

Reports in
Advance **2019**

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

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Agenda for Business Meetings for 199th OVYM Annual Sessions (2019)

Wednesday 6/19
3 pm – 5 pm

Centering Worship
Welcome
Land Acknowledgement
Clerk's Intro., Greetings, Roll Call of Representatives
Introduction, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes
Gratitude to youth workers
Appointment of visitors to youth business mtgs.

Reports:

Epistle Summary

State of Society
Nominating Comm. (initial report)

Friends for LGBTQ Concerns

Executive Committee

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing Worship

Thursday 6/20
10 am – 12:15 pm

Centering Worship
Clerk's intro, Greetings
Roll Call, Intros, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes

Reports:

Children's Committee

Youth Services

Records

Friends General Conf.

Religious Nurture & Ed.

QHC/Wilmington College

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing Worship

Thursday 6/20
3:30pm – 5:00 pm

Centering Worship
(See above)

Reports:

Statistician

Faith and Practice Comm.

Yearly Meeting Planning

Treasurer

Braddock Fund

Quaker Heights

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing worship

Friday 6/21
10 am – 12:15 pm

Centering Worship
Clerk's introduction
Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes

Reports:

Friends Music Camp

Earthcare Committee

Budget & Finance:
Budget, Development C.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Friends World Comm. for Consultation (FWCC)

Sexual Conduct Policy (initial reading)

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing Worship

Saturday 6/22
10 am – 12:15 pm

Centering Worship
Clerk's introduction
Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes

Reports:

Miami Quarter

Whitewater Quarter

Web Administrator

Reports from Delegates to Youth Business Mtgs.

Youth Secretary.

Task Force on Sexual Misconduct

Nominating Comm – final

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing Worship

Sunday 6/23
10 am – 11 am

Centering Worship
Clerk's Introduction
Greetings, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes

Reports:

Registrar

2020 OVYM Sessions

2019 Epistles from the Children Middle Youth & Teens
Young Adult Friends Adult

Minutes of appreciation

Review/Approval of Minutes

Closing Worship in Stout Meetinghouse

Friends, please note:

This agenda is TENTATIVE. Central to our business practice is openness to movement of the Holy Spirit. If time runs short, some reports may be moved to a different slot, or 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.

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee conducts the business of the yearly meeting between annual sessions. Regular meetings take place three times in person (August, November, and April) and once by conference call (February).

Attendance at Executive Committee meetings and the experience of our February conference call are enhanced by Zoom. In 2018, we agreed to pay for an annual subscription to this platform. However, attendance at Executive Committee is still a concern. One yearly meeting committee has not been sending a representative. Some monthly meetings do not attend, and some meetings do not appear to have alternates who commit to attend when the primary representative cannot. This weakens connections between those monthly meetings and the larger body, which is a concern because the Yearly Meeting exists to support our monthly meetings. It also means that no one is informed of one committee's work in any way other than attendance at annual sessions.

Our business this year included regular approval of recommendations from the Nominating Committee, which is working well under the new structure. We also received updates regarding the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct. Some of the meetings concluded early because as clerk, I have instituted a new practice for drawing up the agenda, which means we hear only from those who in fact have a report to make.

Martha Viehmann
Presiding Clerk

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report

Whitewater Quarter met twice since Yearly Meeting 2018. Poor weather for the Fort Wayne meeting in January caused attendance to be only members of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting. In April we met at North Meadow Friends in Indianapolis and each meeting was represented.

In April we read the State of the Meeting reports. Many of our meetings are struggling with the responsibilities of owning a meeting house. Having a Spiritual Home has always been a value to Friends and an opportunity to be part of a neighborhood – a presence in the community.

Community Service is another ministry that Friends share. Sometimes that takes the form of an entire meeting preparing meals at the homeless shelter or group participation in a larger community event. Sometimes just one individual follows a concern with the support of the meeting.

We all seek the Spirit in worship. We strive with mundane issues the same way we work on larger issues – with the guidance of the Spirit.

We are grateful for the time together.

Yours in the Light –
Terre Holada, Whitewater Clerk

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

I was honored to be selected as the clerk for Miami Quarter at the May, 2018 meeting. Since then I have only been able to preside over one meeting of Miami Quarter but it has been a pleasure to be of service to Friends in Ohio Valley. In our meeting in Feb 2019 we had a good gathering of Friends, including some youth. While the adults enjoyed an introduction to the facilities of the Quaker Archive at Wilmington College the youth met with the youth secretary and enjoyed their own program. The May 2019 meeting was held at Dayton Friends Meeting new Meeting house and the adults focused on State of Society reports for the quarter. Richard Mitchell from Lexington helpfully led this discussion and clerked the Meeting for Business as i was away for work. Reviewing these State of Society reports it is clear that some meetings are healthy and others are struggling. This year Englewood monthly meeting who had suffered a severe loss of members, sold their meeting house and left our yearly meeting. Other meetings are experiencing a more gradual but still deeply concerning loss of Friends. I know we are not unique in experiencing this phenomena. At the February meeting we heard from a friend and member of Wilmington YM who encouraged us to consider ways to have greater connection between Wilmington and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings. Over the next year our quarter should focus on whether to host a joint quarterly meeting in 2020 and how to focus on renewal of our society.

Presiding Clerk
Peter Hardy

Audit Committee Report

The OVYM Audit Committee met on the Tenth Month, 26th Day to review the financial records for the preceding fiscal year. Once again, the Earlham School of Religion was kind enough to provide a meeting space.

We were able to successfully audit all of the categories from the Treasurer's Report. The three of us have been working together for several years now so things went smoothly.

For the first time, all but one of the organizations that we contributed money to replied. The Treasurer is going to investigate the status of the none-replying organization.

The most difficult category was the Yearly Sessions this year but the few discrepancies were insignificant. The checkbook was reconciled with the bank statements and the final Report.

We thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Budget and Finance Committee Report

The Budget and Finance Committee met twice this year and hopefully provided a bit more support to our Treasurer. We continue to wrestle with trying to balance a more open budget process inviting participation from all meetings with the timing issues created by the fiscal year extending beyond the date of our Yearly Meeting Sessions. We had sparse but increased participation in our open budget planning meeting prior to the April Executive Committee meeting. In the coming year we intend to move that open meeting up to February as contemplated in the budget calendar outlined in our current handbook. This would require the yearly meeting clerks and committees to come forward with their yearly spending projections by January 15 of next year.

The budget proposed for the 2019-20 fiscal year contemplates an approximately \$18,000 deficit. We can do this relatively safely next year by spending down from the accumulated reserves in the general fund. We built these reserves up during the period we were without a youth secretary. Obviously, however, a continuing operating loss is not sustainable. To propose a balanced budget we would have needed to ask for a proportional share of \$160 per member. Because we expect most Monthly Meetings would find this kind of increase a severe burden, the Executive Committee agreed to our request to bring forward at Annual Sessions a proposal to create a permanent Development Committee. It is hoped that the Development Committee can target in a fruitful way those with the means to contribute more to the annual fund. They may also encourage Friends to remember Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in their wills.

While no one should be surprised that costs increase over the years, the dominant factor behind our burgeoning deficit is the loss of revenue caused by our dwindling census. On 12/31/13 OVYM had 717 members. As of 12/31/2018, we have less than 500. In fiscal year 2012-13 we only needed \$110 per member to balance our budget. By 2014-15 we needed over \$126 per member, but Meetings objected to such a "high" cost that we settled at \$120 and did a one-time annual appeal to balance our budget. Since then it was only the absence of a full year of youth secretary expenses that has allowed us to remain at \$120 per member. The challenge of addressing this budget deficit will require much prayerful consideration over the next fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Hayes, OVYM Assistant Treasurer and Clerk of Budget and Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report

"It is important to remember that, whatever resources we have acquired, they are rightfully thought of not so much as possessions but as things that belong to the large community of being, entrusted to us for wise use." Steven Rockefeller

Thank you dear Friends for the continued strong support from your Meetings, which is one component of our well-being. Also my sincere gratitude Yellow Springs Meeting for donating almost \$1,400 more than their proportional share and to those individuals who gave over \$2,300 extra contributions to our yearly meeting so far, during sessions (which happened last year but is recorded in this fiscal year, and also might be a higher number if bookstore gifts were known), donated travel (a higher number if more gifts were recorded) and general gifts.

There are two more months left before the end of the current fiscal year, so I can only speculate at this point about what might happen (see column "2018-19 YTD" of my 5 page spreadsheet). If meeting pledges are received by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2019) and expenses are not too unusual, we could come in close to breaking even.

Since my fiscal year now ends after OVYM Sessions, I will report on the previous fiscal year. This is column "2017-18 Budget" compared with "2017-18 Actual":

We proposed a loss of \$9,910 but ended the year with a gain of \$15,590 (page 2, row "Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)"). This occurred mostly because we budgeted for a Youth Secretary, but we had neither a secretary nor youth committee expenses, back then.

Our Friends Fiduciary Green Fund investments did fine last year, growing 6.5%. In the current fiscal year we have recovered from the market downturn around Christmas, and the total growth is 1.5%, so far.

Report submitted by Wilson Palmer, OVYM Treasurer

2018-19 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/18 to 3/3/19

	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 YTD	2019-20 Budget
Table 1. Fund Balances							
FWCC International Rep. Travel (Table 2)	683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65	2,683.65	3,683.65	3,683.65	4,683.65
Benevolent Fund-Inv. (Table 3)	5,773.66	6,847.92	6,897.92	7,014.67	7,084.82	7,123.55	7,194.79
Peace Witness Fund-Inv. (Table 4)	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,605.22	2,631.27	2,645.66	2,672.12
Capital Fund-Inv. (Table 5)	5,599.75	6,385.11	6,435.11	6,805.02	6,873.07	6,910.65	6,979.76
Faith & Practice Printing Fund-Inv. (Table 6)	3,974.98	4,532.47	4,572.47	4,829.45	4,877.74	4,904.41	4,953.45
Teen Committee Fund (Table 7)	655.44	685.44		685.44		975.44	685.44
Spiritual Nurture Fund-Inv. (Table 8)	7,115.22	8,113.12	8,183.12	8,644.82	8,731.27	8,779.01	8,866.80
Braddock Fund-Inv. (Table 9)	68,498.36	76,256.73	76,856.73	79,106.26	79,897.32	76,939.17	77,708.56
General Fund Reserves-Inv	27,223.65	31,041.74	29,200.00	33,074.15	33,404.89	64,953.77	65,603.31
General Fund (Table 10)	38,735.06	44,304.50	34,394.50	59,893.67	47,715.35	20,751.53	2,650.81
Total	160,759.77	182,350.68	171,723.50	205,342.35	194,899.39	197,666.84	181,998.68

Table 2. FWCC Fund							
Starting Balance	3,175.67	683.65	1,683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65	2,683.65	3,683.65
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						
Ending Balance	683.65	1,683.65	2,683.65	2,683.65	3,683.65	3,683.65	4,683.65

Table 3. Benevolent Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	5,808.98	5,773.66	6,847.92	6,847.92	7,014.67	7,014.67	7,123.55
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(35.32)	1,074.26	50.00	166.75	70.15	108.88	71.24
Ending Balance	5,773.66	6,847.92	6,897.92	7,014.67	7,084.82	7,123.55	7,194.79

Table 4. Peace Witness Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,605.22	2,605.22	2,645.66
Gain or (Loss) from investment	75.00	75.00	75.00	105.22	26.05	40.44	26.46
Disbursements	75.00	75.00	75.00				
Ending Balance	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,605.22	2,631.27	2,645.66	2,672.12

Table 5. Capital Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	5,634.56	5,599.75	6,385.11	6,385.11	6,805.02	6,805.02	6,910.65
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(34.81)	785.36	50.00	419.91	68.05	105.63	69.11
Ending Balance	5,599.75	6,385.11	6,435.11	6,805.02	6,873.07	6,910.65	6,979.76

Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	4,000.00	3,974.98	4,532.47	4,532.47	4,829.45	4,829.45	4,904.41
Gain/(Loss) or transfer from General Fund	(25.02)	557.49	40.00	296.98	48.29	74.96	49.04
Disbursements							
Ending Balance	3,974.98	4,532.47	4,572.47	4,829.45	4,877.74	4,904.41	4,953.45

Table 7. Teen Committee Fund - Results from Table 21							
Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance	34.44	655.44	685.44	685.44	685.44	685.44	685.44
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt)	621.00	30.00				290.00	
Ending Balance	655.44	685.44	685.44	685.44	685.44	975.44	685.44

Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	7,160.09	7,115.22	8,113.12	8,113.12	8,644.82	8,644.82	8,779.01
Income			-	-	-	-	-
Disbursements							
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(44.87)	997.90	70.00	531.70	86.45	134.19	87.79
Ending Balance	7,115.22	8,113.12	8,183.12	8,644.82	8,731.27	8,779.01	8,866.80

Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry - Invested							
Starting Balance	68,817.26	68,498.36	76,256.73	76,256.73	79,106.26	79,106.26	76,939.17
Income	600.00						
Disbursements	952.92			4,110.00		3,395.00	
Gain or (Loss) from investment	34.02	7,758.37	600.00	6,959.53	791.06	1,227.91	769.39
Ending Balance	68,498.36	76,256.73	76,856.73	79,106.26	79,897.32	76,939.17	77,708.56

2018-19 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/18 to 3/3/19

	2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 YTD	2019-20 Budget
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Table 10. General Fund Summary

INCOME							
Meeting Contributions (Table 9)	68,114.96	65,994.00	64,460.00	65,528.00	63,060.00	38,402.00	57,240.00
Other Income - Appeal letter income	3,980.00		-	-	-	-	-
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	514.06	120.00	300.00	301.00	300.00	200.00	300.00
Donated Travel Costs	1,688.15	2,115.31	2,700.00	512.75	800.00	603.63	800.00
Sales of Disciplines							
Total Income	74,297.17	68,229.31	67,460.00	66,341.75	64,160.00	39,205.63	58,340.00

EXPENSES							
Operating Expenses (Table 12)	18,867.41	21,091.83	28,840.00	12,170.34	30,208.32	27,728.17	31,940.72
Committee Expenses (Table 17)	1,298.00	2,886.26	8,400.00	903.68	8,000.00	619.67	8,000.00
Representative Travel (Table 23)	3,100.00	1,464.10	4,500.00	2,025.94	2,500.00	1,918.25	2,500.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24)	7,157.48	16,367.68	14,780.00	14,802.62	14,780.00	4,131.68	15,150.00
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			-	-	-	-	-
Donations by OVYM (Table 25)	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	12,950.00	17,850.00
Total Expenses	51,272.89	62,659.87	77,370.00	50,752.58	76,338.32	48,347.77	76,440.72

Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)	23,024.28	5,569.44	(9,910.00)	15,589.17	(12,178.32)	(9,142.14)	(18,100.72)
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Table 11. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	2,000.00	7,400.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	7,200.00	3,600.00	5,640.00
Campus	1,425.00	1,400.00	1,740.00	1,400.00	1,620.00	950.00	1,260.00
Clear Creek	9,250.00	8,160.00	8,640.00	8,640.00	7,800.00	5,850.00	6,960.00
Community	9,159.96	8,520.00	7,320.00	7,320.00	6,960.00	5,800.00	6,960.00
Dayton	1,000.00	1,320.00	2,040.00	2,040.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00
Eastern Hills	1,500.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,560.00	1,620.00	1,620.00	1,380.00
Englewood	1,500.00	1,500.00	960.00	1,125.00	780.00		
Fall Creek	1,625.00		1,200.00	2,760.00	1,200.00		1,200.00
Fort Wayne	850.00	840.00	840.00	840.00	720.00		600.00
Green Plain	300.00						
Hopewell	500.00						
Lafayette	1,300.00	720.00	720.00		720.00	720.00	720.00
Lexington	5,375.00	5,040.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,680.00		4,920.00
Louisville	8,080.00	6,000.00	5,400.00	5,400.00	4,920.00		4,560.00
Miami	5,125.00	4,800.00	4,920.00	4,920.00	4,920.00	2,000.00	3,480.00
North Meadow	4,625.00	4,309.00	4,440.00	4,443.00	4,200.00	2,222.00	3,960.00
Oxford	1,875.00	1,800.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,280.00	2,160.00
White Rose	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,440.00	1,000.00	1,440.00		1,440.00
Yellow Springs	11,625.00	11,625.00	11,160.00	12,000.00	9,840.00	11,200.00	9,840.00
Total Meeting Contributions	68,114.96	65,994.00	64,460.00	65,528.00	63,060.00	38,402.00	57,240.00

Bold = Meetings who pledged

Notes on statistics: WQM from 194 to 171. MQM from 365 minus 24 and lost Englewood (13, but 6.5 budget) to 328.

