art and Stories for a Culture of Peace* was published and is now available. It is a collection of short stories from the lives of real people who chose nonviolence and reconciliation and is accompanied by illustrations by young artists.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) has over ten active peacebuilding and trauma healing programs in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA) provides grassroots solidarity, tools and hope to those most discriminated against and marginalized. 2016 marked an important year for the continued sustainability of PLA's programs. After 13 years of volunteer

service, Founding Coordinator, Val Liveoak, retired, continuing as advisor to the new team: Monica Maher, Initiative Coordinator; Allie Prescott, Communications Specialist and Andy Cross, Financial Specialist. During this transition, the new team focused on growing and solidifying relationships with in-field Facilitators, Coordinators, and Volunteers who have passionately supported and facilitated workshops.

In 2016, each of PLA's programs focused work with at-risk youth, teachers, war survivors, former and active gang members, prison personnel, indigenous communities and grassroots leaders. Some program highlights include: the first ever workshop in a Mayan Language in Guatemala; trauma healing workshops in El Salvador with female war survivors who have disappeared relatives; workshops that empowered women in Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous communities defending their land rights against illegal development in Honduras; workshops that provide rehabilitation for former gang members and prisoners in a Honduran Prison; and workshops with victims of violence as well as demobilized guerrilla and paramilitary fighters in Colombia during the historic signing of the Peace Accords. For more information on our work, please visit: <http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org/>.

The African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (AGLI) has continued its work in Central East Africa: Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo. This includes Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC), Friends Womens Association's, clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi, the Alternatives to Violence Project AVP, and other work. David Zarembka, the founder of AGLI resigned in August, and was partially replaced by David Bucura, a Rwandan. AGLI will be seeking a US-based person for outreach.

FPT's office in St. Louis continues to be run efficiently and frugally by our Administrative Specialist, John Kintree. A new Communications Specialist, Hayley Hathaway, has been doing a great job updating our website and producing the beautiful new brochure available on our table. Tom Martin and Nancy Shippen continue as co-Clerks. We are grateful to the many volunteers who help us and our partners abroad continue to do this work.

Please check our website at: [www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org](http://www.FriendsPeaceTeams.org).

## **Quaker Heritage Center Report**

Our year has been full of new things: exhibits, programs, tours, faces, projects, project partners, and accomplishments.

The full annual report – complete with photos and numbers and data – is available on our website ([www.wilmington.edu/the-wilmington-difference/qhc](http://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.

Our exhibits continue to reach out to new audiences and bring new visitors to the Center. We hosted "Boycott: The Art of Economic Activism" brought classes from across campus, from Global Issues in the Social/Political Studies Department to Teaching Middle School Social Studies Methods in the Education Department to Soundscapes and Skills in the Music Department to Media for Social Change in the Communications Department. "Knick Knacks & Knowledge" opened in November, kicking off a new community partnership with Kava Haus Coffee Shop and welcoming children to this student-

produced, interactive, family-friendly exhibit of toys and games. As of the writing of this letter, we're in the final stages of production for "*Cooperation Means Prosperity: Marshall Plan Posters for Post-WWII European Recovery.*"

We welcomed two new members to the Quaker Heritage Center family this year: Sara Fisher, a volunteer with the Ohio History Connection's Local History Corps, a program of AmeriCorps, and George (Fox)...our stuffed animal museum mascot! Sara has spent half of her time this year helping all of our staff work through the American Association of State and Local History's Standards to Excellence Program, resulting in bronze certificates for our work in the areas of Audience and Stewardship of Collections. The rest of Sara's time is dedicated to assisting other historical organizations in an 8-county region of southwest Ohio, including one of our partner organizations, the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor. George (Fox) has leapt into his job as museum mascot, livening up our social media feeds with his explorations and adventures, and bringing smiles to everyone he meets.

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.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Brindle  
Director, Quaker Heritage Center  
Wilmington College  
ruth\_brindle@wilmington.edu

## **William Penn House**

My decision to intern with the William Penn house this summer has been in the making since I was in high school. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens went on a Service Trip to Washington D.C. back in the summer of 2012. While we were there William Penn House staff designed some service learning projects in and around the D.C. area that allowed a group of around twenty of us teenagers to serve the people of Washington D.C. and even have a block party with some local resident where we brought collard greens that we had gleaned that morning as a contribution to the festivities. I am now a Senior, Peace and Social Justice major at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky with a passion for radical social change. When I was interviewed by William Penn House their staff informed me that they like to describe the service that they provide as radical hospitality. They strive to serve their community with the progressive intention of letting people speak their truth. When I served as a teenager with William Penn House I was empowered to speak my truth and listen as others from the D.C. Community, spoke their truth. This summer I hope to continue to learn about what radical hospitality can teach everyone involved in this process as well as those who unconsciously learn from it vicariously.

Adam Funck

# **Executive Committee Minutes 2016-17**

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee**  
**October 1, 2016** Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati, OH.

18 Friends were present.

## **Officers**

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

## **Committee Clerks**

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)  
Auditing: Veronica Frost  
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer  
Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler  
Children's Program: (no representative present)  
Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs  
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale  
Middle Youth and Teen: Jason Dean  
Naming: (no representative present)  
Nominating: Richard Mitchell  
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell  
Personnel: (no representative present)  
Religious Nurture & Education: Marjorie Isaacs  
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger  
Yearly Meeting Planning: Martha Viehmann

## **Quarterly Meeting Clerks**

Miami: Veronica Frost  
Whitewater: Diann Herzog sends regrets

## **Monthly Meeting Representatives**

Bloomington: Marci Ankrom  
Campus: (no representative present)  
Clear Creek: David Garman  
Community: Deborah Jordan  
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley send regrets  
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer  
Englewood: (no representative present)  
Fall Creek: Rex Sprouse sends regrets

Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler  
Green Plain: (no representative present)  
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli  
Lexington: Richard Mitchell  
Louisville: (no representative present)  
Miami: Lonny Burger  
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: Jason Dean

1. Friends gathered for opening worship and the clerk asked all to be sure to report back to their Monthly Meetings and/or committees the business that will be done today.
2. The clerk asked the Religious Education and Nurture Committee to look at the information gathered from the Queries to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting committees.
3. Roll call of monthly meeting representatives and others (see above).
4. The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved
5. **Treasurer's Report** – Wilson Palmer presented a report, which is attached. The accounting for the 2016 sessions is still not complete; and we are still waiting for the bill from Earlham. The report was accepted with gratitude.
6. **Ad Hoc External Contributions Committee** – Michele Tomarelli presented their report, which is attached. Paul Buckley will be the clerk. Michele answered questions and took notes of the discussion to address with the committee. The committee was given the support to do as they are led. Report was accepted.
7. The Executive Committee asked the committee to also send a letter to each Monthly Meeting asking them to have a meeting-wide discussion. This was approved.
8. Minutes 1-7 were approved.
9. **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report** – Veronica Frost reported. The Green Plain Meeting has asked to be laid down. Veronica will be researching ownership of the property and cemetery. The meetinghouse is on the national registry of historic places. This will be brought to the attention of the quarter. The report was accepted.

10. Steve Angell reported that a **Joint Quarterly Meeting** will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30, 2016 at Camp Kern near Lebanon, Ohio. Registration is due October 9th. Lisa Cayard is collecting registrations. There will be two options for the adult program. Jason has been planning activities for the youth.
11. There is a concern for funding the child/youth care at Joint Quarterly Meeting. It was requested that money be available for the salary and registration for child and youth care workers. The treasurer will pay costs for Joint Quarterly Meeting from reserves. It was also approved that there would be \$350.00 added to future yearly meeting budgets.
12. The report was accepted.
13. Minutes 9-12 were approved.
14. **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report** – Submitted by Diann Herzog. Hopewell Friends meetinghouse has been given to Dublin Meeting in the New Association of Friends. The Hopewell Meeting has not been officially laid down. The report was accepted.
15. **Youth Committee** – Jason Dean and David Funck reported. As the new youth secretary, Jason is learning about his responsibilities and what the yearly meeting and monthly meetings would like to see happen with the program. Information gathering is ongoing. Monthly Meetings are asked to submit the name and contact information of the clerk of their Religious Education Committee and information about the youths in their meeting. The teen page on the website will be active again soon. They also have a Face Book page. Many communication options are being considered. A calendar is being developed. It is hoped that the activities and communication can be driven by the youth. There is a concern of building a youth community where they can support each other. Report was accepted.
16. Minutes 14-15 were approved.
17. It was suggested that the minutes emphasize action items.
18. There is a concern of communication between the Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meetings.
19. **Handbook revisions** It was discussed that each committee should be responsible for seeing that their section of the handbook is current and correct. Changes should be brought to the Executive Committee for final approval. The current handbook is available in the website.
20. **Religious Nurture and Education** – Marjorie Isaacs reported. The committee reviewed their charge from the Yearly Meeting. The charge had been updated two years ago when the committees were combined. This committee is committed to being more of a resource to Monthly Meetings. They have several ideas for doing this including presentations and a retreat. They are developing a web site for their committee. In their charge, they will be adding this sentence: “Provide support, consultation and materials for children's and youth's religious education to all levels of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting: Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meetings and Yearly Meeting.” Currently there are no members of Whitewater Quarter on the committee. Friends are invited to attend a committee meeting to explore potential membership. This committee will be meeting Sunday afternoon at the Joint Quarterly Meeting. The report was accepted.

21. The Executive Committee approved Pam Richards from Community Friends as a new member of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee.
22. Minutes 17 - 21 were approved.
23. **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Planning Committee** – Martha Viehmann The theme has been chosen - *Moving Together With the Spirit* - and the plenary speakers were chosen and are being contacted. An announcement will be in the Quill early in 2017. The recommendation of moving Yearly Meeting earlier in the summer was met with vast approval. Very few friends said they were unable to attend. Having it earlier means we can use the facilities that we prefer and we will not conflict with Friends Music Camp.
24. The date change to June 14 – 18, 2017 was approved.
25. Minute 23-24 were approved.
26. **Nominating Committee** There is a concern about finding members for the Nominating Committee and filling officer positions, committee positions and representatives for greater Quaker organizations. Richard Mitchell is currently the sole member of this committee. We will revisit the topic of how we fill the Nominating Committee.
27. Steve Angell's offer to serve on the Nominating Committee was approved.
28. **Nominations Process** Because of the small size of the Nominating Committee, Betsy presented some other questions: Should we limit the size of some committees, combine functions, or otherwise reduce the size of the steward pool? One Friend suggested that it might be better to have committees seek their own members. Another Friend noted that members of the Nominating Committee tend to know only those Friends who attend our annual sessions. There may be Friends willing to do the work of a committee but not interested in attending meetings for business or our annual sessions. It may also be helpful to review the committees' responses to the queries. The Executive Committee will revisit these concerns in February.
29. **Revitalization of OVYM** Because of the lateness of the hour, Betsy presented some thoughts on this topic, but the committee postponed further discussion. Committee responses to the queries may provide useful information. At this past summer's sessions there was strong interest in intervisitation among meetings. The clerk has been asked to develop a prioritized list of meetings to visit. She would appreciate assistance in developing such a list. Friends postponed further consideration until our next meeting. Betsy asked Friends in the meantime to consider this question: *What is needed to do the work that God has given us to do today?*
30. Announcements:
1. Vocal Ministry workshop, Friday and Saturday October 7th and 8th at Lexington Meeting
  2. *Finding the Light in You* children's book about silence available at FGC bookstore
  3. Susan Hyde has been ill.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: February 4, 2017 at 10 am via telephone conferencing.

Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
February 4, 2017 Phone Conference**

1. Opening worship was difficult with joiners ringing in, but we began with centering silence.

2. Roll Call

**Officers**

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley sends regrets

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: no representative present

EarthCare: no representative present

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale

Naming: no representative present

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: no representative present

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Web Administrator: no representative present

Yearly Meeting Planning: Kay Wheeler and Richard Mitchell

Youth Services Committee: Peter Hardy, David Funck

**Quarterly Meeting Clerks**

Miami: Veronica Frost

Whitewater: Diann Herzog

**Monthly Meeting Representatives**

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess

Campus: no representative present

Clear Creek: no representative present

Community: Deborah Jordan and Frank Huss  
Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley  
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer  
Englewood: Kay Wheeler  
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog  
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada  
Green Plain: Caroline Taylor  
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli  
Lexington: Richard Mitchell  
Louisville: no representative present  
Miami: Lonny Burger  
North Meadow: Eric Hailperin-Lausch, Dinah Duvall  
Oxford: Steve Angell  
White Rose: no representative present  
Yellow Springs: no representative present

### **Staff**

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan  
Youth Secretary: Jason Dean

1. The agenda was reviewed.

2. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

The April 22nd retreat will be in Indianapolis. Brian Drayton will be the speaker and the title is *Nourishment from Quaker Roots for Witness in these Times*. A mailing will be sent.

Inter-visitation is still being planned. The committee is looking at ways of getting smaller groups of Monthly Meetings together who are working on the same issues.

The committee is encouraging travelers doing ministry. The report was accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

The report was submitted in advance. The report was accepted.

4. Changing the June meeting of the Executive Committee

Since it is so near the new dates for Yearly Meeting Sessions, there was discussion of what topics are usually handled at the June meeting. The meeting is usually poorly attended. A conference call at 10 am on May 20th was approved.

5. Planning Committee, Kay Wheeler

Theme: "Moving Together in the Spirit" June 14 – 18, 2017

Plans are being finalized for the plenary speakers and workshop leaders.

There will be a pre-sessions workshop on Wednesday afternoon.

The report was accepted.

6. Youth Services Committee, Jason Dean

*The Quake That Rocks the Midwest* was canceled.

February 18th, Eastern Hills will host a sleepover for teens and middle youth.

Jason has collected some demographic information from the directory. There were 27 teens. The

committee wants to reach out to each of them. The number of Middle Youth was 28. They are hoping for at least three events a year: a service trip, *The Quake that Rocks the Midwest*, and the Yearly Meeting. But there may be other opportunities like the sleep over at Eastern Hills. There is a Facebook page for Quaker parents.

If there are youth in your Monthly Meetings that are not in the directory, please give their information to Deborah Jordan.

The report was accepted.

#### 7. Miami Quarter, Veronica Frost

They will meet in February to discuss laying down Green Plains - an 1844 Meeting house, never updated, a beautiful historical place with a burial ground. It is on the list of Ohio and National Historic Places. It has been maintained by family.

Joint Quarterly Meeting was well attended. Camp Kern was very nice. 65 people attended.

The report was accepted.

#### 8. Nominating Committee Discussion

The discussion was revisited on how we can encourage friends and attenders to participate in broader groups. The idea of inter-visitation was promoted again. Friends believe this is very important.

Visitations do not need to be formal events made by designees. Everyone should be encouraged to attend other Quaker worship meetings or events. Committees should also be encouraged to reach out to meetings.

#### 9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, Diann Herzog

The January meeting was canceled due to bad weather was rescheduled for February 19th at North Meadows in Indianapolis. The intersection of Mysticism and Activism will be the afternoon discussion. If friends have participated in marches or protests recently and carried a sign, please bring the sign with you.

There was a question about the status of Hopewell Meeting. The information is still contradictory but the meeting does not exist. Dinah Duvall believes that the property has been transferred and the only thing remaining is a letter to the Yearly Meeting stating that they are no longer active. Diann Herzog said there is still some disagreement over the property, but Diann will request a letter regarding the disposition of the meeting.

The report was accepted.

#### 10. Ad-hoc Committee on external contributions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Peter Hardy

The committee is working on a survey to share with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting friends. The questions are difficult to write in order to solicit the information we need. Hopefully it will be sent out soon. The deadline for this information is the next EC meeting. Also, Monthly Meetings will also be asked these questions. There was a concern that this issue should not be rushed.

The report was accepted.

#### 11. Letter from New England Yearly Meeting – Richard Mitchell

On behalf of Peace and Social Concerns – the Massachusetts Council of Churches has prepared a letter that New England Yearly Meeting has endorsed and shared. There was a request to give the YM Clerk permission to add Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to these types of letters without going through the formal acceptance procedure. Friends requested that the letter be circulated before having our name added to it. Friends also trust the clerk and realize that the time taken to go through the formalities, may delay the

impact of endorsing the letter. Friends said perhaps we can share the letter with a short deadline for Monthly Meetings to voice approval. There was a concern of becoming too politically charged and building our own walls without a spiritual leading. Perhaps the letters could be approved through the Executive Committee. There were several friends concerned with acting in a timely manner. We were reminded that the handbook empowers the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to act in this way as long as certain conditions are met as outlined in the handbook.

12. It was approved that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee can communicate with the Yearly Meeting Clerk to see if it is appropriate for our name to be added to the letters.

13. Revitalization of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

There are many exciting things happening in our committees in regard to inter-visitation and programming. Betsy wrote an article for *The Quill* on race and diversity. Hopefully more educational opportunities on this topic will be available.

14. The meeting closed in silent worship.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: April 1st, 2017 at 12 noon at Earlham School of Religion

Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
April 1, 2017 Earlham School of Religion**

1. Opening worship

2. Roll Call

**Officers**

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley sends regrets

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Statistician: Frank Huss

**Committee Clerks**

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Fred Feitler

Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale and Rex Sprouse

Naming: (no representative present)

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: (no representative present)  
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley  
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger not present  
Yearly Meeting Planning: Terre Holada  
Youth Services Committee: David Funck

### **Quarterly Meeting Clerks**

Miami: Veronica Frost not present  
Whitewater: Diann Herzog sends regrets

### **Monthly Meeting Representatives**

Bloomington: (no representative present)  
Campus: (no representative present)  
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt  
Community: Deborah Jordan and Frank Huss  
Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley  
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer  
Englewood: Kay Wheeler not present  
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog not present  
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler  
Green Plain: (no representative present)  
Lafayette: (no representative present)  
Lexington: Richard Mitchell  
Louisville: (no representative present)  
Miami: (no representative present)  
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall  
Oxford: Steve Angell and Doug Jones  
White Rose: (no representative present)  
Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

### **Staff**

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan  
Youth Secretary:

3. Friends who had participated in the conference call in February but were not listed as participating, please inform the recording clerk so the February minutes can be corrected.
4. The agenda was reviewed.
5. Audit Committee, Wilson Palmer
  - A. The committee met 3/4/17.
  - B. Accounts balanced with minor corrections.
  - C. Thanks were given to the Treasurer.
  - D. The report was accepted.
6. Youth Services Committee
  - A. Report is attached.

- B. Jason Dean has resigned.
- C. A friend asked if we can learn from this experience to help retain a person in that position. There was discussion on the conditions of this position as far as hours worked and health insurance.
- D. The report was accepted

7. Survey on OVYM Contributions, Fred Feitler

- A. Discussion focused on the bigger issues and priorities that the survey brought to light, specifically the economic health of the Monthly Meetings and the shrinking membership of OVYM.
- B. Report is attached.
- C. Report was accepted.

8. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

- A. Updated report is attached.
- B. We anticipate additional donations of \$40,000.00 as is usual for this time of year, so it is not a concern at this time.
- C. Yearly Meeting session expenses will appear on this year's budget due to the date change, but the majority and major expenses will be on next year's budget.
- D. The Budget and Finance Committee is convened by the Assistant Treasurer. Since this position has been vacant for seven years, the committee has been functioning the best it can.
- E. A proposed budget has been prepared this morning at the usual 4th month EC meeting day. Even though there is a proposed negative balance, this is not a concern as the previous year has left us with a reserve.
- F. There is not a change for the recommended proportional share of \$120.00 per member.
- G. Report was accepted with gratitude.

9. Proposal of the revision of the calendar for the Budget and Finance Committee in the Handbook, report sent by Paul Buckley

- A. Dates must be adjusted to compensate for the change of the Yearly Meeting Sessions dates.
- B. Step four led to the following discussion in minute 10.
- C. The approved changes are attached.

10. A concern was raised about the schedule for EC meetings. Specifically, the viability and Spiritual success of a conference call, the cost of travel to individuals and the environment, the location, dates and number of times the committee meets, the influence this all has on attendance or willingness to serve and the possibility of using software that would use video and audio.

11. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley

- A. Report is attached.
- B. Report was accepted.

12. Whitewater Quarterly April 23 at Lafayette. Discussion will be on OVYM organizational donations.

13. Planning Committee, Terre Holada

- A. Plans are moving along well. Registration materials will be available soon on the OVYM website.

14. Miami Quarter, Frank Huss

- A. Green Plain Monthly Meeting will be laid down after disposition of the graveyard is determined.
- B. At the February Quarterly Meeting at Eastern Hills, there was wonderful discussion focused on the discussion of politics. Peter Hardy wrote queries and they are available if Friends would like a copy. Perhaps they could be added to The Quill.

15. Friends General Conference is in the process of examining their policies in relation to race and discrimination. There is a lot of support for this. FGC is requesting funds to start this process. Hopefully, the findings of this introspection can help us all.

16. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell

- A. More members are needed.
- B. The clerk wishes to find out what the barriers are to Friends serving. Perhaps there could be some education given on service opportunities.
- C. There was a proposal that each Monthly Meeting name a representative to the Nominating Committee. The clerk and Deborah Jordan will communicate this to the Monthly Meetings. The hope is to hear from the clerks of the Monthly Meetings and have a list of names by May 15th. This was approved.
- D. The nominating committee will be responsible for drafting an update for the handbook to be brought back to Executive Committee for approval.
- E. Monthly Meeting Representatives to Executive Committee should also share this information with their meetings.

Next meeting of the Executive Committee: Conference call, May 20th, 2017 at 10 am.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

**Report of the Youth Services Committee**

[An updated version of this report appears on page 29 of Reports in Advance.]

**Ad Hoc OVYM Contributions Committee Report**

[An updated version of this report appears on page 39 of Reports in Advance.]

**4.4. Budget Policy (new version as Annual Sessions is now in June)**

IV. OVYM BUDGET CALENDAR:

**Step 1:** At the fall Executive Committee Meeting (or, about October first, if there is no fall meeting), the Budget & Finance Committee announces the beginning of the budget-setting process. Following the meeting, B&F sends a request for expense estimates to yearly meeting clerks, committees, and others.