OVYM total members now = 499. Budget members (EHFM and Campus = half) = 477. Balanced budget = \$160/member!

2018-19 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/18 to 3/3/19

2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 YTD	2019-20 Budget
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Table 12. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 13)	922.10	960.45	1,170.00	1,135.63	1,270.00	1,150.00	1,310.00
Clerical support (Table 14)	151.40	51.64	190.00	174.94	130.00	356.58	480.00
Staff (Table 15)	15,449.43	17,426.26	24,580.00	8,119.14	26,108.32	24,986.14	27,350.72
Publications (Table 16)	2,044.48	2,353.48	2,600.00	2,440.63	2,400.00	935.45	2,500.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total	18,867.41	21,091.83	28,840.00	12,170.34	30,208.32	27,728.17	31,940.72

Table 13. Administration

Bank Charges	10.96	68.50	30.00	16.50	30.00		30.00
Liability Insurance	857.14	870.95	1,000.00	1,047.13	1,200.00	1,117.00	1,200.00
Background Checks	54.00	21.00	40.00	72.00	40.00	33.00	80.00
Officers' Expenses			100.00				
Treasurer's Expenses			-	-	-	-	-
Total	922.10	960.45	1,170.00	1,135.63	1,270.00	1,150.00	1,310.00

Table 14. Clerical Support

Office Expenses		11.68	60.00	111.45		152.16	200.00
Postage	85.29	9.80	80.00	45.08	80.00	35.36	80.00
Copying	66.11	30.16	50.00	18.41	50.00	169.06	200.00
Total	151.40	51.64	190.00	174.94	130.00	356.58	480.00

Table 15. Staff

Compensation	14,488.02	16,922.40	23,700.00	7,719.48	25,228.32	22,763.36	24,670.72
Workers Comp	330.53	222.34	250.00	219.66	250.00	230.34	250.00
Cell Phone	190.00		-		-		-
Internet Access	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	165.00	180.00
Travel	260.88	101.52	200.00		200.00	1,827.44	2,000.00
Professional Development			250.00		250.00		250.00
Total	15,449.43	17,426.26	24,580.00	8,119.14	26,108.32	24,986.14	27,350.72

Table 16. Publications

Quill	605.44	691.85	850.00	762.90	750.00	241.08	750.00
Web site expenses							
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,189.04	1,296.91	1,350.00	1,191.12	1,350.00	687.17	1,350.00
Directory	250.00	364.72	400.00	486.61	300.00	7.20	400.00
Total	2,044.48	2,353.48	2,600.00	2,440.63	2,400.00	935.45	2,500.00

Table 17. Committee Expense

Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18)	561.53	1,254.70	700.00	531.00	600.00	50.00	600.00
(Table 19)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 20)	-	-	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00
Teen Program (Table 21)	-	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	104.18	6,300.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 22)	50.00	18.14	300.00	-	100.00	-	100.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program		174.12	350.00		350.00		350.00
Travel - Donated	519.72	1,283.31	500.00	144.61	300.00	200.00	300.00
Travel - Reimbursed	166.75	155.99	200.00	228.07	300.00	265.49	300.00
Total Expenses	1,298.00	2,886.26	8,400.00	903.68	8,000.00	619.67	8,000.00

2018-19 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/18 to 3/3/19

2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 YTD	2019-20 Budget
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Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee

Pamphlets, copying and printing	25.03		10.00	11.00	10.00		10.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	536.50	962.29	650.00	660.00	650.00	50.00	650.00
Retreat Income				140.00	100.00		100.00
Resource Materials		292.41	40.00		40.00		40.00
Total Expense	561.53	1,254.70	700.00	531.00	600.00	50.00	600.00

Table 19.

Total Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 20. Peace & Social Concerns

Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop			5.00		5.00		5.00
Postage			45.00		45.00		45.00
Display for YM Sessions and other Materials							
Total Expense	-	-	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00

Table 21. Teen/Middle Youth Program

INCOME

Contributions	621.00					290.00	
Fundraising		30.00					
Registration Fees							
OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max)			6,300.00		6,300.00	104.18	6,300.00
Total Income	621.00	30.00	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	394.18	6,300.00

EXPENSE

Publicity						38.89	
Teen Events						65.29	
Service Trips			6,300.00		6,300.00		6,300.00
Cost of Fundraising							
Total Expense	-	-	6,300.00	-	6,300.00	104.18	6,300.00

Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7)	621.00	30.00	-	-	-	290.00	-
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Table 22. Adult Young Friends

(Income)			(150.00)		(100.00)		(100.00)
Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions	50.00	18.14	200.00		100.00		100.00
Scholarships			250.00		100.00		100.00
Total Expenses	50.00	18.14	300.00	-	100.00	-	100.00

Table 23. Representative Travel

Normal (\$300 per trip)	1,160.00	600.00	1,500.00	777.95	1,000.00	600.00	1,000.00
Additional Reimbursement	771.57	32.10	800.00	879.85	1,000.00	914.62	1,000.00
Donated Travel	1,168.43	832.00	2,200.00	368.14	500.00	403.63	500.00
Total Expenses	3,100.00	1,464.10	4,500.00	2,025.94	2,500.00	1,918.25	2,500.00

2018-19 OVYM Treasurer's Report from 7/1/18 to 3/3/19

2015-16 Actual	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 YTD	2019-20 Budget
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Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions

INCOME							
Contributions	3,975.54	3,011.00	3,000.00	2,916.00	3,000.00	1,541.00	2,000.00
Coffee contributions and collections						438.00	
Registration	4,920.00	3,660.00	3,750.00	3,705.00	3,750.00	2,746.00	3,000.00
Room & Board Charges	11,524.00	13,566.00	14,600.00	12,294.00	14,600.00	10,748.00	12,000.00
Bookstore Income	893.88	1,786.06	1,000.00	1,070.65	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total Income	21,313.42	22,023.06	22,350.00	19,985.65	22,350.00	15,473.00	18,000.00
EXPENSES							
Administration/A-V	890.00	2,080.71	1,500.00	1,630.20	1,500.00	1,845.00	2,000.00
Adult Program	1,249.33	1,521.96	2,000.00	1,327.45	2,000.00	614.28	1,500.00
Sessions deposit	2,193.54	2,447.30	2,550.00	3,842.15	2,550.00	1,654.31	3,500.00
Teen Program/2017-18 = Coffee Service	1,122.35	1,385.00	1,000.00	922.29	1,000.00	432.23	500.00
Middle Youth Program + 17/18 = Teens, too	1,294.10	4,175.80	2,700.00	3,876.80	2,700.00		4,000.00
Children's Program	2,753.73	5,929.82	3,000.00	3,062.18	3,000.00	672.00	3,000.00
Adult Room & Board	8,424.85	11,159.05	14,200.00	10,272.32	14,200.00	6,186.96	10,000.00
Room & Board Subsidies							
Children, middle youth, teens	4,601.00	4,048.00	4,500.00	4,086.00	4,500.00	3,800.00	4,000.00
Staff, officers, and registration discounts	1,960.00	3,030.00	2,500.00	2,453.00	2,500.00	2,784.00	2,750.00
Guests	538.00	282.00	500.00	480.00	500.00	532.00	500.00
YAF attenders subsidy	2,064.00	1,083.00	1,500.00	679.00	1,500.00	373.00	500.00
First-time attenders subsidy	1,190.00	570.00	700.00	1,387.00	700.00	369.00	500.00
Simple Meal Donation	100.00	210.00	220.00	196.00	220.00	144.00	200.00
Bookstore Expenses	90.00	468.10	260.00	573.88	260.00	197.90	200.00
Total Expenses	28,470.90	38,390.74	37,130.00	34,788.27	37,130.00	19,604.68	33,150.00
Net Cost of Session	7,157.48	16,367.68	14,780.00	14,802.62	14,780.00	4,131.68	15,150.00

Table 25. Donations by OVYM

OVYM Ministries							
Quaker Heights Friends Home	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Subtotal	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Major Quaker Organizations							
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00
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
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
Subtotal	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	8,250.00	12,250.00
Quaker Education and Outreach							
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
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
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus							
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
Friends Peace Teams	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
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
Subtotal	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	1,800.00	2,700.00
Total Contributions	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	19,850.00	12,950.00	17,850.00

Statistical Report

MIAMI QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	CAM	COM	DAY	EH	ENG	LEX	LOU	MIA	OX	YS	MQ
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/17	27	58	18	27	13	39	41	41	19	82	365
Correction by addition						1					1
Births/Adoption										1	1
Request of Parent(s)											0
Convincement		1	2			2		1			6
Children accepted as adults											0
Transfers to				1		1				1	3
TOTAL GAINS	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	1	0	2	11
Correction by subtraction	4								1	1	6
Deaths		1	1			1		1		1	5
Removal by request					13	1	1	8			23
Children becoming adults				2							2
Transfers from	2			3			1				6
Loss of contact			1				1	4			6
TOTAL LOSSES	6	1	2	5	13	2	3	13	1	2	48
Net gain or loss	-6	0	0	-4	-13	2	-3	-12	-1	0	-37
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/18	21	58	18	23	0	41	38	29	18	82	328
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	0	1	0	2	0	13	4	0	0	5	25
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	1	2	12
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	0	5	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	2	14
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	0	4	0	1	0	10	2	0	1	5	23
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	0	8	2	2	0	20	0	8	0	11	51
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	9	31	15	9	0	60	34	25	8	41	232
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	19	24	8	14	0	25	18	17	7	31	163
Resident Membership – Adult	12	39	12	17	0	36	32	18	13	49	228
Resident Membership – Associate	0	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	16
Non-resident Membership – Adult	11	6	6	1	0	5	6	11	0	21	67
Non-resident Membership – Associate	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
United Meetings	*			*							2
Budget members	10.5	58	18	11.5	0	41	38	29	18	82	306
Worship attendance – adults	5	32	15	16.3	0	36	16	15	10	33	178.3
Worship attendance – children	0	0	0	1	0	7	4	2	2	5	21
Regular non- member attendance	3	9	5	3	0	20	8	5	1	14	68
First Day School (children)	0	3	0	1	0	7	4	2	2	12	31
Friends in school/college	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	6

WHITEWATER QUARTER

Monthly Meeting	BL	CC	FC	FW	LAF	NM	WR	WQM	OVYM	PRIOR YEAR
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/17	60	65	10	6	6	35	12	194	559	612
Correction by addition								0	1	0
Births/Adoption								0	1	0
Request of Parent(s)								0	0	0
Convincement	1					2		3	9	8
Children accepted as adults								0	0	0
Transfers to		1						1	4	3
TOTAL GAINS	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	15	11
Correction by subtraction	1	6		1				8	14	8
Deaths		2				1		3	8	8
Removal by request								0	23	26
Children becoming adults								0	2	0
Transfers from	5					1		6	12	8
Loss of contact						2		2	8	14
TOTAL LOSSES	6	8	0	1	0	4	0	19	67	64
Net gain or loss	-5	-7	0	-1	0	-2	0	-15	-52	-53
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/18	55	58	10	5	6	33	12	179	507	559
Members and Regular Attenders under 10	7	2	3	2	1	5	3	23	58	47
Members and Regular Attenders 10-13	4	0	0	1	1	3	1	10	22	28
Members and Regular Attenders 14-18	8	0	0	1	0	1	0	10	24	24
Members and Regular Attenders 19-25	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	22	45	39
Members and Regular Attenders 26-35	6	15	0	0	0	13	2	36	87	96
Members and Regular Attenders 36-65	34	35	4	5	11	16	6	111	343	344
Members and Regular Attenders over 65	20	21	8	6	3	16	1	75	238	244
Resident Membership – Adult	47	36	10	7	5	21	7	133	671	374
Resident Membership – Associate	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	7	23	19
Non-resident Membership – Adult	7	31	0	0	1	10	2	51	118	145
Non-resident Membership – Associate	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	11
United Meetings									2	3
Budget members	55	58	10	5	6	33	12	179	485	525.5
Worship attendance – adults	34	30	5	6	9	21	2	107	285.3	289
Worship attendance – children	5	2	1	3	0.5	0	0	11.5	32.5	31.5
Regular non-member attendance	16	10	1	3	4.5	8	0	42.5	126.5	110.5
First Day School (children)	5	2	1	4	0.5	4	0	16.5	47.5	57.5
Friends in school/college	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	14

Youth Services Committee Report

This year marks a fresh beginning for our Middle Youth and Teen programs, now supported by a new Youth Secretary and a committee of 7. The committee began meeting monthly in August, 2018 by Zoom e-conference platform and has found it to be the next-best-thing to in-person communications.

While the program is rebuilding, we have asked our Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson, to focus on making personal connections with families of OVYM youth in middle and high school. Along with phone calls and emails with families, and visits to monthly meetings to get acquainted with our Middle Youth and Teens in person as well as provide programming at First Day School on occasion, Kaia set up several platforms for keeping families informed about events: an introductory brochure, posters advertising upcoming events, the OVYM Middle Youth and Teens Facebook page and Instagram account. Kaia welcomes all questions and interest in the programs and can be contacted at ovymyouthsecretary@gmail.com or at (330) 571-7395.

HIGHLIGHTS for 2018-2019

The Quake that Rocked the Midwest – Teen retreat with Illinois Yearly Meeting high school teens and Scattergood Friends School high school teens held in Evanston, IL, over MLK holiday weekend. The weekend included lots of opportunities for Quaker teens to bond through interactive sessions, food, hanging out and more food! As well there was a workshop on restorative justice, a trip to a trampoline park and a creative music therapy session for all to enjoy.

Youth Programming at Miami Quarterly Meeting – Hosted by Campus Friends Meeting, Wilmington, OH, in February, youth who attended enjoyed a lively discussion about race relations as well as time to play games and chill.

Middle Youth Retreat – Hosted by Lexington Friends Meeting, Lexington, KY, in March, middle youth attended an overnight focused on "Friendship". Youth engaged in fun activities including origami, swing dancing, movie time and a First Day school on women in history. Youth participants expressed excitement to be with one another and participate in this special line-up of activities. Meanwhile, parents met in our first Youth Engagement Workshop to discuss hopes, visions and concerns about youth programming. The next day, our second Youth Engagement Workshop was held during First Hour, and attracted a wide variety of Lexington Meeting members to voice their interests and values in regards to youth programming.

At the time of this writing, plans are in the works for Middle Youth and Teen programming for Miami Quarterly Meeting at Dayton Friends Meeting in May with an emphasis on race relations/racial justice, programming for the annual sessions in June, and a Teen Service Trip at the end of July with an emphasis on choices in poverty. Kaia is also looking at opportunities for our Middle Youth and Teens to participate in an age-appropriate workshop through Alternatives to Violence Project in the fall.

Many thanks to the young people, adults and parents of OVYM who have given their time, intentionality and creativity to help the Middle Youth and Teen programming thrive!

Michelle Lori (mylori01@gmail.com) and David Funck (dfunck@certapro.com), co-clerks

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee consists of Stephen Angell, chair, Wilson Palmer (ex officio), and Dinah Duvall. Dinah is a new member of the committee: Welcome, Dinah! The committee works with yearly meeting contracted employees on matters such as annual contracts. All is proceeding normally. In regard to any questions about the personnel committee's work, please feel free to contact any of the listed committee members.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Angell, chair

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating committee has been actively working during the past year. Our primary work was filling roles and positions that had not been filled during last year's annual sessions and nominating Friends to fill positions that had become vacant during the year, whether they were individual roles or for committees that were in need of more members. While we were not always able to fill the positions, we held regular meetings that were attended by a number of committed Friends. The committee also revised its description, which was approved for addition to the OVYM Yearly Meeting Handbook.

The committee is composed of representatives from the following monthly meetings: Bloomington, Clear Creek, Dayton, Eastern Hills, Fall Creek, Lexington, Miami, Oxford and Yellow Springs. In an attempt to provide greater coverage, the committee created liaison roles so some members of the committee act as representatives to those meetings who have not named representatives. While we recognize that more members would be better, we felt that most of the yearly meeting was well represented.

We strongly encourage meetings who do not have an official representative to name one and send it to Martha Viehmann, OVYM Presiding Clerk. She will bring the names to Executive Committee for approval. We look forward to welcoming additional members.

A draft of the Officers, Representatives and Committee Members Working Document 2020-2022 is included in Reports in Advance. The committee has approved a number of Friends for upcoming terms of service. Their names are surrounded by brackets (i.e., "<>") in the document. We submit them to the yearly meeting for approval.

Diann Herzog and Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Co-Clerks

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Officers, Representatives and Committee Members
Working Document for Reports in Advance
2020 - 2022**

OFFICERS	4-year rotating terms (Asst/Clerk/Clerk/Asst)
Presiding Clerk	Martha Viehmann (3 rd of 4)
Assistant Presiding Clerk	<TBD> (1 st of 4)
Recording Clerk	Rex Sprouse (2 nd of 4)
Assistant Recording Clerk	Terre Holada (4 th of 4)
Treasurer	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer	Dale Hayes

STAFF	
OVYM Secretary	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Kaia Jackson

ADMINISTRATORS	1-year renewable terms
Quaker Quill Editor	<Cecilia Shore>
Publications Coordinator	<David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson>
Records Coordinator	<Susan Hyde>
	<Christine Snyder> (not confirmed)
Statistician	Bill Heilbron
Website Administrator	<Lonny Burger>

ANNUAL SESSION ROLES	1-year renewable terms
Epistle Summary	Deb Kociszewski
Epistle Committee	<Paul Buckley> <Marti Matthews>
Memorial Committee	<Richard Mitchell>

2020 Term of Service = June 2019 – June 2020

Updated: 05/31/2019

COMMITTEES

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Young Adult Friends (4 - 7 members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
	Catherine Peyroux (1 st term)	
2021	Madeline Murray (1 st term)	Emmett Cartmell (1 st term)
	Uta Brewington* (1 st term)	
2020	Dylan Cahalan (1 st term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Auditing (2 members)	2-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022		
2021	Veronica Frost (4th term)	<Bob Holada (3 rd term) >
2020		

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Budget & Finance (3 + 2 ex officio*)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022		
2021	Lynn Funck (1 st term)	
	Steve Angell* (1 st term)	
2020		Fred Feitler (1 st term)

Note: *Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (acts as clerk)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Children's Program (6 vs. 9–12 members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	<Maria Franzini (2 nd term)*>	
	<Hannah Branson (8 th term)>	
2021	Phyllis Tonne (1 st term)	Sara Farmer (1 st term)
	Susan Hyde (5 th term)	
2020		

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Earthcare	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
2021	vacant	vacant
2020	Marjorie Isaacs	
2019	Bill Cahalan	David Duvall*

Note: Committee submits nominations.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Faith and Practice	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2021	Paul Buckley (4th term)	Rex Sprouse (5 th term)
	Wilson Palmer (invited)	Jan Sims (1 st term)

Note: Anticipate concluding by 2020 annual sessions.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Nominating (6+ members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022		
2021	Will Bowers (1 st term)	
2020	Rick Boyce (1 st term)	Diann Herzog* (1 st term)
	Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson* (1 st term)	
	Phyllis Tonne (1 st term)	
2019	Steve Angell (1 st term) – up for renewal	Elaine Emmi (1 st term) – up for renewal
	Richard Mitchell (1 st term) – up for renewal	Jan Sims (1 st term) – up for renewal

Note: Members named by Monthly Meetings.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Peace & Social Concerns (9 members)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
2021		David Duvall
2020	Carol Simmons	
2019	Frank Huss & Richard Mitchell*	

Note: Committee submits nominations.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Personnel (2 + Treasurer)	2-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
2021		<Dinah Duvall>
2020	Steve Angell*	

Note: Executive Committee names.

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Planning (6 + Children, Youth & Registrar)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
	< Ben Griffith >	<Terre Holada (2 nd term)>
2021	Jim Davidson (1 st term)	
	Carol Simmons* (1 st term)	Gloria Bruner (1 st term)
2020		

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Religious Nurture & Education (12)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
	<Nikki Coffey Tousley* (3 rd term)>	vacant
	Jane Brown (1 st term)	Eric Hailperin-Lausch (1 st term)
2021	Gail Koehler (2 nd term)	Tom Eubank (1 st term)
2020		

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Youth Services (6+ members)	3-year staggered + 1-year teen terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	<Jason Swank> - not confirmed	vacant
	<Jim Davidson>	
	<Michelle Lori* (2 nd term)> - not confirmed	
2021	David Hyde (1 st term)	James Taylor (J. T.) (1 st term)
2020		

Note: Merged Middle Youth and Teen Committees

REPRESENTATIVES

<i>Final Term Year</i>	American Friends Service Cmte (4)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
2021	Ben Griffith (2 nd term)	David Duvall (2 nd term)

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends Cmte on National Legislation (6)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	<Steve Stone >	
2021	Rick Boyce (1 st term)	Marti Matthews (1 st term)
	Christine Snyder (1 st term)	
	Jamie Young (1 st term)	
	Frank Huss (2 ^{nd+} term)	
2020		

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends General Conference Central (3)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	<Chris Harmer (3 rd term)> – not confirmed	
2021		Paul Kriese (1 st term)
2020	Andrew Hardy (1 st term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends World Cmte on Consultation (4)	3-year staggered terms, renewable twice
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	vacant	vacant
2021	<Footie Lund (2 nd term)>	
2020	Anne Hutchinson (2 nd term)	

REPRESENTATIVES	1-year renewable terms
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	<Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson>
Friends Peace Teams	<Pat Dewees>
Quaker Earthcare Witness	vacant
William Penn House	<Adam Funck>

MINISTRIES		
<i>Final Term Year</i>	Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry (3)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2022	<Steve Angell>	
2021	Christine Snyder (2 nd term)	
2020	Wilhelmina Branson (1 st term)	

<i>Final Term Year</i>	Friends Music Camp (5)	3-year renewable, staggered terms
2022	Carl Hyde, Peg Champney	
2021	Jorge Quant	
2020	Drea Gallaga, Gail Miller	

Note: Members named by board.

Planning Committee Report

I write this as the Planning Committee secures the final details for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's 199th annual sessions.

We are later than we like in completing our preparatory work, but I feel we are in a good place now in putting together a gathering where the needs of our spiritual condition can be met while at the same time conducting the business of the yearly meeting.

Early in our planning for summer 2019, our committee had a clear sense that many Friends had returned to their homes after last year's sessions carrying the weight of unresolved feelings, hurts, and even traumas from discussions pertaining to sexual misconduct issues. While an OVYM ad hoc committee is doing the important work of developing policies around these issues, we felt that we could not ignore the feelings that may linger or resurface in attending this year's sessions. We felt that we needed not only to address the possibility of injury having occurred last year, but also consider putting in place more structures that could respond to hurts as they arise.

For the first part, we discerned that this year's sessions would have a focus on healing, particularly in a spiritual context. The phrase "navigating the depths" came to us as representative of the work we envisioned taking place. We responded to a multifaceted sense of "the depths," which could mean going through a difficult experience or, not necessarily conversely, immersing in an experience that is rich and illuminating.

We also wanted to emphasize the importance — the sacredness — of the connections we have with one another, with the understanding that it is through those sacred connections that we best navigate the depths.

We hope that the 2019 annual sessions can be a place of healing, strengthening, supporting and connecting as we consider "Navigating the Depths Through our Sacred Connections."

Toward the goal of establishing more structure that can respond when difficulties arise, we are setting aside space for a "Healing Center," modeled after such a space at Friends General Conference annual Gathering. Volunteer healing arts practitioners will be on hand at set times to offer support, or simply sit with, anyone in need. We are excited about initiating this experience, and expect we will learn a lot in order to refine and enhance the experience for future years.

We also decided early on to try something else that is new for annual sessions — putting together a panel of speakers for one of the plenary talks. The panel is made up of spiritually focused healing practitioners from the yearly meeting, and will be moderated by Planning Committee member Gloria Bruner, who is a music therapist. The idea for this panel had immediate and deep resonance for Planning Committee members.

While the person we asked to fill our second plenary spot was enthusiastic about our theme and about joining us this summer, he had to pull out this spring because of an unanticipated conflict, leaving us with a big hole to fill and not a lot of time to fill it. OVYM's presiding clerk sent out an SOS through FGC, and we were heartened by the helpful and supportive responses suggesting a variety of potential names — it feels good to know we are part of a larger body, and to see our Quaker relationships in

action. In the end, we approached Arica Barton, a counselor based in Evansville, Ill., who works in restorative justice and who gave a powerful workshop during the annual Quake That Rocked the Midwest for high schoolers in January. She graciously agreed. And now we not only have a speaker for this year, but also a longer list of potential speakers for future gatherings.

Despite the small size of our committee, we struggled to find times when all could be present in person or by Zoom. We lost a member last fall due to over-extensions in her life, and also lost the anticipated assistance of past committee co-clerk Kay Wheeler, who will not be attending annual sessions.

On the other hand, we greatly benefitted from the active participation of Youth Secretary Kaia Jackson, who brought spiritual wisdom and depth to our proceedings, along with a Young Adult Friend's perspective and a champion-for-youth mindset.

The 2019 annual sessions will mark the third year that sessions take place in mid-June, rather than our long-held dates at the end of July. We understand that the change still represents a big adjustment for many Friends. Our hope is that the change reduces the conflicts connected to the traditional dates — children going back to school earlier in the summer; Wilmington Yearly Meeting, to which some of our monthly meetings also belong, gathering the same weekend; and frequent overlap with the last week of Friends Music Camp.

Looking ahead beyond this year's sessions, we hope that the Nominating Committee is successful in bringing new Friends to our Planning. Thanks to the organizational skills of previous committees, the tasks are well documented and defined. Our task in the coming year is to plan for a historical milestone in the life of OVYM — our 200th annual sessions in summer 2020. There is much work to do, but great joy in the doing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Simmons, clerk

Website Administrator's Report

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your website administrator for more than 10 years.

Requested updates to pages on OVYM.Quaker.Org are done on the day we received the requests. Recent updates include the removal of the Englewood Page and links to it from the main and side bar menus.

Facebook continues to be a well-used alternate source of publicity for OVYM. Many of the updates and announcements requested for OVYM's website were also published on the OVYM Facebook page and the 197 people who "liked" and 207 are following our Facebook page receive notifications of all announcements published on our page. We've had two anonymous reviews of the Facebook page, both rating it 5 out of 5. There is a link to our Face Book page on each page of the OVYM.Quaker.Org website.

Total and average visits have been trending downward in the past year with the largest number of visits happening in the two months prior to Annual Sessions. We're currently averaging 20 daily visitors and 710 visits per month.

Having served as the administrator for more than a decade, it may be time for OVYM to seek out a new person for this position, someone younger who can take over and rebuild the site with new skills and technologies, and a new vision for the site that will attract more and younger visitors to the website and, hopefully, into the Yearly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonny Burger
OVYM Website Administrator

Administrative Secretary Report

What does an Administrative Secretary do? It's like learning to dance. The big dance is leading up to Yearly Meeting. Let's call it "the dance of reports." At the end of April begins a whirlwind of email Yearly Meeting requests – numerous and predictable: budget, memorial, state of meeting, directory, committee, Quaker bodies, and on and on, virtually flooding the inboxes. The responses arrive in different rhythms and routines: There are early submissions, arriving spritely and ready. Next, a lull and the waiting begins. A few more dribble in, dazzling and dutiful. Suddenly, a number of "at the deadline" submissions rushed and rosey, followed by "in their own Quaker time" submissions, affectionately known as "the dawdlers." The heartfelt apologies, the simple thanks. The back and forth reminders, the promised reports that never show up. The hoped-for email, the empty inbox. Finally, the letting go, the moving on, the gathering in person at Annual Sessions. Ahhhh, together at last.