**Step 2:** Committees and clerks respond by January 15.

**Step 3:** By January 31, the treasurer fills in any missing information, compiles a draft budget, identifying any policy issues and associated costs. B&F reviews the draft and makes any changes necessary.

**Step 4:** In the morning of the winter Executive Committee session (or, about February first, if there is no winter meeting), there is a Public Budget Meeting to discuss the first draft budget and collect any comments. Everyone in the yearly meeting is invited to attend. In the afternoon, (or the next Executive Committee Meeting if none is scheduled for that day) Budget & Finance Committee meets with the Executive Committee seeking advice on the draft budget any policy issues.

**Step 5:** By February 28, Budget & Finance Committee revises the draft budget, as necessary, and sends it to the monthly meetings.

This mailing includes:

- Summaries of the current year budget and the proposed budget.
- Descriptions of any changes between the current and proposed budgets, with reasons for changes, especially any policy issues.
- The amount of the suggested proportional share per member for the coming year and how much that would be for the meeting, based on the most recent Statistical Report.
- A request for monthly meetings to commit to support for the yearly meeting.
- An offer that a Budget & Finance Committee member can meet with the monthly meeting as needed.

**Step 6:** By April 30, monthly meetings review the budget, discern how much they can donate to the yearly meeting, and respond to Budget & Finance Committee.

**Step 7:** By May 15, Budget & Finance Committee prepares a final budget proposal taking into consideration updated financial statements, monthly meeting responses, and further input from committees. That document is published in the Advance Reports.

**Step 8:** At the annual sessions, yearly meeting acts.

### **Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report to April Executive Committee**

The Religious Nurture and Education Committee met on 3/26/17. We finalized plans for the annual retreat, April 22 at the Benedict Inn in Indianapolis. We choose Indianapolis in hopes of attracting more Friends from Whitewater Quarter. We have invited Brian Drayton, a New England YM Friend, to facilitate. The topic is looking at what sources of strength and wisdom might we discover within our Quaker tradition in our current political climate. How might our Quaker practices become deeper grounding for witness?

We continued to discuss or charge to develop an intervisitation and traveling ministry program. The primary importance of intervisitation is to build connections between Friends, and while we are trying to encourage traditional intervisitation, we are working on the following initiatives, and have others we want to consider in the future.

- We would like to create a RNE page on the website to host links to our initiatives and other resources for meetings.
- We are gathering names for a “speaker's bureau” list of Friends within the Yearly Meeting willing to travel and speak or lead discussions on various topics at local meetings.
- We encourage meetings to make use of the FGC spiritual deepening program which is available through the web.
- We will develop regular personal contact between monthly meetings and individual committee members.
- In the future, we would like to hold a retreat for Friends who feel a nudge to travel in the ministry, and to hold gatherings for Friends who share particular concerns, such as Quaker parenting, or roles, such as clerks or treasurers.
- We would like to have an interest group on intervisitation at OVYM sessions this year.
- We are gathering Religious Education resources to share with local meetings this summer, much like the Outreach packets we distributed last year.

The committee discussed how we can better assist meetings deal with difficult or divisive people. We suggest to executive committee that the Yearly Meeting might establish written guidelines on sexual harassment for use by the Yearly Meeting. We have a policy for preventing abuse of our children, but not how we might deal with issues involving adults. We met with one meeting last fall at their request, to help with a conflict within the meeting.

Submitted by Nikki Coffey Tousley

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
May 20, 2017  
Telephone Conference**

1. Roll Call

**Officers**

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse, not present

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley sends regrets

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)

Statistician: Frank Huss, not present

**Committee Clerks**

Adult Young Friends: (no representative present)

Auditing: Veronica Frost not present

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Wilson Palmer

Earthcare: Marjorie Isaacs not present

Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale

Nominating: Richard Mitchell

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell  
Personnel: Wilson Palmer  
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley send regrets  
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger sends regrets  
Yearly Meeting Planning: Richard Mitchell  
Youth Services Committee: David Funck, Peter Hardy not present

### **Quarterly Meeting Clerks**

Miami: Veronica Frost not present  
Whitewater: Diann Herzog not present

### **Monthly Meeting Representatives**

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess  
Campus: (no representative present)  
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt  
Community: Deborah Jordan  
Dayton: (no representative present)  
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer  
Englewood: (no representative present)  
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog not present  
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada  
Green Plain: (no representative present)  
Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli  
Lexington: Richard Mitchell  
Louisville: (no representative present)  
Miami: Lonny Burger sends regrets  
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall  
Oxford: Doug Jones sends regrets  
White Rose: (no representative present)  
Yellow Springs: Deb Kociszewski

### **Staff**

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan  
Youth Secretary: vacant

2. Opening worship

3. The agenda was reviewed.

4. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer

A. Updated report is attached.

B. We are still waiting for the last \$18,000.00 to come in to finish the fiscal year. Wilson is confident that most, if not all, of the expected donations will arrive.

C. Report was accepted with gratitude.

5. Planning Committee, Richard Mitchell

- A. The committee met yesterday at Earlham to see the facilities and identify which activities will take place in which rooms. Equipment requirements were discussed.
- B. There are still some last minute details to work out, but overall the committee feels confident that they are ready.
- C. Registrations are still coming in.
- D. There is a pre-sessions workshop that will start at noon on Wednesday led by Fred Feitler on Friendly Retirement.
- E. The report was accepted.

6. Nominating Committee, Richard Mitchell

- A. Only a few Monthly Meetings have submitted names. There were questions from some meetings. Perhaps the request should be revised and repeated. Some of the issues raised were years of service (3, not 6) and the short time to respond to the request.
- B. Richard recommends the nominating committee meet early in the year in person to clarify needs. There will be a minimum of three conference calls following for updates.
- C. There are still some important positions that need filling like Assistant Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk and Assistant Treasurer.
- D. There is still a week left for committee reports to be published in the Reports in Advance book for Yearly Meeting sessions. The YM clerk requested that Richard add to the Nominating Committee advance report, providing a full description of the expectations for Nominating Committee members and how he anticipates the re-focused committee will function.
- E. Friends are reminded that Yearly Meeting experience is not a requirement to serve the Yearly Meeting on Nominating Committee. Attendance at sessions is also not a requirement.
- F. The report was accepted.

7. Letter from Lexington Friends Meeting

- A. The letter addressed the situation of a problematic attender. The Meeting struggled under duress in dealing with this person for some time. Currently, he is restricted in participation while they continue to preserve the safe environment of their meeting and the needs of all individuals. This information was shared with other meetings that have dealings with this person.
- B. Empathy is felt for Lexington Meeting. Friends will hold the situation in the Light.

Next meeting of the Executive Committee: The date may change in view of the change of date of sessions. Due to the low attendance today, there was hesitation to change the date at this meeting though a decision should be made soon. Betsy, Terre and Deborah will discuss it further.

The meeting closed with a period of worship and gratitude.  
Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

# State of the Meeting Reports

## ***BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING***

This is a time of deep uncertainty held in warm community. We faced difficult decisions about our Meetinghouse, often with no idea of the final outcome. In the midst of it all, we vacated our beloved Meetinghouse and moved into our interim site at Harmony School, a decision based on urgent concerns to leave an unhealthy physical space and to feel firmly on our path to our future Meetinghouse. We addressed the challenges of moving out and packing up with kindness and abundant energy. Then, at Harmony School, we enjoyed the light-filled gymnasium where we meet for worship and the cozy classrooms for our First Day School. Many experienced relief and quiet joy to be at Harmony School, and many experienced profound grief at leaving the Meetinghouse; most of us experienced all of the above.

After many years of exploratory preparation, our Capital Campaign was finally launched and met with enthusiasm. We found that our eagerness to move forward helped us to fine tune our direction. The more that we take new steps, the more we learn, and different concerns emerge. As an example, although the initial response to the Capital Campaign has been quite generous, the ongoing pledges have not been enough to support our original plan. We have had several fruitful called meetings to address these concerns. Throughout it all, the Capital Campaign Committee, the Building Committee, the Property and Finance Committee, the treasurer, and others have worked together to coordinate the details and the big picture of our shifting plans. The challenges help us grow closer as a community.

We experience a paradox in that while we feel challenged with some aspects of building our community, we feel abundant warmth and friendship at Meeting. The question “Who are we as a community now?” emerged in many settings. We wonder how best to support our children and young families. We ask how to find committee members to do the work that needs to be done. These concerns find their way into our committee discussions and we created second hour events to explore them more widely.

Here’s some evidence of warmth in our community. We had an adventurous and joyous Christmas celebration at the home of Margot Gray and her family. We continue our musical mornings before Meeting for Worship at our new site. We offer one another support during this time of political turmoil; specifically, our Peace and Social Concerns Committee organized a second hour event on personal strategies for right political action. We revived our mid-week Meeting for Worship, meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesdays at the chapel at Bloomington Hospital. And finally, we manage every First Day to set up and organize ourselves into a functional and beautiful Meeting for Worship in the school gymnasium, followed by a friendly fellowship time conjured out of the school’s cafeteria.

We finish here with a list of transitions. Our friend, Chandra Romel, moved away to her new job in the Pacific Northwest. Another friend, Cindy Rogers, left us for a post-doctoral fellowship in Saint Louis. Two dear Friends passed on: Kathleen Anderson and Bettyclaire Day. And finally, since moving to Harmony School, we have lost some attenders while gaining quite a few new attenders.

## **CAMPUS FRIENDS MEETING**

### ***Query #1 How is the life of your meeting and personal experiences rooted in the life of Christ?***

Our corporate worship is held in comfortable and welcoming expectant-waiting open worship in which all members and attenders are invited to minister as led by the Holy Spirit. We find that our worship supports our fellowship at the rise of meeting which is a time of deep, thoughtful conversation and personal sharing.

### ***Query #2 What are the messages your meeting endeavors to bring to members, attenders, and the community?***

We come to meeting for worship with an openness to the leadings of the Spirit, which means there may be spoken message(s) or we may remain in centering silence. Friends are sometimes led to sing, read scripture, play the piano, and/or speak the message that is laid upon their hearts. We do not allow ourselves to be distracted from focusing on God and our relationship with the Divine. When our worship has been covered by the Presence of Christ, we walk away filled whether there has been a spoken message or not.

This year our Campus Friends Meeting retreat, held at Quaker Knoll Camp, centered on the issue of Immigration. We used the query: "How do you stay peaceful in a time of political change?" and considered how we can help tear down the walls which are being constructed by our current administration. The intention was to explore and listen as we begin to discern our way forward, both as individuals and as a monthly meeting.

### ***Query #3 How does your meeting encourage members or attenders to experience the living Christ directly?***

Campus Friends Meeting embraces George Fox's insight that "Christ has come to teach the people Himself." We encounter the Living Christ in the silence of open worship, and welcome the range of personal experiences and diverse language used to describe one's relationship with the divine. We love these stories of personal relationship with God, as well as insights about living out our testimonies and finding sources of strength and Truth in our daily lives. Fox's query, "What Canst Thou Say?" speaks to our condition.

Our First Sunday Fellowship Meal and the informal sharing of personal stories which arise during our closing fellowship, are proven opportunities to laugh, sing and rejoice together.

## **CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS MEETING**

In our First-day meetings for worship, the silence has felt gathered, and the vocal ministry, meaningful and considered. We feel cohesive and gathered as a community. One self-identified newcomer said, "As a newcomer, I find Clear Creek a welcome place to be." Clear Creek Meeting Friends also note that meeting attendance has been regular over the past year, and financial contributions have been sufficient to meet the Meeting's needs and commitments, both of which we take to be good signs.

As we considered the question of what might improve the spiritual life of the Meeting, one Friend said (and we paraphrase), "I don't believe there's a lot missing; it's a good fit for me right now." Another commented, "We've hit a good balance between the individual and the community, allowing people to be individuals." A third suggested that the Meeting concern itself more with the development and oversight of spiritual giftedness evident among us, like healing gifts and pastoral care gifts.

We gained five new members in 2016, whom we celebrated with welcoming dinners, and lost one by death, whose life was memorialized at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions. A memorial meeting was held during the year for a Friend who died late in 2015. We rejoiced to have two young children among us for the greater part of the year, but have had no First Day-school children since the end of summer, when these moved away.

We have maintained a robust adult religious education program that has promoted probing self-inquiry and candid sharing about aspects of our individual spiritual lives. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has promoted self-awareness regarding the carbon footprints of our individual households, and efforts at reducing them. Our Meeting has made contributions to environmental organizations, and we have become an affiliate congregation of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. Individual members have been active in the Alternatives to Violence Project and other initiatives of work and witness to address the needs of the world beyond the Meeting. A number of smaller groups, including a spiritual discussion group, meet for fellowship and to pursue common interests. These serve to contribute to a sense of community.

We have joined with Richmond's other two Friends' meetings twice in the year, once for our annual three-meeting joint worship at the beginning of summer, in which the Richmond Church of the Brethren also participates, and once for a Christmas Eve service that combined choirs and singers from all three Friends' meetings. When Earlham College hosted Friends' Music Camp during the summer, Clear Creek Meeting hosted worship and snacks one First Day.

In various ways throughout the year, members of the Meeting have sought to be loving, comforting, and supportive presences for one another and for our neighbors in the wider world. In particular, we note that members have been responsive in a positive and mutually encouraging manner to actual and imminent changes in the public sphere in these turbulent times.

### ***COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING***

The past year has been a time of stormy waters, as Community Friends Meeting has gone through some painful hard work and soul-searching. We experienced some very difficult conflicts, primarily associated with decision-making about painting the meetinghouse, and also in our discernment about what to do with some significant bequest funds that were donated to the Meeting. As part of the healing process, Stephanie Crumley-Effinger again led our Fall Renewal on the topic of "Living together in a Faith Community", based on Sandra Cronk's Pendle Hill Pamphlet on Gospel Order. We learned that conflict avoidance is a barrier to living in Gospel Order, and that sometimes we need to speak and hear hard truths. Ministry and Counsel is offering quarterly worship sharing opportunities to allow feelings to be shared openly as we listen to one another and develop more open and honest relationships within our meeting community. This work is ongoing.

Stewardship Committee was charged with many issues that were at the heart of the Meeting this year, including making recommendations around the bequests that we had received, developing a gift policy for the future, considering ethical investment issues, and addressing a decrease in ongoing financial contributions to the Meeting. With the help of the Spirit we are making our way through these challenges, and the storms are subsiding as we seek our way forward together.

Since several long-time members moved away for retirement last year, our meeting has gotten smaller, and attendance at worship is down. Our active youth group has grown up and gone off to college, so our First Day School classes are also much smaller. However, the Spirit is alive in our midst, and we are engaged with each other and with the wider world! Our Outreach working group has become a standing committee, and they have been updating our literature and working on a new sign-in book to provide better follow-up with visitors. Community Committee has again arranged for Friendly Sixes to get together throughout the year for shared meals and relationship building. Adult Religious Education Committee has scheduled a number of Inreach Groups that meet regularly on a variety of topics, such as reading Quaker literature, the Sermon on the Mount, and Spiritual Deepening.

The recent political climate has brought in new visitors, and heightened interest in actions we can take as individuals and as a community to witness to our testimonies and values. Several Friends are active in the Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbying group, and others are active in the Amos project in Cincinnati, an interfaith social justice organization that worked to support the passage of the Preschool Promise, ensuring that every child in Cincinnati will receive two years of quality preschool. We have recently been led to become a Solidarity Congregation to support Sanctuary Congregations in our community by assisting people in sanctuary with basic needs. We are displaying signs in front of the Meetinghouse declaring that "No matter where you are from, we are glad you're our neighbor!"

The solar panels on our meetinghouse have been in place for over a year now, and we are celebrating that they have generated 99% of our electricity for the past year! We continue to plant native species on our property and care for our woods, with a focus on permaculture.

Though we are reminded of our human shortcomings, we remain grateful for the great blessings of our spiritual community. We have received opportunities for growth through the challenges we have weathered. Our business meetings have been well-attended as we seek to be guided by God in our decision-making. Meeting for worship continues to be the spiritual center of our Meeting, and we are often blessed with spirit-led ministry. We pray for our hearts to be opened, and for healing to continue in our blessed community.

### ***DAYTON FRIENDS MEETING***

The last year has been one of growth and change at Dayton Friends, as we came together to build a home for ourselves. The meeting has gathered in rented space for over 40 years, but on 26 Third Month, 2017 we met for the first time in our own Meeting House, which we purchased 11 months earlier. Volunteers took on a significant portion of the work over the year, including demolition, laying floors and painting. Working side-by-side has drawn us closer together: we learned to accept our mistakes, took pride in our accomplishment and discovered new talents within the meeting. Our new space is more accessible, which will help us to be more open and welcoming. We also reconnected with former members through our fundraising efforts, and are thankful for their support and the support of other

Friends Meetings. We sought to remain true to Quaker principles in purchasing the building and in our interaction with our contractors and inspectors.

A deep and meaningful silence characterizes our weekly worship, as well as sometimes powerful vocal ministry. There is a strong core which gathers each week, although work and family obligations keep Friends away at times, including our children. We have welcomed two new children this year, and have had up to five children, but none attend weekly.

Dayton Friends continues to be a loving community that supports each other in formal and informal ways. We had multiple requests for clearness this year. Phyllis Tonne was welcomed into membership and brings both wisdom and joy to the meeting. We also celebrated marriage of Anna Henry and Peter Borton in the late summer. Anna grew up in the meeting, and the wedding was under the joint care of Dayton Meeting and Cleveland Meeting (Lake Erie YM), where the couple now attends. Clearness committees also supported individual Friends facing difficult life changes. We find many ways to come together, recognizing that Friends connect to the meeting in different ways. Regular activities include a monthly spiritual writing group, men's breakfast, and pot-luck, and we sometimes provide tangible aid, such as cooking meals. All of these efforts make us a stronger community, but we question how we can further challenge one another to a deeper life in the Spirit. We also wonder how we can better reach out to those who attend less often.

We are energized by our new home, but are clear that settling into a building is not the goal, but a first step toward more faithful witness. We are listening for the needs of the community and trying to be open to the movement of the Spirit. One simple activity was a second hour walk through the neighborhood to a local coffee shop, led by a member who lives nearby. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has become more active, and in the fall the committee invited a group of African refugees to tell us about their experiences. We hope to use our new space to work with refugees and other neighbors in the area. Discerning where we are being lead to serve and witness as a meeting is our primary challenge in the coming years.

### ***EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS MEETING***

The Light of Christ lives through us in ministry, worship, and service. Worship brings our small but growing numbers together on First Day in the rich silence of waiting worship punctuated by messages that minister to each other's spirit. While the experience is not always as deeply transformative as we wish, it nourishes our commitment both to each other as a loving community and to service to a wide variety of our neighbors.

Service connects us with others and with an expansive sense of the Kingdom of God. As a meeting, we continue our monthly Jimmy Heath lunches. A vital part of that ministry is sitting and breaking bread with those we serve--having conversation, developing relationships. Many of us also participate in the work to embrace differences and foster understanding through Greater Anderson Promotes Peace, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, and the Council on American Islamic Relations. Our meeting supports a number of friends in their service, including sewing sanitary kits and dresses for a mission in Haiti, working with the East End Mission to meet basic needs, and traveling to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala. It is a blessing to support all of these efforts financially as it is a blessing to learn more about the needs of our neighbors, near and far.

Practical work is also a ministry of service. Our small meeting is blessed with many Friends who are committed to maintaining our building and grounds and managing our finances. Working together on upkeep projects also nourishes our community, and comments from our neighbors show that our gardens can be a source of ministry, too. Likewise, our support for those in ill health, through prayer and occasional meetings for healing, fosters a sense of community care, which strengthens our meeting

The Light of the Holy Spirit also grows in us as we share of ourselves in a variety of religious education or nurture programs. For over a year, a member or attender has shared part of their spiritual journey one Sunday a month. These stories draw us closer and spark renewed reflection on the journey each of us undertakes to live our faith. Second hours that focus on spiritual nurture have also strengthened the meeting.

Bible study has been a significant growth experience for some. The relationships formed in this group and in the Koinonia groups formed with the other Cincinnati meetings provide a sound spiritual friendship that enriches the whole meeting. We were able to help four of our young adults attend OVYM's Joint Quarterly Meeting, almost half of the young adults present at this gathering.

We have been blessed with new attenders, visitors, and the occasional return of some who worshipped with us in the past. We strive to be welcoming to all, to invite them to activities beyond our First Day worship, and to learn about what brings them to our quiet space. We greet with pleasure the continuing challenge of helping all among us grow, discerning into which ministries we are called, and maintaining and nurturing our relationships to God, each other, and our wider community.

### ***ENGLEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING***

Englewood Friends Meeting continues to be active group, very committed to each other and the community around us. This year we are still in the process of defining who we are and what it means to be Quakers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We have members actively involved in many activities. Englewood Friends has a strong connection to the Dayton International Peace Museum. We have become a part of the Northmont Community Table which is an organization of local churches that help school children and other poor people in our community. Several of our members help serving and cleaning up after a weekly community dinner for the poor and anyone else who is interested in having fellowship. We are doing this in conjunction with the Hoke Road Disciples of Christ Church. We have members actively involved with the New Association of Friends (NAoF) and another member has been involved in planning the restoration of the Fountain City Meeting House which was part of the Underground Railroad. We are also moving toward establishing a video link to allow folks to participate in our first hour discussion and to have conversations with Friends at a distance. We have members participating in a grief support group. We have a new sign where a brief message can be changed weekly. One of our members presented an educational opportunity to understand the Seder meal and its elements. This was open to the public and we experienced a wonderful turnout. We also got to enjoy a Seder meal.

Englewood Friends has also provided financial help to families in our Meeting and in the community who need assistance.

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.