Faith and Practice Committee Report

Committee Members: Paul Buckley, Wilson Palmer, Jan Sims, Rex Sprouse (clerk).

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2018-2019: The Committee's work over the past year resulted in the following:

(1) Texts to be brought forward for approval: Meeting for Worship; Civic Responsibility. These texts arose through initial drafts discerned by the Committee, which were published in *The Quaker Quill* and sent to all constituent monthly meetings for their prayerful consideration. The Committee received responses to these drafts from eleven (11) constituent monthly meetings, and these responses informed the Committee's discernment of second drafts. The Committee members thank monthly meetings for their consideration of the earlier drafts and their responses.

(2) Lightly edited texts that include only very minor changes: Individual Spiritual Disciplines; The Monthly Meeting (subsections on Burial Ground, Meeting Funds, Incorporation, Meeting Trusts and Property Titles, Meeting Records); The Quarterly Meeting; The Yearly Meeting. These texts were published in *The Quaker Quill* issues for Second Month 2019 and Sixth Month 2019.

(3) Discussion of the potential desirability of reorganizing the content of the section on The Monthly Meeting and the clear desirability of further attention to the overall structure, coherence, and user-friendliness of the *Book of Faith and Practice*. The Committee plans to turn to these considerations during 2019-2020.

TEXTS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR APPROVAL

Meeting for Worship

Preparation for Worship

Frequent intentional periods of private reflection, meditation, reading the Bible, Quaker writings or other inspirational texts, prayer, and appreciation of beauty and nature are recommended throughout the week as preparation for the meeting hour. Constant openness to be guided by the Inward Light and a commitment to live with integrity are preparation for worship and ministry. In addition, our ability to hear not just the words uttered, but the spiritual messages underlying those outward expressions is enhanced by our times of preparation.

Waiting Worship

The basis of meeting for worship is silent waiting for direct communion with God. It provides an opportunity to step together into the holy stream, making it a time of expectant waiting for the leadings of the Divine Spirit.

Simply gathering in outward silence is not enough. Each individual must consciously and humbly seek for a renewed sense of the inward power of the Spirit. From the depths of that stillness comes an awareness of the presence of God. In this experience individuals will not only find direction for their own lives and strength for their needs but may also feel an urge to share with others the openings that come to them. As worshippers seek to be led into deeper understandings and to pray to become more obedient to the Light Within, their shared communion with the Divine release the riches of the Spirit.

True ministry, whether vocal or silent, is offering ourselves—body, mind, and soul—to do God’s will. During the silent waiting, the flow of the Divine Spirit from heart to heart is often felt. Worshippers gather in a spirit of silent prayer with a willingness to give, as well as to receive, so that the full possibilities of the meeting hour can be reached and its influence extended throughout the community from week to week.

Vocal Ministry

To awaken and sustain the spirit of worship, spiritual sensitivity must always be the first requirement for ministry. The Society of Friends believes that vocal ministry should arise out of a call to service. Such a call is a divinely inspired revelation of truth that speaks to a need in the meeting. Our conviction is that the Spirit of God is in all and that vocal utterance comes when this Spirit works within us. As each person listens for God’s counsel he or she receives the inflowing power of divine love. The Friend must then discern whether this message is for themselves or for the meeting as a whole.

We do not set anyone apart to offer ministry in our meetings. The varying needs of a meeting are best supplied by different personalities, and a meeting is enriched by the sharing of any person’s living experience of God. Responsibility rests on all to be ready and willing to take part in worship under a due sense of divine prompting.

The call to ministry is a normal experience. It may come to any earnest seeker for divine help and can be recognized by a persistent inner urge to share religious experience or spiritual aspiration. Those who are timid or unaccustomed to speak should have faith that God will strengthen them to give their messages. Experienced speakers should be watchful not to share at undue length or frequency. It is helpful to allow a period of silent reflection between vocal expressions.

As loving attenders of our meetings for worship, it is up to us as listeners to hear what an awkward

minister is attempting to say. We need to attempt to understand the meaning underlying uncomfortable words in order to feel the minister's message. Censoring or dismissing another's message because of their word choice is unhelpful to building the spiritual unity and growth of the community. Children are a part of the meeting and may be called on occasion to offer ministry to the meeting. Moreover, Friends should be aware of the presence of younger people when choosing what words to use in their ministry.

Civic Responsibilities

Citizenship

Friends have a spiritually grounded conception of citizenship and service to their communities, nation and to humanity. Citizens should encourage their country to cooperate for the betterment of the world. Working to improve the civic, economic, social and moral condition of one's own country is a truer expression of patriotism than exalting one's own nation at the expense of others or supporting and justifying its actions irrespective of right or justice.

Obedience to Law & Civil Disobedience

Our first allegiance is to God and every Friend should act to influence the making and changing of secular laws so that they may more nearly accord with Divine love and justice. Friends have a duty of to uphold and obey all legal enactments, unless they violate the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If conditions arise in which civil law appears to be at variance with Divine law, Friends should take prayerful counsel with their communities to discern how they should respond. The community can sustain and uphold those who are impelled by a higher allegiance to take a difficult stand in deliberately disobeying civil laws. Such action is not taken in disrespect of the law nor with intent to evade its consequences, but to live in accordance with the dictates of a higher law. Those who act on the principle of obedience to God must be prepared to suffer for the sake of their convictions.

Treatment of Civic Offenders

Enlightened treatment of civic offenders by constructive methods is an historic goal to those who endeavor to follow Quaker principles. Incarceration should be considered only when an individual is a real danger to society. While condemning unrighteous acts, we should seek to have offenders treated as children of God. The end result of incarceration should be rehabilitation and restoration of a right relationship with the community.

Friends are opposed to capital punishment as contrary to Divine love. The death penalty is spiritually brutalizing and degrading both to the person executed and to the public mind. It leaves no room for the reformation of the individual nor for revision of the sentence in the event of a miscarriage of justice.

LIGHTLY EDITED TEXTS

Individual Spiritual Disciplines

Prayer

Prayer is the aspiration of the soul. It is our communion with God and is essential to religious life. Prayer may be experienced throughout the day by noticing that of God in one another and in the natural world. The result of prayer becomes apparent in the more deeply centered lives of those who are constant in its exercise. We should cultivate individually the habit of turning to God at all times and of

seeking divine guidance in all things. Vocal prayer, when prompted by a deep concern and a sense of human need, is a vital part of worship and often helps those assembled to come into the consciousness of God's presence.

Scriptures and Other Spiritual Writings

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

[Attribution in Footnote: Woolman, John, Considerations on Keeping Negroes, part 2 and/or Moulton, Phillips, Journal of John Woolman, 1971, p. 236.]

We earnestly recommend the reverent, habitual and intelligent reading of the Bible and other inspirational writings for spiritual enrichment. We would ground our children solidly in the Judeo-Christian faith while yet remembering the words of John Woolman.

God has spoken to all generations. Prophets and teachers to whom the message has come with more convincing power have recorded these revelations of Truth. The hopes and fears, aspirations and trust of devout people whose quest was to find God and obey God's teaching are recorded in the Bible and other spiritual writings.

The progressive development which it records leads us from the primitive conceptions of an early religion to the culminating gospel of forgiveness, love and fellowship as taught and lived by Jesus.

Many of the various literary forms of the Bible are characterized by dignity, sublimity and beauty. Its spirit transcends the medium of expression. Through the ages people have turned to the Bible for consolation, for strength, and for hope. Our prayers are often uttered in its language and our ideals of social justice are found in its pages.

The Monthly Meeting (5 subsections)

Burial Grounds

Two or more Friends should be appointed to have the care of the Meeting's burying grounds and see that interments are made in accordance with the practices approved by the Meeting which owns the grounds.

Careful marking of all graves for purposes of identification should be practiced and records thereof kept. Our principles of moderation and simplicity should be strictly observed in marking graves.

Meeting Funds

Meetings should raise funds sufficient to meet their responsibilities, to care for their property, and to provide for their obligations to the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings.

The Yearly Meeting Budget & Finance Committee shall determine the proportionate share of the Yearly Meeting budget for each local meeting and notify each meeting.

Incorporation

It is recommended that all Meetings that own real property should incorporate. The Meeting's address should be provided to the State and not that of an individual Trustee. As required by each state, a certificate of continued existence may need to be filed with the state periodically. To avoid lapse resulting from the death of trustees holding title to meeting properties and trusts, it is advised that such titles and trusts be held by corporations when practicable. The Executive Committee will advise with any meeting contemplating incorporation.

Meeting Trusts and Property Titles

Monthly and Preparative Meetings, as well as Quarterly and Yearly Meetings are advised to require annual reports of the Income and disbursements of all trusts and of the investment of the principal thereof, including the status of titles of Meeting properties and burial grounds vested in the Trustees, who are to keep in their records accurate statements of the terms of the trusts held by them for the benefit of the meeting or of the Society at large.

Business meetings are cautioned to see that timely care is taken for the renewal of trusts. They are exhorted to be diligent and particular as to the careful investment of trust funds. The assistance of the Executive Committee may be sought if difficulties arise.

Meeting Records

All Meetings for Business should keep full and correct records of their transactions in convenient form for reference. An accurate record of the membership of each Monthly Meeting should be kept which should include all births, marriages, removals and deaths occurring among members. (See Annual Statistical Report.)

The Yearly Meeting has arranged for the storing of the records of the Yearly Meeting and its subordinate meetings in the facilities of the Quaker Collection, housed in the Wilmington College Library. The following records should be deposited as soon as they are no longer needed for the business of the Meeting, which will normally be within three to five years:

- A. Minutes of the meetings.
- B. Minutes of the preparative meetings, the Committees on Ministry and Counsel, and the like.
- C. Membership, statistical, marriage and burial records.
- D. Official correspondence of the meetings.
- E. Deeds or other similar documents relating to any property held by the meeting.
- F. Newsletters or bulletins.
- G. Any other committee records.
- H. The treasurer's records.
- I. Photographs, slides, tapes, etc. of meeting events.
- J. Correspondence to or from the meeting or the Clerk, except routine printed communications such as annual reports from Friends organizations.

These records will remain available for withdrawal for additions to or updating of the records upon presentation to the Curator of a letter of authorization from the Clerk of the meeting making the deposit or its successor. Thus, meetings are encouraged to store records in the fire-resistant vault at the College even if the records may be needed at some time in the future.

A recorder or statistician should be appointed to carry out these duties and the Meeting should furnish suitable books and provide proper places in which to preserve the records.

The Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting is designed to bring together for inspiration and counsel a larger group, and to consider more varied interests than any single meeting embraces. It is composed of constituent Monthly Meetings, each of which shall appoint representatives to attend it.

Its form of organization should be similar to that of the Monthly Meeting. It is to receive and forward reports from Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting, and to appoint representatives thereto. It may hold property and trusts and appoint for specific services committees over which it shall have original and final jurisdiction. Its most helpful function should be to aid and encourage the Monthly

Meetings composing it to greater interest and service, and to give its members an increasing vision of the truth. It should be diligent in seeking opportunities to gather together groups which may be organized into meetings and should always be ready to help Monthly Meetings whenever they ask for advice or assistance.

The Yearly Meeting

The Yearly Meeting shall be composed of its constituent Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Meetings. Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint representatives to attend sessions of the Yearly Meeting. These representatives shall perform whatever duties the Yearly Meeting or the Meeting which appoints them may assign. It is advised that they make reports to their respective Monthly Meetings of important action taken by the Yearly Meeting. All members of constituent Monthly Meetings are also members of the Yearly Meeting and have the same privileges as the representatives. The Yearly Meeting shall provide for the appointment of necessary officers, including presiding clerk, assistant presiding clerk, recording clerk, treasurer, and statistician.

The Yearly Meeting may organize its work through the appointment of committees necessary for the effective carrying out of its concerns. It is cautioned against becoming over-organized and thus expending in merely maintaining a mechanical system, energies which should be conserved for the advancement of truth.

It shall annually determine a budget necessary for its expenses and inform each Monthly Meeting its proportional share amount, based on total membership.

It shall receive written reports from its committees and from its constituent meetings, signed by the proper officers. It shall review the state of the Society and consider communications addressed to it. It shall hear and act upon the concerns of its members pertaining to the work and influence of the Society of Friends.

It should exercise a general oversight and care of subordinate meetings in things pertaining to the welfare of the Society in general.

The Yearly Meeting shall provide for the due consideration of epistles and of minutes of Friends from other Friends Yearly Meetings.

All letters and papers addressed to the Yearly Meeting, regarding which the clerk desires counsel, may be referred to the Executive Committee, which should consider them and report whether it is advisable to have them presented for the consideration of the Yearly Meeting.

It is advised that the Yearly Meeting have always available information concerning its constituent Meetings, so that it can aid committees in their work, give a knowledge of conditions and extend sympathetic help to the smaller Meetings which need encouragement and assistance from the larger body.

The Executive Committee

Duties

This committee shall transact business for the Yearly Meeting between its annual sessions in all cases where the welfare of our Society makes this desirable, and shall carry out instructions given it by the Yearly Meeting.

In general its duties should include printing and distributing Friendly literature, furnishing forms to Monthly Meetings for use in keeping records of members, transfers, births, marriages and deaths, maintaining a current list of members with their addresses, endeavoring to extend the knowledge of our

principles, rendering advice and assistance to Meetings in the matter of property and trusts, upon their request, and to individuals who feel the need of support in maintaining our testimonies. This Committee shall keep in close and sympathetic touch with other committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting in all cases when that body is not in session, but it shall not make changes in the Book of Discipline or issue any statement of faith.

Meetings

The Committee may fix its own times of meeting, except that its clerk shall call special meetings upon the request of three members of the Committee. The clerk of each Monthly Meeting as well as appointed representatives should be notified of each committee meeting. It is advised that important action be taken only after the judgment of the committee has been obtained.

Minutes

The committee shall keep full and complete minutes and render to the Yearly Meeting reports of all business transacted.

Funds

Drafts may be drawn against the treasury of the Yearly Meeting under proper authorization.

Method of Appointment

Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint one or more members to represent it on this committee. The clerk and treasurer of the Yearly Meeting shall also be members of the Executive Committee by reason of their appointments. The Yearly Meeting, if it wishes to do so, may appoint members at large in addition to those named by the Monthly Meetings.

Nominating Committee

The Executive Committee shall determine the method of populating the nominating committee of the Yearly Meeting, which then nominates all officers, including the clerks and members of committees of the Yearly Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall meet for this purpose after appointment and at least one month before Yearly Meeting begins in that year and at other times as necessary.

Nominating Committee is responsible for offering names to the Yearly Meeting for appointment as representatives to Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and other organizations as the need arises.

Annual Statistical Report

Annual statistical reports shall be made by the Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting, containing all needed information on a form provided by the Yearly Meeting for the purpose. The information asked for should include data as to membership (Births, Deaths, Admissions, Removals, etc.), First-day Schools, attenders at Friends Schools, changes in times and places of Meetings, and other necessary information. The Yearly Meeting may from time to time ask for additional information not included on the form.

Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report

The past year was one of reconstituting the committee, which started the year slowly. We lost key members who rotated off, resigned or moved out of the area, and while we have new members, RNE remains a small committee. The committee passed on the work of developing a policy on sexual misconduct to the new task force, but have remained in contact with the task force and with some of those involved in the incident reported last year. We were saddened to hear that Englewood Meeting felt the need to leave OVYM and hope that the work of the task group will position us to better respond to meetings in need in the future.

A central responsibility of the committee is maintaining ongoing relationships with local meetings. As a group, the committee visited three meetings this year, joining in worship and fellowship before holding our own meeting. We continue to encourage other Yearly Meeting committees to combine inter-visitation and committee meetings. Recently, we assigned a member of the committee to each monthly meeting, and that person will be touching base with clerks over the next months to ask about the health and needs of the meeting. We want to develop a list of clerks, Ministry and Counsel clerks, and First Day School contacts for each meeting.

On the floor of sessions in 2016, the committee was charged with encouraging travel in the ministry and building connections between meetings, and we are continuing that work. We discerned the need for a stepwise approach toward fostering ministry, as few Friends have experience assisting each other in discernment of leadings. We agreed the first steps were to work on inter-visitation and building connections, then on eldering and spiritual accompaniment, before focusing on travel in the ministry.

We began by encouraging inter-visitation between meetings and drafting a letter to meetings with suggestions regarding inter-visitation for individuals and meetings, which was presented at the 2017 session. We also began to combine our committee meetings with visitation and have visited most of the meetings in the Yearly Meeting. We have held retreats and sessions related to the topic, including

- A session at Joint Quarter on Spiritual Accompaniment in fall 2016
- Retreat in April 2017 with Brian Drayton titled “Nourishment from Quaker Roots for Witness in these Times.” A long discussion at dinner following the retreat with Brian and the committee about travel in the ministry was very valuable.
- March 2018 OVYM Spring Retreat, Sustaining Spiritual Practices for Healing and Refreshment.

Now we are moving toward encouraging people in encouraging practices of Eldering and Spiritual Accompaniment, in hope that we can become a community which better identifies, fosters and nurtures spiritual gifts. Early Quaker ministers sought out spiritual mothers and fathers who helped them discern and carry out their ministry. Elders are not necessarily old, nor are they scolding authorities. They are Friends with a calling to foster the spiritual life of the meeting and its members. At times spiritual accompaniment may be mutual, as in the practice of spiritual friendship. Leadings to travel, social witness and other forms of service can be supported and clarified by thoughtful eldership and clearness practices in advance and as ongoing support.

We had plans for a retreat on Eldering and Spiritual Accompaniment in Fall 2018 with Susan Smith, of Ohio YM (Conservative) which was delayed due to Susan’s health. The retreat will be held September 21, 2019, and we hope every meeting can send a representative.

We have also created a set of queries on Spiritual Accompaniment, which was distributed in March. We hope all meetings will take time to discuss the queries and send a response by July 15. We had set an earlier deadline but have had few responses. With the help of Pat Zarowin, Eric Halpirin-Lausch has developed a resource list, which has also been distributed. We particularly suggest Sandra Cronk's pamphlet on "Mutual Accountability." In the future, we may plan a retreat for Friends who feel a leading to travel in the ministry, and/or including a retreat for those called to ministry and their elders.

Earthcare Committee Report

At the time of this writing the Earthcare Committee has not convened since the close of OVYM 2018, though we will have met before the 2019 sessions. Members had committed to attempting visitation among Monthly Meetings to assess their condition and carry our concerns, This has not come to much fruition although Quarterly Meetings have provided opportunity to better understand the environmental challenges affecting Meetings and meeting houses and the various responses of these Meetings. It would be good if Meetings could better publicized their forward-thinking stewardship as an example to the wider society.

Although it would seem that most Friends recognize the reality of our environmental malaise and seek to live with accommodation to commonly understood personal environmental ethics, still a sense of urgency seems lacking. The greatest challenge to our committee is to find ways to remain spirit led while facing material and political crisis.

The Earthcare Committee plans to once again have a tabling presence and present Thursday and Friday opportunities for interest group conversation at Yearly Meeting. Please feel free to join us with your hopes and concerns.

David Duvall

Quaker Quill Report

As the editor of the Quill, I can report that the issues this year have gone out in a timely manner. I have been summarizing and incorporating news from various Quaker organizations as short articles in each issue. I would like to express gratitude to Susan Lee Barton, who has been faithful and careful as a proofreader. I am also grateful to the clerk of the YM, to the Faith and Practice committee, and to all the correspondents who send news about their monthly meetings. These notices help keep us connected through the year and bind us together. I also wish to thank our OVYM secretary, who distributes the Quill to everyone.

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. Catherine Roma, a member of Yellow Springs Meeting and retired professor from Wilmington College has been volunteering in prisons for almost 30 years. In the last 25 she has started prison choirs. The Braddock fund granted her \$3000 this year to help her stage Hamilton at Marion Correctional institute for a performance in November, 2019.

This year we also supported Ursula McTaggart, Associate English Professor at Wilmington College. She runs a college course that takes place in the Dayton Correctional institute where half the class is WC students and half inmates. We are also helping her attain Inside-Out training which should broaden her skills and allow her to volunteer at Warren County Correctional Facility.

Finally, our third major project this year was supporting Alternatives to Violence Project of Indiana with a \$3000 scholarship. This can assist three formerly incarcerated AVP trained individuals to attend their national conference.

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 who want scholarships to further their education. This year we received one such application from an incarcerated individual.

Current committee members are Steve Angell, Wilhelmina Branson, Christine Snyder and Wilson Palmer.

Sexual Misconduct Task Force Report

The OVYM Sexual Misconduct Task Force was authorized at last year's annual sessions when Friends recognized we need a policy for responding to allegations of sexual misconduct. The members of the Task Force are Bill Cahalan of Community FM; Susan Lee Barton of Clear Creek FM residing in Philadelphia; Lois Kay of North Meadow Circle of Friends; Palline Plum of Clear Creek FM; Ellen Galbraith and Chris Harmer of Louisville FM; and Gail Koehler, Joanna Badagliacca, and Betsy Neale of Lexington FM.

The task force has developed two documents that we are bringing for consideration at this year's sessions – one a policy for investigating allegations of sexual misconduct and the other a set of guidelines for discussing and educating ourselves about sexual misconduct. These documents are included below. We encourage Friends to read and consider them before they are brought up for consideration.

The Task Force recognizes that sexual misconduct is a complex topic. The policy we are presenting is incomplete. We plan to continue working on it. We will develop a training program for Friends asked to respond to and investigate allegations of sexual misconduct, a list of helpful resources, and a glossary. We also anticipate that as we become more experienced dealing with the issues regarding sexual conduct, we may want to make adjustments to the policy.

We welcome contributions to our work from other Friends.

OVYM Sexual Misconduct Policy (draft 5/31/19)

Notes to OVYM 2019 Session:

1. This policy statement is a work in progress, and the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct will continue to develop it further, based both on our own research and deliberations and on feedback from OVYM Friends.
2. This policy document refers to a training program that OVYM does not yet have. We will research this and develop a training program for those responding to an allegation of sexual misconduct.
3. Resources – the list included in the policy statement is incomplete. The Task Force will continue to collect resources to help Friends understand and respond to sexual misconduct. We welcome suggestions.

OVYM Sexual Misconduct Policy

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends holds as the basis of its faith the belief that divine truth and the gift of God's presence are available to all people in all ages. The indwelling presence of God implies the equal worth of all members of the human family and the capacity in all to discern spiritual truth and to hold direct communion with the Divine Spirit.

What binds us together as a spiritual community is... our sense of a common journey on a shared path, seeking the guidance of the Light. Our diversity strengthens us as we walk this path of love, compassion, and justice.

-- OVYM *Faith and Practice*

Within our meetings we come to know and care deeply for each other as we move through life's passages together. As in families and intimate groups, however, we inevitably step on each other's toes, intrude on another person or feel intruded upon, experience everything from everyday slights to more serious violations. OVYM has created this policy to help Friends deal specifically with sexual misconduct after our yearly meeting was asked to deal with an allegation of sexual assault. We offer this policy and accompanying Education Guidelines as an invitation to explore this difficult territory together.

The OVYM Sexual Misconduct Task Force presents this policy as a first step in developing our ability to respond to allegations of sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct is a complex issue, and for a host of reasons we may find it difficult to address. For example, the issues and dynamics involved may be new to our awareness, or thinking about sexual abuse of another person may be painful. We are not accustomed to discussing sexual behavior openly, or we worry we are violating another person's privacy, etc. As our awareness grows, we may recognize ways to develop this policy further. We encourage our quarterly and monthly meetings to adopt similar policies.

Though usually hidden, sexual misconduct is a common occurrence in our culture, and Friends are no exception. Sexual misconduct is a violation of the indwelling presence of the Light in both the target and

the perpetrator and thus of our testimonies. It can be hard to believe that it happens in our community. A recent allegation of sexual assault in one of our meetings, however, and a Friend's admission of sexually inappropriate behavior has made us realize that sexual misconduct happens right here in OVYM. Once we became aware of this incident, nine women spoke up at our annual sessions to say they, too, had experienced sexual misconduct.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting recognizes that sexual misconduct harms our communities by disrupting feelings of safety and harmony. We commit to assist monthly meetings to understand and actively address the problem and educate ourselves to create a healthy and respectful culture.

This policy applies to interactions between adults 18 years and older at Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting events.

Background and impact of sexual misconduct

- (1) Sexual misconduct encompasses any unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature that is committed without expressed, enthusiastic consent or committed by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation.
- (2) Sexual misconduct includes but is not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and sexual intimidation.
- (3) Sensitivity to sexual misconduct may vary among people and between generations, but the critical factor is the absence of enthusiastic consent.
- (4) Sexual misconduct can occur independent of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- (5) Sexual misconduct may vary in its severity and consists of a range of behaviors or attempted behaviors.
- (6) Sexual misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, including people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship.
- (7) Sexist cultural norms and power differences between people (e.g. men and women, older and younger, boss and employee) are factors that enable sexual misconduct.
- (8) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one woman in three will experience sexual violence in her lifetime. (Because many abuses go unreported, the true number of violations women and girls suffer is likely much higher.)
- (9) Therefore, it is very possible that the persons involved in any reported incident may have experienced previous sexual trauma.

Reporting

- Establish a group of trained Friends to whom a report/allegation can be made.
- Reporting can be structured to provide a path toward healing by including opportunities to share verbally and non-verbally factual information and emotional feelings.
- Reporting requirements – in some states one is required to report allegations of sexual misconduct between adults, under certain circumstances. Check your state regulations. If you have a local or statewide organization dedicated to issues of domestic violence, rape, or abuse, they can provide information, advice, and speakers.

When an allegation is made

1. As Friends we seek the guidance of the Light and to follow a path of love, compassion, and justice.
2. Because sexual misconduct often happens with no witnesses other than the individuals involved, it can be difficult to establish definitively what occurred.
3. The accuser, accused, and all people involved should be treated with respect and offered support. Perpetrators of sexual misconduct should be held lovingly accountable for their actions.

Investigation See Appendices A and B, below

The investigation should be initiated and conducted as quickly as possible after the accusation is received.

Treatment of the accused If Friends feel that the presence of the accused threatens the safety of the meeting, he or she will be asked not to attend meeting activities. Friends may offer to hold worship with the accused in a separate setting.

Resources (This section under construction)

The Sexual Misconduct Task Force will provide paper copies of resources for Friends who are unable to access the internet.

RAINN – the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network www.rainn.org This website provides information on various forms of sexual misconduct, a hotline, and a live chat feature.

Video – consent is like tea: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQbei5JGiT8>.

See: “The role of reconciliation and forgiveness,” which includes “the seven elements of justice making” found online at: <https://survivorsawakenthechurch.com/tag/marie-fortune/>.

Appendix A

Procedures following a report of sexual misconduct

These procedures have been developed by the OVYM Task Group on Sexual Misconduct. The Executive Committee of OVYM encourages the reporting of harassment and misconduct.

Because these incidents involve high emotions, these procedures are designed to assist clerks of committees and monthly meetings to have an established procedure to follow to ensure that such charges are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. The following procedure has been adapted for use at OVYM events. In addition, Monthly Meetings are encouraged to use this form to investigate incidents that are brought to their attention. Should a Monthly Meeting desire assistance in responding to such an incident, OVYM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee, tasked with pastoral care of the Yearly Meeting, has trained members who are available for consultation or accompaniment. Contact _____.

NOTE: It is most important that clerks or other committee members who undertake an investigation of misconduct have received training from OVYM. Historically, secrecy and silence have ensured that many of these accusations are not fully investigated. Perpetrators have attacked the credibility of their victims, and marshaled arguments that include denials and elegant rationalizations. (See: "The role of reconciliation and forgiveness," which includes "the seven elements of justice making" found online at: <https://survivorsawakenthechurch.com/tag/marie-fortune/>). Care must be taken to ensure that the accused individual does not attack the character of the person making the accusation. It may be necessary to require individuals to refrain from events until the investigation is complete. Full details of these steps are explored at length in the training.

Providing Support

As important as this investigation process is, the person making the accusation must also be supported emotionally, spiritually, and socially. We suggest that different Friends undertake the tasks of a) conducting the investigation and b) providing support. In consultation with the person who has experienced trauma, seek outside help as appropriate (RN&E is available for consultation through this process: see contact, above).

1. The target of sexual misconduct is encouraged to file a confidential, written report of the incident. [see Appendix B below]
2. At least three individuals who have received training in responding to sexual misconduct allegations review the accusation. They then establish contact with the individual who has been accused of misconduct. A verbal interview is conducted, with notes taken. If desired, the accused may make a written report to add to the interview.
3. The person who made the initial report accusing misconduct should be advised that the above steps have been taken. As they receive support and possible counseling, they should also be advised not to discuss the complaint with members of the meeting not directly involved in the investigation.