We have 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 MEETING***

Fall Creek Friends assemble quietly and reverently each First-Day morning and in the afternoon on the first First-Day of each month. In the fall of 2016, we began holding a midweek worship on Fourth-Days; this was set aside for the winter months due to the weather, but we anticipate beginning again soon. Our meetings are spiritually rich, but are small in attendance. We were delighted to welcome a new member this year; we were also saddened by the departures of several members and attenders whose lives and spiritual journeys led them elsewhere. Several of our members have been prevented from attending regularly by health issues and other personal concerns. However, we feel that our members do find the Meeting valuable, participate worshipfully, and contribute as they are able to making the meetings profitable.

Presently in our meeting, vocal ministry is relatively rare. When Friends are led to speak, their messages are helpful and relevant, and are gratefully received by the meeting. When no message is given, Friends accept the silence as holding equal spiritual value. We do not feel that there is either too much or too little vocal ministry.

We begin our Meetings for Business by reflecting on the Queries from the Book of Discipline, considering one query each month. This practice helps to keep the basic principles of Quaker faith and practice clearly before us.

Fall Creek Meeting continues to be challenged by its small size and the geographic distance between Friends' homes. We share a deep love among us when we come together on First-Days, but often have little contact with one another during the week. We feel a need to be more intentional about communicating, especially with absent Friends.

## **FORT WAYNE FRIENDS MEETING**

Members and attenders of Fort Wayne Friends have a deep need to develop and acknowledge our Spirituality. Some of that need stems from the slowly growing number of children in our care. We also feel a responsibility to our attenders and members who desire quiet Spiritual nurture in a way few can find on their own.

Our annual fall retreat is an opportunity to reflect and examine this need and priority.

Several of us are a part of the greater Quaker community through OVYM and other Quaker organizations. Many of us stay close to our spiritual home and seek nurture and renewal through the meeting and other occupations such as reading the Bible and discussion of other literature.

Our concern seems to focus on the future: the future of our children and the future of the meeting itself. There is more and more talk of a meeting house, but we are reluctant to move forward for many reasons. There is a desire for a more dynamic First Day School for both the children and adults. Our small number and large geographical spread is a constant challenge.

Yet we worship weekly in love with a focus on the Spirit. We seek to see beyond our small meeting and into God's greater world. We pray for peace, love, and understanding for all. Our numbers are small, but our Spirit is large.

## **LAFAYETTE FRIENDS MEETING**

Lafayette Friends Meeting may possibly be best described as small but mighty. We number 12 regular adult attenders and 2 children. We value our involvement in our Lafayette community, our care and support of each other, and our new efforts in outreach and political activism.

We are continuing to serve our local community in various ways. We contribute financially to Lafayette Urban Ministry, a coalition of some 40 churches in the area, and host a family at LUM's annual Jubilee Christmas. One Friend participates faithfully in LUM's income tax assistance program and another works through the National Alliance on Mental Illness to address mental health issues in the local jail population. We also help to staff the local food pantry in cooperation with the Lafayette Church of the Brethren.

We strive conscientiously to show love and support for each other. We rejoiced in the 90th birthday of Tom Hull, our much loved "weighty friend." We are especially proud of Tom as he was one of the founders of Lafayette Urban Ministry and an early member of our Meeting. Other Friends have particularly demanding jobs or volunteer commitments; one is embarking on a new career that requires further education (including a statistics course!); one is facing the challenges of caring for a spouse with worsening dementia; and another is in the throes of completing a Ph.D. thesis. We hope that our support, whether it be a solicitous "How are you doing?", a hug or pat on the back, or the recognition that the Friend in question should not be expected to take on any new tasks for the Meeting serves as tangible evidence that we are holding all in the Light.

In these difficult political times, we are particularly grateful for the presence of a young friend who spurs us to greater political activism and has introduced us to the process for meeting in person with a

member of our local congressman's staff. We are all struggling with questions of how to prioritize our involvement with the many issues that confront us and how to express our views most effectively.

We are particularly grateful for and impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm of a new attender and the above-mentioned young friend for spurring us finally to outreach. In a matter of a few weeks, we have a nascent website on Quaker Cloud; we have a bright "Welcome" banner to hang on our porch on Sunday mornings; we are about to spread an FCNL "Love Thy Neighbor. No Exceptions" banner across our lawn; and we will soon have a large sign on the front porch clearly identifying us as Lafayette Friends Meeting.

We are enjoying a sense of vibrancy even as we recognize that there will always be new challenges for us and new opportunities for us to grow in the Light.

### **LEXINGTON FRIENDS MEETING**

How does the Spirit move among us? Lexington Friends can report with gratitude that the Spirit moves among us and within us. We are humbled and profoundly aware that God is the movement. We are blessed to be a growing community. A number of young families with children are coming more regularly. Possibly seeking a home in the current political and cultural upheaval, we see more people visiting for the first time. We are heartened that some of these visitors seem to be finding a home.

Our First Day experience is often moving and rich. We host a very active First Hour discussion often filling our library with a good number of engaged adults doing anything from laughing yoga to considering the newest draft from our Faith and Practice revision committee. Prior to worship, we lift our song enthusiastically from the Friends Hymnal as all generations gather in the meeting room. We have several gifted musicians. Many of us find the silence and vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship filled with those spiritual insights that speak to our condition. After the first 15 minutes of worship, the quiet shuffle of our children leaving for First Day School doesn't seem to interrupt the worship but strengthens it. The children now are split into two age groups for a programmed experience; a third group, the smaller toddlers, are given a watchful eye. As we shake hands with one another to end the silence, we move into a time where announcements are made and everyone gets a chance to introduce him or herself. There has often been a struggle with how long this go-around takes, but our meeting is committed to this activity because it builds our sense of community. And it is with this sense of community that Lexington Friends must really begin our State of the Meeting Report.

In our Meeting this year there has been much work toward understanding how we as a collection of individuals must be bound by and sustained by the collective community. We have struggled to define the boundaries of what makes a spiritual community a safe and positive place in the full freedom of the individual. We are learning to name boundaries. To that end, we report that this year we have ended our relationship with one Friend and temporarily suspended our relationship with another.

One individual was released after spending over 4 years in state prison for the sexual abuse of a child. Though we recognize that there is that of God in him, we also had to consider whether there was any appropriate way to welcome him back into our community. Several years ago our meeting did some education about domestic sexual abuse, and we became aware how many Friends in our meeting have had this experience. We understand that abuse survivors bear wounds that are easily triggered. We must remain vigilant to protect our children. Certain in our commitment to maintain a safe community for all,

we could not allow him back into our community. We agreed to invite him visit to tour our building to tour the building with two Friends as the renovation was completed during his prison incarceration.

Those who have mental illness or personality disorders have often found us to be welcoming; we are not unique as a Meeting in this regard. Recognizing that we are all wounded in one way or another, we are glad to provide support as we are able. This does not mean, however, that a community can exist where any person is free to do harm. We must take seriously our responsibilities for eldering. In Lexington, we have struggled with one Friend for decades. We have spent innumerable hours in discernment and tried a number of ways to manage unacceptable behaviors. As a number of our community members felt increasingly threatened by this Friend's presence (and a few may have left our Meeting for this reason), we have finally decided that this person is to stay away at least until we review this policy in April of 2019. Though we have prayerfully moved to exclude him from our regular activities, we are offering him special times to meet with some of us for worship if he wishes.

We have experienced pain and disagreement as we came to these discernments. We hope we have grown as a Meeting, but we bear scars. We are grateful for the gifts brought to us by FGC Friends Benjamin Lloyd and George Schaefer who helped us to be more courageous in deepening our worship and confronting these conflicts. We conducted a very useful and wonderful series of three Saturday morning "Living in Community" retreats. We found a renewed sense of community largely because we have emphatically realized that when people feel safe, they are free to be in community. We encourage Friends everywhere to ask themselves regularly "Is our Meeting a safe place?" If the answer is no, the testimony of Community is undermined and must be repaired. When it is damaged, there is much work to do. Healing our community will take time, but we feel thankful to be moving in that direction.

We have begun a healing circle that meets Wednesday afternoon every other week. It is becoming increasingly clear that this circle is doing important work. A Prayer Tree has been newly organized. A new round of Quaker 8's has been helping us to become closer to one another. We are challenged when new people become more regular; how do we help them learn about Friends without being prescriptive? We experience the tension caused by our nation's political divides. How do we engage these partisan and political schisms? It is very difficult to focus on values instead of personalities, but we are called to try.

We are actively standing against the darkness in many ways. We constantly marvel at the number of individuals who work tirelessly for peace, social justice, and environmental justice. We collectively stand when we support our wider Quaker efforts in the world; support and participate in the annual CROP walk; help UNICEF and a local family shelter; write letters; help to set up a refugee apartment; work with the Black Church Coalition and Kentucky Council of Churches; partner actively in the ecumenical organization, BUILD, working to confront our local community leaders to partner in justice; help to build Habitat Houses. We hear Pastor David Bucura with African Great Lakes Initiatives of the Friends Peace Teams talk of the important work in Rwanda and Burundi.

Small glimmers of hope appear as we row upstream. Maybe Kentucky can find agreement on abolishing the death penalty. Perhaps the children who are learning Quaker values at the thriving preschool we host will bring about the changes we seek. We are not tired! We continue to work against the darkness. We hope that this finds Friends everywhere in a healthy and vital state. We are not a perfect people, but we look toward the Light for grace as we journey forward.

## ***FRIENDS MEETING OF LOUISVILLE***

As new growth in a forest needs an opening in the canopy for light and rain, so does new growth in a Meeting happen when a way opens. With changes caused by death, moves, health challenges, babies, work schedules and such, adjustment to and re-evaluation of new roles need time and nurturing. Louisville Friends Meeting is experiencing these challenges caused by an opening in the canopy.

With the death of a generous member we face changes to our budget though our assets are quite flush. There was a proposal brought to Meeting to consider how we might be better stewards of our resources. Though there was agreement that we should do that, forming a committee was not the way forward. Lacking a vision, we seem stuck.

Louisville Friends query: What core involvement do we seek or ask of people who participate in our community? Has our process of discernment or other Quaker ways encouraged/slowed/frustrated the movement of the Spirit among us? Does being in the world dilute the practices needed to remain not of the world? What place does Meeting have in our lives? Am I patiently supporting the life of the Meeting and do I encourage others to support the life of the Meeting?

Although we are comfortable with our later 11:00 am Meeting time preceded by a settling time, participation in Second Hour discussions is often sparse; people seem ready to go do something else. We have used "Quaker Speak" videos for second hour discussions. The hope is to introduce folks to the many faces of Friends and to explore a variety of Quaker topics. One of our pre-teens presented a Second Hour sharing about a trip to Chile and how it impacted his thinking.

Those adults involved with the First Day School are blessed with the interactions with the growing children and in the preparation process. In 12th month, the children presented the puppets they made from mostly recycled materials and shared the interests and challenges they assigned to their characters. Adults were invited to be puppeteers as well. What do we do to understand and include others? As part of this intergenerational activity, we sang the Carrie Newcomer song "Room at the Table" and concluded with our pot luck meal.