4. The investigation may include interviewing any witnesses, relevant documents, and producing a final report detailing findings and recommendations.

5. Upon being advised of the investigators' findings, The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and members of Religious Nurture and Education determine any action required, which may include preventative and corrective action.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is required to properly investigate an incident and to offer appropriate support to all parties involved. The balance of ensuring confidentiality while promoting a transparent process to combat secrecy and denial is a delicate one. Investigators and clerks are encouraged to seek assistance from RN&E members from whom they received training on this issue, as necessary.

Monitor and Review

The investigators, clerks, and members providing support to the target of misconduct should establish with that individual their preferred methods and frequency of contact in the ongoing process of healing.

Record Keeping

Records of the initial complaint, the investigation process, and any decisions and steps taken should be kept.

APPENDIX B

Form for reporting an incident of sexual misconduct

The purpose of this report is to initiate an investigation around an alleged incident(s) of sexual misconduct involving adults 18 or over, occurring at an Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting event.

DIRECTIONS: Please complete this report and forward it in a sealed envelope marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL to the Clerk of Religious Nurture and Education.

A formal, confidential investigation will be initiated upon receipt of the completed/signed report. Drawings or other non-verbal forms of expression may be preferred forms of expression.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Name of individual(s) directly involved in the incident:

Witnesses: _____

Description of the Incident (use additional page(s) if necessary):

Can you express the impact this conduct has had on you, as you understand it at the present time?

Recommendations (if any):

Reported by (please print):

Report received by:

Date of Report:

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting takes every complaint of harassment or misconduct very seriously. A person making a complaint is encouraged to provide as much information and detail as he or she can to assist the Yearly Meeting in handling the complaint.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting an incident is strictly prohibited.

Please note that a deliberately false or malicious complaint is considered to be a serious matter.

OVYM Sexual Misconduct Task Force
Draft 5/31/19
Education Guidelines

Notes to OVYM 2019 Session:

- These education guidelines are a work in progress. The Task Force on Sexual Misconduct will continue to develop them further, based both on our own research and deliberations and on feedback from OVYM Friends.
- Glossary – the Task Force is in the process of developing the glossary. We welcome suggestions.

Education Guidelines – Sexual Misconduct

In conjunction with the development of a policy for addressing sexual misconduct, we present these queries. We hope they will help Friends think about sexual misconduct, and how to address allegations of sexual misconduct, should they arise in our meetings.

Queries

Following is a list of challenges Friends may feel in confronting sexual misconduct – allegations or even just talking about it abstractly. These challenges may keep us from addressing sexual misconduct in a healthy way and may interfere with maintaining an emotionally and physically safe and nurturing spiritual community:

- Desire to avoid conflict
- Desire not to make others uncomfortable or fear of own discomfort
- Belief that such things should not be exposed.
- When the accused is married or in a relationship - we shouldn't interfere in another person's marriage/relationship – how will making this behavior known affect or hurt the partner?
- What constitutes credibility when it comes to allegations?
- What if the alleged perpetrator is a person well respected in the meeting?
- The alleged behavior is something “foreign” to my experience, and I find it hard to understand/believe

As Friends, what is our responsibility to our community in confronting sexual misconduct and making our communities safe spaces?

Do we have a responsibility to make others aware of the allegation against Friend X in order to protect others he/she might harass or assault?

Is keeping the allegation(s) secret a form of dishonesty and a violation of integrity?

What practices do we need to adopt in order to prevent sexual misconduct?

What practices do we need to adopt in teaching our children and youth?

What practices do we need to adopt for adult Friends?

The OVYM policy on sexual misconduct defines consent to sexual behavior as requiring enthusiastic agreement. Is enthusiasm a necessary feature of consent? Why or why not?

Is it difficult to talk with a partner about sex? How does this affect the relationship? How can I/we learn to be better at communicating about difficult issues?

Support (under development)

- As Friends who strive to see the Light in all people, how do we provide support to all Friends including the accuser, the accused, witnesses, and survivors.

Glossary (under development)

Sexual harassment – Harassment is defined as unwanted behavior generally involving the exercise of formal or informal power by one person over another. Harassment is defined by both the feelings of the person who experiences it and by the intentions of the other person. What one person might consider an innocent comment or behavior could actually be experienced as harassment by another person. For example, people may have different comfort levels about being touched.

Sexual harassment does not always have to be specifically about sexual behavior or directed at a specific person. For example, negative comments about women as a group may be a form of sexual harassment. Although sexual harassment laws do not usually cover teasing or offhand comments, these behaviors can also be upsetting and have a negative emotional effect.

Sexual misconduct – Sexual misconduct is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence (including domestic violence and dating violence), stalking, and related acts of retaliation.

(examples include) – See Canadian YM

Sexual assault – forcible or non-forcible sexual act or sexual contact that occurs without the consent or permission of the other person.

Sexual consent – agreement to participate in a sexual activity. Characteristics of consent are that it is freely given, reversible, informed, enthusiastic, and specific. (FRIES)

This formulation is from Planned Parenthood. The following website includes definitions and some clear videos that explain what consent is and is not and how to ask for and give consent without being awkward.

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/sex-and-relationships/sexual-consent>

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

Central Committee (FGC's mostly volunteer governing board) has done significant work to make FGC more financially sustainable over the past two years. FGC does not exist without the contributions and active volunteer participation of you-- individual Friends, Monthly Meetings, and Yearly Meetings. We also need your feedback on what's working, what needs improvement, and what's missing.

Institutional Assessment

In 2017, Central Committee united around the need to undertake an institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization. After two years of work, the Institutional Assessment Task Force's report and recommendations are now available at the FGC website section www.fgcquaker.org/report.

As a result of the Task Force's report and recommendations, FGC has created an Implementation Group to guide the transformation of FGC into an anti-racist organization. FGC has committed to confront and heal white supremacy within our organization and, as a model, among FGC Friends.

Spiritual Deepening

The Spiritual Deepening Library has been updated, expanded, and is now FREE for both online and face-to-face groups. Quakers and newcomers of all ages can explore: Quaker roots; growing as a spiritual community; and listening deeply to the Light within. Topics for the 4-week formatted sessions include: Silence and Expectant Waiting; Living into Wholeness; Aging, Death, and Dying; Becoming Patterns & Examples; and Understanding and Healing White Supremacy. Please see the FGC website for upcoming eRetreat dates.

FGC Gathering

The 2019 Gathering (June 30th to July 6th) will be at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA, with the theme, "Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World." Thanks to a generous donation, program fees for children and teens are waived and more discounts and scholarships are available.

QuakerBooks Our online bookstore, www.quakerbooks.org, continues to meet demands for key media resources by local meetings, yearly meetings, and individuals. In 2018, our inventory was moved to a professional "fulfillment" warehouse. That has resulted in enhanced customer service and faster online and phone orders. We continue to provide consignments to yearly meeting sessions and other events.

Quaker Press publishes new books and pamphlets related to Friends' individual spiritual interests and meeting programs.

Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee connects Quakers with faith-based events and discussions about truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Quaker Cloud, our user-friendly web platform for a monthly or yearly meeting, has undergone a number of technical improvements and now uses professional technical support. It is an easy-to-maintain, low cost, and feature-rich website, e.g., with a minute manager and member directory. Approximately 150 meetings/Quaker organizations use the Quaker Cloud.

Ministry on Racism empowers individual Friends and Quaker meetings to confront and heal the wounds of white supremacy, challenge racism, and help Friends co-create communities that are more accessible and equitable. Specific projects include the Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color and their Families, organizing Friends to attend the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), and regional gatherings for Friends of Color and their Families.

Friends Meeting House Fund supports Quaker meetings by guiding meetings through the process of securing a loan or grant to: buy or renovate a meeting house; to add other structures on meeting house property; or to increase the energy efficiency of meeting houses.

New Program Areas

Welcoming Friend Project is a newer initiative that helps meetings throughout the United States and Canada welcome visitors and newcomers more fully into the life of Quaker meetings, with a specific focus on the unique needs of newcomers from a variety of backgrounds.

FGC Connector This is a critical new direction for FGC—to facilitate web and face-to-face interaction and resource sharing directly between and among monthly and yearly meetings across North America. Ultimately, the success of FGC efforts to help yearly meetings cross-fertilize would depend on the yearly meetings' interest and participation in that planning.

Friends for LGBTQ Concerns Report

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) is a North American Quaker faith community that affirms that of God in all people. FLGBTQC gathers twice a year for worship and play, in February and during the FGC Gathering in July. During these gatherings Friends “draw sustenance from each other and from the Spirit for our work and life in the world. We are learning that radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life.”

I have not been able to attend FLGBTQC meetings, so I cannot provide experience-based information. However, I want to point out that FLGBTQC is collecting minutes from monthly and yearly meetings. They are collecting Marriage Minutes that affirm same-sex Quaker marriages and other commitment ceremonies. They are also collecting minutes that specifically welcome and affirm transgender people as well as minutes that more generally affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

To increase Friends' understanding of gender as non-binary, I will be offering a workshop about the continuum of gender during annual sessions this year. In particular, I will provide gender definitions, discuss the use of pronouns when introducing oneself, and offer queries to elicit conversation. As our gender identity is a deep aspect of ourselves that is relevant to our connection with ourselves and each other, I believe this workshop will give us an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and each other as we work to develop our sacred connections more fully.

If you are interested in learning more about FLGBTQ Concerns or want to submit a minute, visit their website at <https://www.flgbtqc.org/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

Amelia Kagan, FCNL Legislative Director for Domestic Policy, opened FCNL's 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting, held November 28 – December 2 in Washington, D.C., with a powerful message: *“When courageous action is required, God calls on ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary.”*

The 2018 Annual Meeting included setting legislative priorities for the 116th Congress and a two-day Quaker Public Policy Institute focused on training and lobbying to protect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). OVYM was represented by General Committee members Marcia Matthews and Jamie Young.

Earlier in 2018, FCNL called on Friends and their meetings, churches, and worship groups to discern which public policy issues they felt were the most pressing for the next Congress. Robust participation led to a 20% increase in participation from 2016. The legislative priorities were approved by FCNL's General Committee on December 1st and follow this report.

FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day brought over 400 people to Washington, D.C., carrying out 193 lobby visits representing 45 states with 39 different Members of Congress. More than 300 people stayed on for FCNL's Annual Meeting and 75th Anniversary celebration, affirming the direction of the Forward Plan as outlined by staff and conducting the business of the organization. FCNL awarded the Edward R. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace to Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17) for his steadfast work to prevent war with North Korea, to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and to strengthen U.S. diplomacy Abroad.

2018 brought tremendous growth in FCNL's Advocacy Team network. With 26 new Advocacy Teams forming this year. FCNL now supports over 1,500 Quakers and friends in 113 teams around the country, a 30% increase from just a year ago. The greatest value of Advocacy Teams comes from the community-building work done by staying focused on a single topic for a long time, even when it's out of the headlines.

Central to FCNL's work is a continued commitment to recruiting and training young adults across the country to be advocates for peace, justice, and a sustainable planet. This year 18 Advocacy Corps organizers – who work part-time in their home congressional districts – lobbied on police demilitarization. Five summer interns, 10 full year Program Assistants, and 450+ participants in the 2018 annual Spring Lobby Weekend rounded out FCNL's lobbying power in Washington.

FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

- Peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduction of military spending and armed interventions.
- Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- A criminal justice system that is just and equitable, eliminates mass incarceration and promotes law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- An immigration system that promotes and respects the rights, safety and dignity of all immigrants, refugees and migrants.
- Equitable access for all to participation in an open and transparent political process.

- Ending gun violence including through the support of policies informed by public health best practices.
- Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.
- Economic justice and equity; strengthen programs that meet basic needs including universal access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- Sustainable solutions to climate change, including reducing fossil fuel use, increasing renewable energy, strengthening environmental protections, promoting international cooperation, and protecting vulnerable populations.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

As in the past, my direct knowledge of AFSC activities is focused on the Indiana office and program, especially this year, as I was unable to attend the annual corporate meeting.

While struggling with the financial concerns of the national and international program funding, the Indianapolis office continued its work organizing and coordinating ally relationships like Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance, Black Lives Matter, and Communities Against Islamophobia, especially addressing issues related emigration and race in our community with training and educational events. A monthly Shabbat-for-All has initiated interfaith conversations monthly.

Successful fundraising events were held in both Bloomington and Indianapolis. The latter event presented awards to ally individuals and organizations recognizing their support and solidarity.

David Duvall

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Report

The QEW Steering Committee gathered in mid-April in the Twin Cities (MN) under the shadow of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, saying that the time is now to avert planetary disaster. We were inspired by the young climate activists who remind us of the urgency of our work. We know that personal and spiritual transformation must be the foundation of our work, and that transformation will be the doorway to the beloved community. For 30 years, we have worked to help Friends integrate Earthcare into their daily lives. As the earth gets hotter and our communities are being impacted more and more, we feel an urgent leading to share our witness.

PUBLICATIONS include BeFriending Creation. We distributed a set of outreach materials to help promote QEW's work at monthly and yearly meetings including an introductory brochure, a poster, and a list of "What Can I Do." We distributed our trifold on Environmental Justice, describing the disproportionate impact environmental stress often has in disadvantaged communities.

ENHANCED LOCAL EARTHCARE PROJECTS Each year, QEW offers mini-grants to Quaker meetings/churches and other Quaker organizations to support hand-on projects that foster earthcare.

ACROSS THE BRANCHES At the March 2019 Friends World Committee on Consultation Section of the Americas meeting, Friends from across the branches of the Religious Society of Friends came together to express our love for the land and our dedication to environmental justice, with each of us grounded in spirit along our own path.

FINANCES After several years of running deficits, this fiscal year showed a healthy surplus. We were delighted to have been successful in raising our budget, and we will prudently allocate this surplus in the following fiscal year to a mixture of reserves and one-time expenditures. In October, our Steering Committee confidently approved an increase of 10% in our annual budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year, in order to bring our staff closer to the US Labor Department's recommended pay for non-profit employees.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This July (2019) we are bringing together leaders of African descent who are working in our communities on the issues of water and food sovereignty for a meeting at U.N. Headquarters during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The African Diaspora Earthcare Coalition, convened by Quaker Earthcare Witness and its United Nations Working Group, works to educate, advocate, and create solidarity networks.

Barb Adams' film, "Quaker Earthcare Witness: A Panorama", is ready to go! It can be viewed for worship sharing, inspiration, discussion, etc. Contact Barb at barb5100@comcast.net for the latest on how to access it.