At a time when the media carried much political hate speech, the message that there is room at the table for everyone reminded us that there is that of God in everyone and that we must stand with others. The political rhetoric and our social concerns have had some impact on vocal ministry. How we welcome folks who come to Meeting has been more intentional. We developed a guide with suggestions for words we use and for follow-up. We rotate the responsibility with a result that some folks arrive earlier to talk before Meeting rather than rushing in at last minute. Bible study and Women's Worship Group continue to give us some connections with people that are not otherwise participating and bring another aspect to our community. What variety of participation do we make available so that all will feel welcome?

## **MIAMI MONTHLY MEETING**

Miami Monthly Meeting has an increased number of attenders and members who have transferred or renewed their membership. As a result, we have experienced a deeper presence of the Spirit during our Meetings for Worship. Vocal Ministry has been infrequent, but very powerful and inspiring. The centered Worship has increased our strength of faith and commitment to our principles

Our continuing efforts to improve our First Day School produced results that have enriched our connections with each other as well as the Spirit we all are seeking. The topics for discussion vary from Quaker history, Quaker principles, Living Witness, different religions, and Bible study. We have refreshed our spiritual education while helping members and attenders to better understand our faith and practices.

One of our younger members created a documentary of the Quaker presence here in Waynesville over the past 215 years. The documentary, entitles "Walk in the Light," has been well received, with copies donated to the local library, Wilmington College Library, Wilmington College Archives, the Quaker Heritage Center, and the Museum at the Friends Home. This is a valuable asset for preserving the Quaker influence in the Midwest well into the 21st century.

We continue to carry our ministry to Quaker Heights with a service for the residents every other month. This is rewarding for our spiritual life as well as the residents. We also have members who serve as directors for the operation of the facility. One member has introduced a spirit led presence to the decision-making process to the management of Quaker Heights. This is the result of a Ministry received while attending the School of the Spirit.

We held our annual Worship at Fort Ancient this year, with participation from other Meetings of OVYM, as well as some Friends from Wilmington Yearly Meeting (FUM). This outreach to other Friends is a very inspirational Worship, which continues a tradition established when OVYM Annual Sessions were held at Miami Monthly Meeting.

While continuing to support the Waynesville Heritage and Cultural Center (the Museum at the Friends Home), we open our Meeting House to tours and lectures giving the history and philosophy of Friends, and its influence on the Waynesville community to many visitors each year. The museum also houses much of the collection of our Library.

The Meeting is blessed by the presence of new members and attenders who deepen our Spiritual Worship. The Meeting House continues to provide a Spiritual home for all who are seeking the Divine Presence.

## ***NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS***

North Meadow Circle of Friends has grown in numbers as well as opportunities for spiritual growth . We added 4 members in 2016. After much deliberation, one of our members has decided to leave our meeting and return to her previous church. We miss her and hope she will return for occasional visits. Our meeting has also experienced two deaths in the last year.

Our First Day School is one of our continuing challenges. Our long-time volunteer felt that it was time for her to return to Meeting for Worship on a regular basis. We are exploring different ways to meet the needs of parents and children. There are 6 children in our class for younger children. We also have three who are older. Their class meets every other week. We want our children to learn why Quakerism and our Meeting are important to their parents and other adults in the meeting. And, of course, hoping that they too will feel that way! We have financially supported one member's attendance of the Young Adult Friends Gathering. Some from our meeting have gone to the FGC Gathering and to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and we are encouraging greater participation in wider Quaker events.

Over that last two years we have faced financial challenges within our meeting. It has been the custom of our meeting to make contributions to several national Quaker organizations as well as supporting activities and organizations locally. For several months we wrestled with the fact that we were unable to afford our usual contributions in 2015. It was a painful decision because this had been a pillar of our commitment to needs beyond our meeting. This year we were again able to make contributions, however, we are uncertain about our future ability to donate as much as we have been accustomed too.

Our First Days are usually busy. We have a pitch in on the first Sunday of the month. Pitch ins are a precious time of sharing food and fellowship with each other. We also have Friendly Bible Study two Sundays a month before meeting. On the first Sunday we sometimes have a spiritual journey shared by someone in our meeting. On another First Day we discuss the book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*. It has been painful to look at the history of Friends as enslavers and the confusion that was felt among many Quakers about how to end enslavement. It seems so obvious to us. But, it has been brought to our attention that a hundred years from now people may look at Quakers today and ask those questions about us. "How could we not have seen the wrongness of this! Why did we not take action?" Those thoughts help up to be more tolerant of the struggles of Quakers in the past and perhaps to examine our current actions.

During 2015 a group of 12 Members and attenders formed a Small Group Social Change Ministry as a pilot project of AFSC. Those involved found it so meaningful they continued to meet throughout 2016. The Quaker Social Change group has nurtured an association with Kheprw Institute (KI Ecocenter), a place where young African Americans develop youth leadership. This is accomplished through the lens of critical thinking, peer-to-peer mentorship and intergenerational teamwork. North Meadow Members and Attenders have joined these young people in monthly book discussions.

We enjoy worship sharing on a Friday night once a month. We occasionally have a movie night with a showing of a film that had impact on someone within the meeting. Every Friday for 20 years a few North Meadow folks witness for peace at a downtown steet corner. People in our meeting have participated in the recent Women's Marches. All of these things enrich the whole meeting.

We maintain a website and a Facebook page as well as a list serve. All of these are good tools to communicate within the meeting and to seekers. We also have a Face book discussion page which is open to people who request access. This reduces lengthy discussions on the list serve and allows it to serve more for announcements and sharing of articles.. It is amazing to be part of a group where there is great interest in many issues and sharing of thoughts about spiritual matters.

### **OXFORD FRIENDS MEETING**

We continue to meet at the Interfaith Center at 16 South Campus Avenue adjacent to the Miami University Campus, and we are grateful for the use of this shared space in which to meet, and also to support the interfaith dialogue that the center represents.

Our meeting has active new attenders, who are contributing meaningfully and actively through their ministry. Our meeting for worship is often quiet. We sometimes have difficulty in experiencing a gathered meeting as many of us are busy professionals who value the silence as a time to sort out internal dialogue. We often find it useful and meaningful to focus on each other in meeting for worship, and to hold each other in the Light outside of meeting. We have benefited from the spiritual deepening exercise that Friends General Conference has made available to meetings like ours, and we are grateful for the sampler activity that they recommended, one of creating a collage to express and reflect on our experience of worship. We work hard at being open to differing views, but are not always certain that everyone feels comfortable in expressing differing opinions.

We have several couples where only one member attends, we are grateful that they feel comfortable participating (and hosting) social events.

Our newcomers report feeling that they are welcomed and are receiving education. We have updated the website, and also have begun a Facebook page for the Meeting, <https://www.facebook.com/oxfordfriendsmeeting/>, and have opened Twitter and Instagram accounts for the meeting. In other forms of outreach, we participated in an Interfaith Center event in an uptown Oxford park advertising our meeting, and we supported the Oxford mayor Kate Rousmaniere's proclamation of Oxford as a welcoming community. (This proclamation is featured on our Facebook page.) Several of us have posted signs referencing the FCNL theme of "Love thy neighbor, no exceptions" and other "welcome to our neighborhood" signs. In general, a big item for our meeting is our struggle with listening for spirit-led responses to the present difficult political climate.

We continue to have an active religious education for our three teen members, as well as an active adult religious education program during our Second Hour. In terms of religious education for our teens, they have enjoyed recently reflecting on two Broadway musicals, "Jesus Christ, Superstar" and "Hamilton." Our teens have annually assisted us in putting in a garden for the IFC. Also, with relation to our teens, meeting members note their deepening attention to the practice of worship sharing, their developing political voice, and the fact that one of their essays was accepted as a contribution to Friends Journal.

In terms of adult religious education, we plan a second hour on "Racism among the well-intentioned." Also during Second hours, we are still working our way through the journal of John Woolman, and we appreciate the many ways that this helps us to connect our history and our future. "Meeting for (hymn) Singing," and "Meeting for Eating" at local Oxford restaurants, are also frequent second-hour activities for us.

We annually contribute to the NAACP banquet, but have not always been good about attending it. We have held a number of educational events around wealth inequality, and we annually participate in the Empty Bowls event. We have several members who participate in such community organizations as Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice. We are planning to do some examination of our collective commitments, to see what are our meeting's priorities and what we especially feel led to work on as a group.

## ***YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS***

Every Quaker Meeting experiences its own cycles of energy and change with some years being livelier than others. For the Yellow Springs Meeting, the past year has been gifted with people and committees working hard to enliven and engage us in our beloved community.

**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 11:15 a.m. on Sundays, typically filled by between 25 to 40 members and attenders. 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.

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** We offer a strong note of thanks to Alice Robrish, current Clerk, and her initiatives to make this crucial part of the Meeting work well. Following suggestions from an FGC workshop on Clerking, she has led us to a greatly improved experience with adequate communication in advance, attention to discipline in speaking during the Business Meeting and heightened awareness of our sense of worship as we consider our business.

**Our Library** The Library Committee took on and fulfilled a commitment to make the library more welcoming and relevant to the life of the Meeting. They cleaned up the growing piles, de-accessioned less useful books, purchased new pamphlets, brought in new furniture to create a comfortable reading corner and a library table now used routinely by committees. The library now gets good use including a gathering space for teens' sessions or a quiet place for Friends to talk or meditate. This service has been a good reminder to ask ourselves, "How does the Meeting House Speak to us?"

**Peace and Justice** A revitalized Peace and Justice Committee began meeting in the fall and looking for ways to support the many concerns lifted up by FCNL and other peace groups in these turbulent times. An early letter to President-elect Trump led to some confusion and lack of agreement among Friends as we tried to discern the tone and manner in which a letter from the entire Meeting could be shaped. After a series of meetings the letter was sent, but the Meeting remains unclear on how a "corporate" letter can be drafted. Peace and Justice has begun a regular schedule to define its work for the future and activist members continue with their efforts, especially those that align with FCNL. The committee launched "Handiwork for Peace Work," a weekly gathering at a local coffee shop to knit and crochet yarn for blankets for refugees and other people in need. Our weekly Peace Vigil on the main road has been steadfast through all the vagaries of weather created by Global Warming!

**Our Memorial Committee** Our Quaker Memorial Committee has also been re-organized and is creating new forms and necessary documents to circulate within the Meeting. The committee also stays abreast of changing state regulations and reinforces our understanding of Simple Death.

**Ministry and Advancement (M & A)** Adult Religious Education has appreciated the extended time frame created this year for our Adult Meeting for Learning. The extended time (45 minutes) 10:00-10:45 has allowed the committee to invite interesting outside speakers, and provided time for more complete discussion of topics. A fall retreat on the Ministry of Song, How Can I keep from Singing! attracted a sizable crowd of joyful singers. Retreat leaders, Cheryl Keen and Carolyn Stanley, shared the history of Quaker music with us. M & A also supports our fellowship with a winter reading group and a family game night.

**Outreach** Our outreach has benefited from the tech savvy parts of our community and our Facebook page is energetic. The Yellow Springs Friends website serves as a portal for newcomers, also an archive for Business Meeting notes, newsletters and calendar events. We list events in the weekly local paper and have continued in our effort to publically affirm our Meeting as Open and welcoming to LGBTQ individuals including a special day of outreach. We continue with careful in-reach to our own community as it grows in awareness of how to actively welcome all who are drawn to our Meeting. Our monthly “Quaker Shaker” helps us keep on track with calendars, inspiration (Queries), updates and reminders.