The 2019 Fall Annual Gathering is set for Thursday, October 3rd thru Sunday, October 6th at Pendle Hill Conference Center.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report

The Section Meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas was held in good order in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, USA from March 18-24, 2019. We came together as Quakers from across the Americas to explore "Who is my neighbor?" and "How can we all be Friends?" through workshops, worship, Scripture and the ministry of FWCC Traveling Ministers. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting was represented by Anne M. Hutchinson and Foote Lund.

The first few days were devoted to meetings of the Committee of Latin American Friends and the annual training of the Traveling Ministry Corps. Many of the working committees of the Section met Thursday morning. The plenary sessions began Thursday night, with a welcome from Friends in neighboring yearly meetings. It ended on Sunday morning after plenary worship. This year, over 160 people participated, which was a significant increase over the last few years. Engaging speakers brought the message during semi-programmed worship each morning, including Joel Cook, Virginia Jalire Quispe, Emily Provance and Dave Williams. There were workshops on spiritual discipline and practice, earthkeeping, and marketing for Friends, daily Bible study, and unprogrammed worship

In a time of conflict and uncertainty, the biannual Section Meeting provides vital opportunities for personal encounters with Friends, and spiritual transformation through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Inward Christ, the Light Within.

Nominations for new officers and members of committees, program groups, and resource groups for the period 2019-2021 were approved. David Shiner will now serve as Clerk. He is a member of Evanston Monthly Meeting and a former clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting. He is a retired professor of philosophy

at Shimer College (now the Shimer Great Books School at North Central College), where he taught for 40 years and served as Dean of the College, director of their Oxford and Young Scholars programs. His interests include baseball, music, and chess. He grew up in rural New Jersey, began his college studies at Temple University in Philadelphia, and lives in Chicago with his wife, Nancy Wallace. David first came to a Section Meeting in 2003 and he continues to be inspired to learn more about Friends worldwide. He says, "My experiences at FWCC gatherings have deepened my faith in ways I never expected." Over his years with FWCC, he has served on the Wider Quaker Fellowship committee, the communications program group, the nominating committee and the International Nominations Committee.

Outgoing Clerk Benigno Sanchez-Eppler of New England Yearly Meeting now serves as Assistant Clerk, Beverly Shull of Ohio Yearly Meeting as Treasurer, and Foote Lund of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting as Recording Clerk. The Executive Committee report reflected the enthusiastic reappointment of Executive Secretary Robin Mohr for another two-year term. The treasurer's report commented on a clean audit. The Section, as well as the World Office, continue to face financial challenges and are dependent on donations to maintain and grow the important work of FWCC.

The Friends World Committee for Consultation welcomed the North Carolina Fellowship of Friends into affiliation with the Section of the Americas as of March 22, 2019.

On Saturday afternoon, the Section recognized the many contributions of the interpreters team to the life of the Section of the Americas. The following minute was prepared:

The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas gratefully acknowledges the profound impact of the Interpreters Team on the Section, its business meetings and its committees. Their dedication to full inclusion of all Friends in the deliberations of the Section and the planning of our work has changed everything we do: how and where we plan events, how we make decisions, call Friends to service, write our documents and develop our vision for the future.

We thank God for these brothers and sisters, their many hours of volunteer work, their enthusiasm and eldering, and for the high quality of the translation and interpretation services over more than 30 years. Without their work, we would not be the vibrant spiritual community we have become, and that, with their help, we will continue to become in the future.

Among remarks made by attenders were the appreciation of the opportunity to worship and have fellowship with evangelical Friends, and a sense of encouragement about the depth of care about the environment across the spectrum of Friends.

Further information about FWCC Section of the Americas can be found at <https://fwccamericas.org/>. There, you can find documents, links to other resources, and information about getting involved or donating. You can also sign up for the newsletter.

World Quaker Day will be observed, as usual, on the first Sunday of October, which will fall on October 6 this year. For information and ideas about how to participate, please visit <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

Submitted in humble service,
Anne M. Hutchinson

Executive Committee Minutes 2018-19

Executive Committee Meeting August 25, 2018 Community Friends Meeting

- The clerk, Martha Viehmann, opened the meeting with gathering silence.

- **Roll Call**

Bloomington Monthly Meeting: Elaine Emmi and Christine Carver

Campus Monthly Meeting: No Representative

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting: Cathy Habschmidt

Community Monthly Meeting: Frank Huss and Eric Wolff

Dayton Monthly Meeting: Nikki Coffey Tousley

Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting: Dale Hayes

Englewood Monthly Meeting: No Representative

Fall Creek Monthly Meeting: No representative

Fort Wayne Monthly Meeting: Terre Holada

Lafayette Monthly Meeting: Michele Tomarelli

Lexington Monthly Meeting: Richard Mitchell

Louisville Monthly Meeting: No representative

Miami Monthly Meeting Lonny Burger

North Meadow Monthly Meeting: No Representative

Oxford Monthly Meeting: Doug Jones

White Rose Monthly Meeting: No representative

Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting: Deb Kociszewski

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami Quarter Peter Hardy not in attendance

Whitewater Clerk Terre Holada

Officers and Staff

Clerk Martha Viehmann

Assistant Clerk Betsy Neale

Recording Clerk Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk John and Elizabeth Edminster

Treasurer Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer Dale Hayes

Co-Statistician Frank Hess - Bill Heilbrun was not present

Administrative Secretary Deborah Jordan

Web Admin Lonny Burger

Youth Services Secretary Kaia Jackson

Committee Clerks or Representatives

Adult Young Friends: Kaia Jackson

Auditing: Veronica Frost, sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Dale Hayes
Earthcare: David Duvall, not present
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Steve Angell
Records Coordinators Susan Hyde
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley
Website Administrator: Lonny Burger
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Youth Services Committee: David Funck

- **Nominating Committee**, Co-clerk, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, reported.
 1. The committee confirmed that the term for the Assistant Recording Co-Clerks will be a four-year term. Those names were approved.
 2. Elizabeth and John Edminster will act as assistant recording co-clerks for one year (2018-2019), then act as recording co-clerks the next two years (2019-2020, 2020-2021) and conclude as assistant recording co-clerks the final year (2021-2022). Given the additional year that Terre Holada is serving, the recording clerk term has shifted out of alignment with the presiding clerk's term. While it is preferable that the terms of Clerk and Recording Clerk coincide, the committee concluded that it is okay if they do not.
 3. In order to ensure that OVYM representatives are reported to Quaker organizations, the committee has developed a structure that helps to ensure follow through. The committee has associated committee members with each Quaker organization who will act as liaisons.
 4. The committee is in the process of discerning names for the terms starting this coming year. The particular focus areas are the following committees: Children's Program, Planning, Religious Nurture & Education, and Youth Services. Anyone who knows of Friends who may be called to serve the yearly meeting in these areas, is encouraged to contact their monthly meeting representative, Diann Herzog or Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson.

4. **Handbook Update for Executive Committee**, Richard Mitchell reported.

The proposed revision is attached. There were several major changes. The first change was how we select Monthly Meeting Representatives to the Executive Committee. We are asking for a representative and an alternate. There was clarification on who should attend EC. The duties were only slightly changed. There is more emphasis on oversight of Yearly Meeting committees. The clerk is responsible for informing everyone of when the meeting will be and being sure members are aware of it well in advance. The EC will no longer find a Naming Committee to fill the Nominating Committee. Monthly Meetings will be appointing representatives to serve on the Nominating Committee. There may need to be more discussion on this process.

There was a question on how this committee spends money. The clerk suggested that this may need more attention and revision. The Budget and Finance Committee could discuss this and come back with a recommendation. A Friend reminded us that this committee, by definition, has the authority to transact business between Yearly Meeting sessions; therefore, the committee does not need special permission to spend money.

There is not a process in place for updating the handbook, so officers and committees should be responsible for changing the information as needed. Those revisions must then be approved by the

Executive Committee. There was also a question of printing and distributing *Faith and Practice* once it has been completely updated. This book shall always be available in electronic form.

The revision was accepted as a work in progress. Further revisions will be brought back in November for approval.

5. **Handbook Description for Web Administrator**, Lonny Burger reported. Document is attached.

The document was approved as a description of what the Web Administrator currently does, knowing that changes can be made as necessary.

6. **Handbook list of revisions**. Proposed document is attached.

The document was approved.

7. **Youth Services Committee**, David Funck reported.

Kaia Jackson, Youth Services Secretary was introduced.

The committee is working on programming for youth including Joint Quarterly Meeting, The Quake that Rocks the Midwest in January, and OVYM Sessions. There will be intentional work to grow services to our youth. There is also talk of a trip or retreat perhaps with several age groups.

All Monthly Meetings are asked to help make a list of the youth, members and nonmembers, in OVYM. Representatives are asked to email Kaia that information at ovymyouthsecretary@gmail.com. Also inform your Monthly Meeting clerks to work with Kaia on a visit to each Monthly Meeting to visit the youth. She would like to be with the youth in First Day School and also be given a chance to address the Meeting.

There is a need for a Support Committee for the Youth Secretary. One member should come from the EC. Kaia shared that she is looking for someone who is passionate about our youth and who can think outside of the box. Names were raised as possibilities. The clerk will contact the one person named after clarifying the responsibilities on the position.

8. **Youth Secretary Report**, Kaia Jackson reported.

She would like Friends to contact her for any ideas to help our youth - including comedy improv! Please!

9. **Zoom Video Conferencing**, Deborah Jordan reported.

It costs \$14.99 a month or \$149.90 a year. Many Friends shared when they are planning to use it. It is important to know that only one group may use it at a time. Friends felt that saving \$30.00 a year was not a concern. It would be best to pay for the full year so that in an emergency it is available. A Friend said that it is less than one travel reimbursement. We can keep records and revisit it next year. Zoom has a calendar that should help with time conflicts. Deborah will be investigating whether she can get a report from Zoom on how often our account was used. It is not recommended to use the technology for Quarterly Meetings. There was a document shared with the account information sent to EC members. Friends may also contact Deborah.

Friends approved paying the annual price.

10. **Treasurer's Report**, Wilson Palmer reported.

A question was raised on a discrepancy on page two. Wilson said there will almost always be a discrepancy there since he is almost always waiting for something to clear the bank, or other delays.

The report was accepted.

11. **The draft letter to the president of Wilmington College RE: Quaker Heritage Center.** Susan Hyde reported.

There has not been a change from the original letter presented at OVYM because the committee could not decide how to change the letter. Today there was opposition to the letter as it is written. We cannot rewrite it at this time.

12. **Trip to England** - Paulette Meier and Diann Herzog were not able to be present, but Friends were anxious to hear about their trip. The clerk will contact them about submitting a report, perhaps to be published in *The Quill*.

13. **Budget and Finance**, Dale Hayes reported.

The committee recommended that the ad hoc Development Committee established to help raise monies to cover our budget deficit be made a standing committee to raise money for general or specific items. The original members of the committee could be asked if they would like to be a part of this committee. Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, speaking for the Nominating Committee, said that they would be happy to work on that as long as it's clear what the responsibilities are. A Friend said that this should be tabled until Yearly Meeting as it is a major decision to add a committee when we are already having trouble filling current committees. Friends feel that guidelines for this committee need to be written first. The clerk asked if we could send this back to Budget and Finance for more development. Thanks was expressed to Budget and Finance for their proposal. Friends approved letting the Budget and Finance Committee work on the details of the Development Committee and presenting the information to us in November.

The committee is looking to transfer our banking to US Bank. They asked if there were objections to using US Bank. Friends confirmed that the committee can make that decision.

The committee will be looking into funds that are already established that could be renamed to make their purpose more clear.

Since Quaker Heights will no longer be a ministry of our Yearly Meeting, that budget item will be deleted. There is \$2,000.00 budgeted to them but we will not be paying that now. Friends approved.

It is recommended to eliminate the donation to Wilmington College's General Fund and divide that amount between The Quaker Heritage Center and Quaker Archives. This led to a large discussion on supporting Quakerism in general and Quaker education. There was a concern about changing the budget at this time. We did not approve the recommendation and there will be no change to the budget in this regard.

14. **Revision of Policy for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention**, Deborah Jordan reporting

There were a few changes made. There are several people who have large changes they would like to see, but it has been difficult to meet. The smaller group will meet to work that out.

15. **Task Group on Sexual Misconduct**, Betsy Neale reporting.

The name of this group hasn't really been decided upon. The word "misconduct" is not meant to minimize the work of this group. There is a need for more Friends to help this work. The committee would appreciate hearing from Friends who have some expertise in this area. Males would be welcomed and appreciated. There is a self-education component needing to be met. They have gathered previous work on this topic from other Quaker bodies.

16. Announcements

Joint Quarterly Meeting will be October 21st and 22nd.

Yellow Springs will be meeting at the Green Plain Meetinghouse in St. Charleston 11:15 am Meeting for Worship and potluck. Bring something to share. Friends will meet at the Yellow Springs Meetinghouse to carpool.

Community Friends Meeting 50th Anniversary Sunday September 30th.

Richmond Civic theater will be performing *Sister Act* tomorrow. Come and see our own Kaia performing!

3.5.6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Attachment)

APPOINTMENT:

Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint for a term of two years two persons to represent it on this committee. It shall designate one person the Representative and the other the Alternate. It is expected that one of these will represent the Monthly Meeting at each meeting of the Committee. Such representation may be by participating in person or electronically. In the event the Representative is unable to participate, the Alternate shall represent the meeting. Terms shall begin and end at the end of the annual sessions of the Yearly Meeting. Monthly Meetings appointing two or more representatives shall arrange staggered terms of office. The clerks of the Yearly Meeting shall serve as clerks of the Executive Committee by reason of their appointments.

Executive Committee will establish a regular schedule of meetings that coordinate with Annual Sessions. When Annual Sessions are held in June, Executive Committee will meet in August, November, February (typically by conference call) and April.

The Yearly Meeting, if it wishes to do so, may appoint members at large in addition to those named by the Monthly Meetings.

In addition, a member of each Yearly Meeting committee shall designate a member to serve a one-year term on the Executive Committee. These committee representatives shall report on their committees' work to the Executive Committee and serve as liaisons between their committees and the Executive Committee.¹⁸

DUTIES:

This committee shall transact business for the Yearly Meeting between its annual sessions in all cases where the welfare of our Society makes this desirable, and shall carry out instructions given it by the Yearly Meeting.

In general its duties should include printing and distributing Friendly literature, furnishing forms to Monthly Meetings for use in keeping records of membership, transfers, births, marriages and deaths, maintaining a current list of members with their addresses, endeavoring to extend the knowledge of our principles, rendering advice and assistance to Meetings in the matter of property and trusts, upon their request, and to individuals who feel the need of support in maintaining our testimonies. The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility for overseeing the maintenance and updating of a Yearly Meeting Handbook so that it accurately reflects the practices and procedures of the Yearly Meeting. This Committee shall keep in close and sympathetic touch with other committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting and help to coordinate their work. It may act for the Yearly Meeting in all matters when that body is not in session, except that it shall not make changes in the OVYM Faith and Practice or issue any statement of faith.