**First Day for Children** The young children’s First Day program at 10:00 a.m. draws its lessons from the Godly Play and Faith and Play curricula. Between two and six children will arrive on Sunday for hands on story telling steeped in the Montessori tradition. Like many other Meetings we continue to long for more families able to commit to regular attendance to energize our program even more. We continue to plan intergenerational events that build our relationships with young attenders. Some examples being game nights, talent shows and retreat activities that bring us all together.

This year a special class for the middle youth/teens was created and their program invites individual members of the Meeting to come and speak about their spiritual journey. Members sign up for available slots; then individually come and share (20 minutes) with our teens. Teens then engage the member with that which was important for them. The member volunteers speak of their high enjoyment of this interaction while the teens report being more than satisfied each Sunday. A constant adult is always present and facilitates the conversation and sign ups.

**Child Safety Guidelines and Policies** In a proactive step First Day teachers joined with other concerned adults in the Meeting to carry out a systematic examination and development of a Child Safety Policy. This involved considerable research of other Meetings’ Policy and Practice as well as educating our own Meeting on the need for this protection for our Children. During the last several months business meeting approved four documents: Child Safety brochure, Code of Conduct for Youth Workers, Protocol for Response to Allegations of Child Abuse, and a Child Safety Incident Report. We had windows installed in our interior doors for the safety of all.

**Membership and Pastoral Care** The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee provided cleanness committees for guidance and membership, welcoming one new member into the Meeting. The committee also responded to several pastoral care needs that were brought to our awareness. We sought out more membership input through questionnaires. We had a learning experience when all of our committee members were out of town and one of our dear families had a medical crisis with no committee members available to respond. Since then we have posted a request on the bulletin board for those of the greater meeting who would like to be called on when food or time is needed. Also a Penny Jar of limited funds is made available for members and attenders in sudden financial crisis. The Meeting

thanks David Hyde for his years of work as Clerk of Membership and Pastoral Care. Friends encourage the committee to consider expanding direct contact and care for Friends who (unannounced) miss meetings for an extended period. The Committee intends to continue its outreach to Friends through announcements and newsletter items on the services it offers.

**Wider Quaker World** Several individuals and families carry on connections with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, however, more of us could go. The closer meeting location for Joint Quarterly (Camp Kern, Lebanon, drew more Yellow Springs members this year. We encourage participation in quarterly meetings, the FGC Gathering, and the Yearly Meeting. One of our members is Clerk and another is Treasurer of Miami Quarterly. The FCNL representative keeps us posted on issues.

**Kitchen repairs and renewal** With some typical Quaker reluctance about new purchases we faced the fact that our twenty old refrigerator had no more to give us. This led us to take a good look at the kitchen and the hardships it forced on our Hospitality Committee and others with its poor design and old faltering systems. The end result, Thanks to our Care of the Meeting House Committee, is a new refrigerator, a dishwasher, additional new cupboards, accessible water-heater, and some smart re-organizing of the kitchen. It felt important to recognize that our many kitchen helpers and the hospitality committee needed and deserved this “make-over.” Once again, “How does your Meeting House speak to you?”

**Rockford Chapel** We share our Meeting House with the Yellow Springs Havurah Community, and with several evening gatherings of AA groups as well as occasional village community meetings for a local “Death with Dignity” group. We stand with and hold in the Light all of the vulnerable individuals and groups living with uncertainty during this time, as we continue seeking to live our values of integrity, equality, simplicity and peace.

## **SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS**

*Each year, the monthly meetings of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting respond to the query “How does truth prosper among you?” by drafting their State of Meeting reports and forwarding them to the Yearly meeting for publication with an attached summary. The following summary is an attempt to discern the spiritual vitality of the Yearly Meeting from these reports.*

This year, most meetings report that meeting for worship is the core of their experience as a meeting. Several reports trace their worship experience to diverse expressions of the life of the meeting: supporting social action, fellowship, outreach, and community presence. Some meetings express concern that their worship lacks vital vocal ministry or other forms of gathering, but several explicitly mention gathered meetings this year. Many meetings report that the energy of their worship is nurtured by opportunities for discussion, as either a first or second hour, and three meetings have regular midweek opportunities for worship. Many meetings have special practices of spiritual formation such as writing groups.

This year’s reports express a major focus on the community within the meeting, its potential as a supportive family-like body. As in any family, this potential often includes conflict over physical and fiscal resources, purposes, and personal roles, and (also as in families) conflict is often neglected or minimized rather than dealt with as an opportunity for growth. It is refreshing to read this year of those

meetings that acknowledge, accept, and share the challenges of conflict, and hope that members of the Yearly Meeting community will hold them in the light. We note Louisville Friends Meeting's comment: "As new growth in a forest needs an opening in the canopy for light and rain, so does new growth in a Meeting happen when a way opens." Sometimes the canopy opens when a meeting deals lovingly with disunity. Many of us have experienced the opening effect of a candid and spirit-led meeting with a concern for disunity. Also positive is the acknowledgement of the role of the meeting community in the care and support of those members disadvantaged by poverty or illness, or suffering through difficult times, though it is rare to find reports of meeting practices that directly address special needs and disability challenges.

For Friends, social witness for peace and justice is an expression and continuation of the experience of worship. Some of our meetings mention their response to the turmoil of the present political scene, with its threats of oppression and abandonment of the poor, and note active responses by their members and by the corporate meeting. Environment, refugee assistance, rejection of violence, and economic assistance are mentioned, though there is little mention of the radical, active witness for which Friends are historically known. We see no mention of arrests, or of meeting support and clearness for the riskier forms of spirit-led social protest.

Our meetings tend to be active in their communities, responding especially to local economic needs and ecological awareness. Not many meetings report being visibly and explicitly affirming of racial, ethnic, and sexual diversity, perhaps because they feel it goes without saying that Quakers are egalitarian.

A common concern in these reports is the future of their meeting, and this concern is optimistic as often as pessimistic. One meeting's self-description as "small but mighty" expresses this valiant spirit. While dwindling numbers alarm some, more meetings than not are pleased to note this year an increase in new interest and attendance at weekly worship. These meetings express refreshment by these new voices and are actively engaged in ways to follow up and nourish their interest. Outreach is the way we open our doors to potential Quakers, and in these meetings it takes various forms: linking activities and social witness to other religious fellowships, opening their celebrations to their neighbors and community, hosting support groups, and an expanded presence on social media. Other concerns about their meeting's future involve an active attention to the purpose and mission of the meeting, especially its role in their community.

It is rare to find in these reports any mention of monthly meetings' engagement with each other or with the wider fellowship of Quarterly and Yearly meetings. According to these reports, only two monthly meetings offered hospitality to other meetings his year. While Friends continue to attend wider Friends' events, it is unclear from these reports what nourishment monthly meetings or their members get from these gatherings.

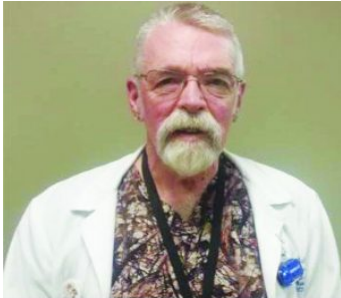
Another missing piece is monthly meetings' awareness of the presence and needs of young adult Friends. The contribution and ministry of such young Friends is too often neglected, to the detriment of the Yearly Meeting and Friends everywhere.

We would suggest that meetings can nourish themselves and each other by noticing the practices that enrich other meetings by regular attention to meeting news in the Quaker Quill, by reading their State of Meeting reports, and by intervisitation with other meetings. Our Monthly Meetings contain many treasures.

## Memorial Minutes

### ***BRUCE ASHLEY***

September 22, 1946 – May 5, 2016



Bruce Ashley was a Friend. He passed away on May 5, 2016 in Adams County, Ohio.

Bruce was born in Louisville, Kentucky on September 22, 1946. As a boy he became an Eagle Scout. He received his medical training while in the United States Air Force. However, it was also in the Air Force that he got clear to become a conscientious objector.

The Society of Friends assisted Bruce in cancelling his Air Force obligations and returning to civilian life. On April 2, 1972 he was admitted into Sojourning Membership in the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting from the Louisville Friends Meeting.

Bruce, his wife Fran and their children Roshanda, Jason, and Noah lived on Hyde Road and were part of the Yellow Springs Meeting community. Bruce worked in the emergency department at Springfield Community Hospital. Then the family moved to Adams County, Ohio. Their rural home was called “Quaker Earth.” It was there that Bruce hosted an annual winter camp for the Ohio Brigade of the American Mountain Men, an organization to which he belonged.

Bruce was the Adams County Health Commissioner. He worked as a family physician in Panhandle and then in Peebles. He worked as an emergency physician in Adams County Hospital (now Adams County Regional Medical Center) as well as in Portsmouth. He ultimately became board-certified in emergency medicine and was the E.R.’s medical director. He died while working a shift in the emergency department at A.C.R.M.C.

### ***SHERILYN RUTH BRANDENSTEIN***

September 25, 1949 – June 6, 2016



Beloved sister, niece, cousin, friend and colleague, Sherilyn was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 25, 1949 to Robert L. and Virginia R. (Meckel) Brandenstein, and her untimely passing came on June 6, 2016. Her rich and varied life journey took her to a range of locales across the country, and she carried her passion for life, peace, justice, equality, nature, creativity and education into many forms of service within the circles of her family, friends, workplace and spiritual community. She is preceded in death by her father and mother, and is survived by sister, Dawn (Everett) Davis, Crawfordsville, Indiana, brother, Norman R., Indianapolis, Indiana, other extended family and many friends in Indiana, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada and beyond.

Sherilyn was an eternal student and impacted many lives with her experience and knowledge in things spiritual, artistic and healing, and through varied initiatives in the pro-peace/anti-war, social justice and women's movements. She completed her undergraduate degree at the Community College of Denver, Colorado, a Masters in American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, and chaplaincy training at Methodist Hospital in Houston. The breadth of her career path included many clerical positions in academic and human service settings, field work with National Public Radio (NPR), public history and ecological agencies, and chaplaincy in rehabilitation and hospice settings. Most recently, she provided clerical support to the First Baptist Church Athletics Program, Indianapolis, and had retired as an activities coordinator at The Hearth at Windemere, Fishers, Indiana, where assisted living, memory care and respite care residential services are provided for seniors. Her journalistic bent was manifested in various writing outlets and previously on-air in public radio interviews.

Sherilyn's spiritual life was formed in childhood in the American Baptist Church, and focused in her adult life in the traditions and communities of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with the Friends Meeting of Austin, Texas, the Live Oaks Meeting of Houston, Texas, and the North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis, Indiana.

In Austin, TX, Sherilyn was a member of the Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation. She practiced war tax resistance in various ways over the years and was valued as a thoughtful, steady presence in the Austin group. She was an integral part of North Meadow for many years. She carried her passion for social justice into her service on the meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, where she advocated for issues such as prison reform and women's rights. Sherilyn also joined other Friends working together in state lobbying efforts. She served several terms on the Nominating Committee, a group tasked with identifying the gifts of others within the meeting and inviting them to serve in meeting roles. Sherilyn had a deep knowledge of Quaker traditions and held us to high standards in our conduct of business.

Sherilyn was quick to start a conversation with newcomers and each felt that she was listening to them at a deeper than usual level. In a denomination that values direct spiritual experience above scriptural study, She was ready to share her wisdom, her theological training and her books with anyone whose interest ran in that direction. Her occasional messages were palpably spirit-led, perceptive, and compassionate and often contained a hidden complexity beneath a simple and direct exterior.

Spirit was also present for Sherilyn while walking the trails or bird-watching in local, state and national parks and nature preserves, from the dunes, grasslands and woods of Indiana, to the mountains and forests of Colorado, the vast ranges and nature sanctuaries of Texas, or the splendor of the sacred Navajo Mountain of Tonalea, Arizona.

As an avid arts participant and patron, Sherilyn combined music and fine arts throughout her life, playing the piano, guitar (self-taught) and the timpani, and engaged in vocal music in worship and choral settings, including the Tapestry Singers – Austin Women's Chorus. In addition to her own dabbling in design arts, the collections of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art sustained her love for the American Southwest, and those of the Indianapolis Museum of Art encompassed her interest in works housed in the galleries, as well as the wild flora and fauna covering the grounds. Other cultural and educational interests included memberships with the IUPUI University Library and the Indianapolis Public Library, local women's book and film clubs, and attendance at dance, theater and the performances of many music genres, as well as on broadcasts of WFYI PBS/NPR programs.

Sherilyn was also a sports fan, particularly the University of Texas women's basketball and the Indiana Fever and Indiana Pacers. She had a wonderful sense of humor, loved children and reveled in their unique and sometimes inexplicable logic. She was an old soul with a very young heart.

Sherilyn's connections with people were a hallmark of a family tradition of "meeting no strangers." Her ability to be present, listening, reflecting and sharing empathically provided rich opportunities across the spectrum of faith, race, gender and age. Her laughter and playful spirit touched many lives and will be sorely missed.

### **MARY DANZEISEN**

January 30, 2017 – April 3, 2017



Meetings attended: Community Friends, Cincinnati, OH and Louisville Friends, Louisville, KY  
Preceded in Death by: Lloyd Danzeisen, Timothy Allen Danzeisen  
Survived by: Karen Danzeisen, Sumshee Kirken

Mary, in partnership with Lloyd, pursued a personal response to conflict by nurturing early natural food/organic gardening, sustainable living (Koinonia, School of Living, Imago, Enright Ridge EcoVillage), sharing culture (SERVAS, hosting a Japanese exchange student, hosting interns for the Ecovillage), as well as more traditional peace promotion (Washington marches, hosting Peace Pilgrim, Brethren Service after WWII, hosting various speakers). She actively supported her church and later Friends meetings as a young adult group leader, co-clerk of Community Friends Meeting. Mary shared her love of art and design through needlework, sewing, quilting, and painting. Throughout 100 years of life, she touched and inspired many.

## **HERBERT W. FRASER**

February 23, 1921 – May 2, 2017



Herb was born on February 23, 1921 in Andover, Massachusetts, to Herbert Freeman and Mabel Heald Ward Fraser. He had lived in Richmond since 1967. He was a 1939 graduate of George School in Newton, Pennsylvania. Herb earned a bachelor's degree in history from Swarthmore College and a master's and Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. In the midst of his education, World War II intervened and Herb made the decision to serve as a pilot in the Navy. Growing out of this experience, Herb lived a commitment to economic and social justice, and peace for the rest of his life. Referring to his temporary departure from and then return to the peace testimony, Herb was heard to say, "there's nothing like a war to make someone a pacifist."

He taught economics at Lehigh University, Muhlenberg College, and Washington University. From 1965 to 1967 he served with the Rockefeller Foundation as an advisor to the economics faculty of the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. Herb then joined the Earlham College Economics Department.

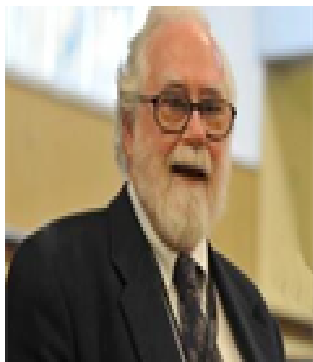
On a sabbatical leave from Earlham in 1973, he and his wife, Mandy, drove from Richmond to Sao Paulo, Brazil. They drove the length of Mexico, through Central America and Panama, transshipping their Volvo to Colombia. Then they continued from Colombia through the Andean Countries to Chile, over the Andes Mountains to Buenos Aires, then to Montevideo with the final destination in Sao Paulo. There, Herb and Mandy visited their son, Peter, daughter-in-law, and new granddaughter. Peter was stationed there as the manager of the Peace Corps in southern Brazil. While in Sao Paulo, Herb studied aspects of the Brazilian economy with economists at the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

Herb was a long-time member and past president of the Richmond Rotary Club where he was proud of his role in the club's Ambassadorial Scholarship Program. He also served on the policy committee for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and was active in the work of the American Friends Service Committee, serving on several committees. He applied his passion for peace and justice by volunteer service to the ACLU and the ICLU. As a devoted member of the Clear Creek Friends Meeting he served on the meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee and faithfully attended worship for fifty years.

Herb was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Amanda Hilles Fraser, who died March 29, 2012. Herb and Mandy shared a love of music and literature. Each could recite poetry at length, and together they sang songs of the 1940s. Herb could be a no-nonsense economist, but he also had a robust sense of humor and loved to laugh. Herb was the last of his generation at Clear Creek Meeting. It feels like the end of an era. A Memorial Service will be held at Stout Meetinghouse on the Earlham Campus.

## **PAUL A. LACEY**

March 15, 1934 – January, 18, 2017



Paul A. Lacey was born in Philadelphia. He received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. At age 18, Paul joined the Religious Society of Friends, an experience that was to shape the rest of his life as activist, educator, scholar, writer, family man, and friend.

In 1954, he began a lifelong relationship with the American Friends Service Committee, an international peace and social justice organization. Paul served on various committees over the years, most recently as Clerk of the Board of Directors and Clerk of the Corporation from 2001-2009.

He was a professor of literature at Earlham College from 1960-2001, where he shared with generations of students a love of W.B. Yeats, Denise Levertov, William Carlos Williams, and the Romantics. Paul remained a lifelong student as well, seeking out and sharing new writers, in particular artists from historically under-represented communities.

His books include *The Inner War*, an analysis of several contemporary poets; *Growing into Goodness*, a collection of essays exploring the history of Quaker education; *The Unequal World We Inhabit: Quaker Responses to Terrorism and Fundamentalism*; and *We Learn to Swim in Winter*, a collection of his poems. As the literary executor for Denise Levertov, Paul co-edited (with Anne Dewey) Levertov's *Collected Poems*, her final volume.

He received numerous awards for his teaching and Quaker service, and he found the attention uniformly embarrassing; he always believed he was falling short of the example set by colleagues and institutions he admired.

Paul's Quaker witness also found expression in an eagerness to be confidante, champion, and cheerleader for students and colleagues alike. This support often included an invitation to the family home for a meal. Gathered around a dining table covered with Margie's delicious cooking, everyone was free to shape the conversation..

Paul is survived by his wife, Margaret Smith Lacey of Richmond; daughter, Mary Lacey (Tony Bohnert) of Richmond; son, Patrick Lacey (Bill Grant) of New York; sister, Elaine Schock (Tom Plunkett) of Philadelphia; treasured in-laws and out-laws; nieces and nephews; grand-nieces and grand-nephews; honorary grandchildren; and a world full of friends. He felt fortunate to make so many new friends at Friends Fellowship Community, and his family is grateful for the mixture of skill and loving kindness shown by FFC's staff, who sustained him in life and ushered him gently into death.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Kate White of Philadelphia; sister-in-law, Evelyn Mavromichalis of Cleveland; and son, James Lacey of Richmond. A memorial service after the manner of Friends will be held on 10/22/2017 at Stout Meetinghouse at 11:00 AM.

## **JEAN ELIZABETH SULLIVAN**

1925-2017



Jean Sullivan transferred her membership to Lexington Friends Meeting in 1994. At the time she was a physician operating Redbud Family Health Center in rural Hyden, Kentucky. She was active in the Eastern Kentucky Worship Group, a group of Friends from around eastern Kentucky who met monthly for worship.

As a young woman, Jean applied many times to medical school before finally attending Philadelphia's Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Starting in 1954 during 52 years of service to humanity, she ministered to broken dock workers and ailing orchestra conductors in San Francisco; to orphans and mothers-to-be in war-ravaged South Korea under an AFSC program; to intellectually disabled persons in a state institution in Connecticut; to Navajo families in northern Arizona; and then to eastern Kentucky families in the most medically under-served county east of the Mississippi.

In the early years of her membership in Lexington Friends Meeting, Jean would periodically visit the meeting when she was in the city. Jean had a delightful wit and a ready smile. One year she hosted a group of Lexington Friends in her home in Thousandsticks, KY, as we were returning from our annual retreat at the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Bledsoe, KY. She excitedly told us about the flocks of goldfinches she was feeding outside her door. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Jean treasure our memories of her.

## **LEE B. THOMAS, JR.**

May 27, 1926 - August 23, 2016



Lee B. Thomas Jr., was born in Washington state on May 27, 1926. He was not born a Quaker. Willing to help defend his country, he joined the army during World War II. He witnessed the aftermath of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, saw a city destroyed, felt the death and suffering of all living creatures-total desolation in a matter of minutes. Peripheral survivors were mentally and physically damaged for a lifetime. He became a pacifist and became a member of the Society of Friends.

He was a member of the Oak Park Meeting in Chicago before he and Joan moved to Louisville in 1954 and became active with the Louisville Meeting, helping it to become a monthly meeting in 1962.

Lee was a Friend and a friend who exemplified being a "bridge over troubled waters" for many. He provided employment, ongoing care and support for numerous attenders and members whether they were actively engaged in Meeting or not. His consistent phone calls, outreach and "bad jokes" were a life support to many. He initiated and supported endeavors aiding civil rights, world peace and human

betterment. He marched with Martin Luther King and was strongly influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He was a long term supporter of Friends Committee for National Legislation.

He was a successful businessman, respected and influential world-wide. He published a book explaining his philosophy of business ethics, *Ethical Business Relationships: Partnerships in Peace*, a legacy to the business community.

Although his business practices and personal policies were outstanding models to fair and ethical business management, they did not always translate well into the beliefs of social justice workers. His open opposition of some of the methods and statements of some prominent social change activists often created friction within the movement. Disagreements provided examples of the need and application of skills in conflict resolution and understanding.

Lee was preceded in death by an infant son, Stephen and his wife of 62 years, Joan (nee Ellwood). He is survived by sons Glen and Reese and daughter Margaret Redmon, 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Louisville Friends Meeting will miss his presence while celebrating his life.