The Executive Committee shall appoint the members of the Personnel Committee. The Executive Committee also receives the names of those persons named to support committees for staff and those presiding at the Clerks' Table (Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Recording Clerk).

MEETINGS:

The committee may fix its own times of meeting, except that its clerk shall call special meetings upon the request of three members of the Committee. The clerk of each Monthly Meeting as well as appointed representatives should be notified of each committee meeting. It is advised that important action be taken only after the judgment of the committee has been obtained.

MINUTES:

The committee shall keep full and complete minutes and render to the Yearly Meeting reports of all business transacted.

FUNDS:

Drafts may be drawn against the treasury of the Yearly Meeting under proper authorization.

17 Faith and Practice, The Executive

18 Minutes of the business session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 1997, Minute 27.

Revisions approved by Executive Committee 8.25.18

3.3.5 WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR (Attachment)

APPOINTMENT:

Named by Nominating Committee and approved by Yearly Meeting in session. Term is one-year renewable.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Website Administrator is responsible for the construction and maintenance of OVYM.Quaker.org. This includes regular updates to the calendar, news, and other pages as requests, events, and articles are submitted. In support of this, the administrator will:

- Obtain a user login and password from Friends Publishing to access the Quaker.org server.
- Contact Friends Publishing upon change of Website Administrator to arrange for the email aliasing (redirect) for Webmaster@ovym.quaker.org to redirect to the email of the new administrator.
- Maintain the website, keeping pages and information current by regular updates as requested from those with authority to do so. This includes Monthly Meeting representatives requesting updates to the individual Monthly Meeting Pages.
- Administer and promote the OVYM Facebook Page, making postings as requested. Admin on this account is shared with the OVYM Secretary and will be transferred to the incoming Administrator when the position is transferred.
- Encrypt email addresses and take other actions to assure reasonable security for the personal information visible on the website.

- Rebuild the website periodically to add new features as changes in technology allow. Test the rebuild by uploading to a beta folder and checking functionality and display on a variety of web browsers and devices (e.g., tablet and smartphone).
- Provide an annual report on the website to OVYM for Reports in Advance and provide a verbal report during OVYM Annual Sessions, and make occasional reports to Executive Committee.
- Photograph Annual Sessions and other special events and post the photos via Google Picassa or similar service or application.
- Maintain Statistics of monthly visits via Google Analytics or other similar service and include the trends in the annual report to OVYM. Administrator will create and maintain a user account for Analytics.
- Maintain the OVYM Handbook in Coordination with the OVYM Admin Secretary and Yearly Meeting Clerk. Publish updated versions of the Handbook to the Website in PDF format.
- Maintain the Faith and Practice in coordination with the Faith and Practice Committee and publish updated copy to the Website in PDF format.
- Convert requested documents to PDF when website publication is requested. Link event announcement to documents as requested.
- Coordinate with the OVYM Admin Secretary and Registrar to create a fill-in PDF and formatting it to the save and email format. Publish that PDF to the website and add a link on the Annual Sessions Page.
- Maintain the OVYM Forms using Adobe Acrobat, updating as requested by the Treasurer, Statistician, and the OVYM Admin Secretary so that fillable forms are current on the Forms Page.
- Research and resolve issues reported by users.
- Maintain Events and News Headlines information on the Home Page.
- Maintain the events calendar for the OVYM Calendar Page using Google Calendar or other service. For this, administrator will create a user account and link information for that calendar copied to the Calendar Page.
- Edit/preview recordings as provided on CDs from Annual Sessions and Special Events and load them to the server with appropriate links. Maintain the Annual Sessions and Special Events recordings on the site for three years, then remove the links from the Annual Sessions/Special Event Pages and MP3 files from the server to conserve space.
- Maintain backups of all files to deal with unexpected losses of files.

Revisions approved by Executive Committee 8.25.18

HANDBOOK REVISIONS (Attachment) 8.25.18

2.1 Update Whitewater Quarter Schedule

3.1.1 Needs updating: Youth Secretary description (change committee name if nothing else)

3.1.3 Remove the Middle Youth Coord. description

3.2.1 Presiding Clerk

Under responsibilities

Calendar adjustment:

August, November, February, and April for EC meetings (not Oct., Feb., April)

EC sometimes meets at Annual sessions in June (not July, August)

3.3.1 Needs Updating Quaker Quill Editor

3.4.2 Change name of Epistolary Committee to the Epistle Committee

3.5.13 Planning Committee: Take out Middle youth reference and change Teen to Youth Services Committee

3.5.7 Remove the Middle Youth Committee description

3.5.8 Remove the Naming Committee as Nominating Committee is now appointed by Monthly Meetings

3.5.8 Needs Updating Nominating Committee description

3.5.13 Needs Updating Teen Activities Committee

3.6 Representatives to other organizations (delete out of date contact info – available on the web)

3.6.1 AFSC Attend the annual meeting (delete date of Oct.)

3.7.2 Remove Quaker Heights

Note: There will be numbering changes as we update.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
November 3, 2018
Earlham College

1. Opening worship

2. Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale

Recording Clerk: Terre Holada

Assistant Recording Clerk: John Edminster

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes sends regrets

Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: (no representative)

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets

Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer

Budget & Finance: Steve Angell

Earthcare: (no representative)

Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse via Zoom

Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell

Personnel: Steve Angell

Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley sends regrets

Web Administrator: Lonny Burger not present

Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons

Youth Services Committee: David Funck via Zoom

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Peter Hardy via Zoom

Whitewater: Terre Holada

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Elaine Emmi via Zoom

Campus: (no representative)

Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt

Community: Eric Wolff

Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley sends regrets

Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer

Englewood: no representative

Fall Creek: Diann Herzog sends regrets

Fort Wayne: Terre Holada

Lafayette: (no representative)

Lexington: Richard Mitchell

Louisville: Chris Harmer sends regrets

Miami: (no representative)
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall sends regrets
Oxford: Doug Jones
White Rose: (no representative)
Yellow Springs: Deb K. and Tim Morand
Staff
Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson
Visitor
Jamie Young from Oxford Friends Meeting

3. Introduction: In order for newcomers to feel at ease, Clerk Martha said we need to be more explicit about how we do things. She went on to explain the roles of the Executive Committee and where minutes can be found.

4. Yearly Meeting Planning, Carol Simmons

The theme will be “Navigating the Depths of our Sacred Connections.” We want to focus on spiritual healing. One of the plenaries will be a panel focused on spiritual healing. The dates will be June 19 - 23rd and the location will be Earlham College. “Save the date” cards will be sent before the end of the year. Workshop proposals are welcome. The forms will be online soon, they will be due by the end of the year.

5. Sexual Misconduct Task Force, Betsy Neale

The committee is in place but has not met yet. Gail Koehler, Ellen Galbraith, Adam Funck, Bill Cahalan, Chris Harmer, Susan Lee Barton, Kaia Jackson and Joanna Badagliacca are on the committee. In October, at a retreat of the three Kentucky Meetings there was an interest group on this subject. That information is added to the committee’s resources. This committee may also have a workshop at next year’s sessions. One of the duties of this committee is to have a written policy for handling this issue. Also educating the yearly meeting; queries and discussion questions will be written. A friend was concerned that there are people out in the greater community wondering if the Yearly Meeting is doing anything about this issue. It was suggested that something be written and sent to the membership on our steps taken so far.

6. Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

The committee met this morning and they are about their work. Individual questions may be directed to her.

7. Auditing Committee, Veronica Frost

Martha read the report. The audit committee met with Wilson Palmer on October 26, 2018. The accounts for the previous year were reviewed and were found acceptable.

8. Treasurer’s Report, Wilson Palmer

The spreadsheet was sent out. There was a question about Friends Worldwide Committee for Consultation. It is listed as a triennial travel fund which isn’t exactly accurate, but they will still have worldwide meetings in years divisible by four. They are now called International Representative Meetings.

9. Visitation: Martha visited Bloomington Monthly Meeting with Steve Angell. It was a wonderful time. This is a reminder for us to visit other Monthly Meetings. Steve added that he traveled as a member of the Clerk's support committee. Martha said that she too is available to visit if a MM wishes. John Edminster and his wife have been visiting Fall Creek for their First Sunday additional 1pm worship. He reports that it is spiritually rich and deep. When Friends travel, the Religious Nurture and Education Committee would like to know.

10. Lynn Knight, Earlham College Director of Events and Operations

Summer of 2019 will bring changes. The kitchen and dining hall and rooms A and B will be closed due to work on the HVAC system. The cafe will be open to get the food and people can eat in a few neighboring rooms and outside. Trays will be available. The menus will not be very different. The biggest change will be that there will be more of a walk to be seated after you get your food. The Comstock room will not be available for large group activities. There may also be another cafe open for more choices. There will be ice cream! Staff will be available to help carry trays. The food will be on paper products. They are working on sustainability issues. The planning committee will be discussing other options. Prices will remain the same with the usual 3% increase. The tap cards for the dorms will be used for the meals instead of a person taking count at the door. Thanks were given to Lynn for taking the time to meet with us.

11. Miami Quarter, Peter Hardy

Peter agrees wholeheartedly that we need to proceed by being sure that all Friends understand what is going on. He is honored to be clerk and has visited one Monthly Meeting already. A Friend within the quarter has contacted Peter about issues between this individual and a monthly meeting. Peter has listened to this Friend's concern and offered support to the MM. Deborah Jordan asked Peter to write something to be added to the large email that will be going out in November.

12. Whitewater Quarter, Terre Holada

Joint Quarter Meeting had to be cancelled due to not enough registrations. A Friend said perhaps the event needs to be more deliberate. Kaia Jackson brought up concerns about support for the clerk and the committee. Maybe we need to have a venue that would not be dependent on registration. Childcare plans should be made early and communicated to families. Martha explained that Joint Quarter is basically a social event to establish relationships between members of different Monthly Meetings. All the fun and none of the stress. The host quarter is responsible for arranging for childcare. Funding is in the YM budget (for childcare). The clerk asked quarterly meetings to discuss the future of JQ meeting at their next meetings. Miami should decide if they want to host in 2019 or wait until 2020. Maybe Terre and Peter can meet with a few other people like Martha, Kaia, Steve Angell and Richard Mitchell to discuss what came up at those meetings.

13. Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson

Quake that Rocks the Midwest, January 18 -20th 2019, hosted by Illinois Yearly Meeting. Cost is not an issue as IYM is willing to cover costs of any youths that wish to attend. Kaia is going and hoping some of our youth will be going with her. She will be getting the information out to our families. She has brochures about our youth outreach in OVYM. Friends are asked to share these in their meetings. The brochure is available electronically too. Kaia will be visiting meetings and passing out the brochures also. She is planning a community event on November 18th at Community Friends in Cincinnati for energy building and giving youth (and parents) space to be together and know that there is a program in place for them. She is hoping that MMs or QMs can offer a venue where youth and adult engagement

workshops can happen. Feedback from the community is always welcome. She also wants to be involved in the task force on sexual misconduct with an eye on how that affects our youth. Friends are asked to communicate with families with youth all the efforts of this committee and hope they can attend November 18th.

14. Discussion: What value does the Yearly Meeting bring to your Monthly Meeting? How can we share that value?

15. Reports were accepted and minutes were approved.

Announcements

Jamie Young, Christine Snyder and Richard Mitchell will be attending the FCNL Yearly meeting gathering.

Conversation Circles from Religious Education are Nov 13th and 15th via webinar.

Veronica Frost's husband has been diagnosed with head and neck cancer and she asks Friends to hold them in the Light.

Reverend Barber was in Lexington last night.

The report on systemic racism is now available from FGC. There is concern of the report being read without context.

Sydney McBride Executive Director of Ohio Living Quaker Heights wrote that she valued Quaker support from the past and she would like that support to continue, not just financially, but as board members.

The meeting closed to convene at 10am on February 2nd via Zoom.

There was closing worship.

**Executive Committee Meeting
February 2, 2019
Telephone Conference**

4. Opening Silence

5. Roll Call

Officers:

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk: John Edminster
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Statistician: (no representative present)

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Steve Angell
Earthcare:
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: (no representative present)
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Young Adult Friends: Uta Brewington
Youth Services Committee: Michelle Lori, David Funck

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy sends regrets
Whitewater: Terre Holada
Monthly Meeting Representatives
Bloomington: Christine Carver
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: (no representative present)
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog sends regrets
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler
Lafayette: (no representative)
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: (no representative present)
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Steve Angell

White Rose: (no representative present)

Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff:

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson

6. Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Jane Brown from Yellow Springs and Eric Hailperin-Lausch from North Meadow Friends were nominated for the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. They were approved.

Pat Dewees from Yellow Springs was nominated as a representative to the Friends peace Team. She was approved.

7. Assistant Recording Clerk, John Edminster and Martha Viehmann

On behalf of John and Elizabeth, John is asking that they be relieved of this appointment because of increased family responsibilities. The resignation was accepted with gratitude. Nominating committee is aware of the situation.

8. Travelling Minute for Paul Buckley

Paul Buckley has received a traveling minute from Community Friends to follow a leading to spread the message of his recent book *Primitive Quakerism Revived*. Because he wishes to travel outside OVYM, he requests endorsement from the yearly meeting. The minute was approved. The minute is attached.

9. Youth Services, Kaia Jackson

Several teens and chaperones attended the Quake that Rocked the Midwest. More information and pictures will be coming.

There will be an email from Kaia distributed through the OVYM secretary with more information. There are activities planned for middle youth/teens at the next Miami Quarterly meeting. Also a middle youth gathering in Lexington is planned in March including an inter-generational meeting. More information will be coming.

Anyone in any meeting may reach out to Kaia to include youth in the programs.

They are hoping Friends will view their Facebook page and “like it.” It’s a way to see what the teens are up to. “OVYM Middle youth and teens” is the name of the page. That is also the name on Instagram.

There is a brochure with information about who we are, what we do, and what we can become. Copies of the brochure should be available in every meeting, even those without youth so that visitors with children can see that there is information and programs available.

Kaia is hoping to visit meetings with youth. They are encouraged to invite her.

Report was accepted with gratitude.

10. Whitewater Quarter, Terre Holada

The quarter met on January 20th; attendance was low due to the weather. They will meet again April 21st at North Meadow Friends for State of the Meeting Reports. The report was accepted.

11. Treasurer’s Report, Wilson Palmer.

There are no concerns at the moment. The report includes the beginning work on the next budget but is not a final budget. The report was distributed. The report was accepted with gratitude.

12. **Englewood Friends** is leaving OVYM

After our 2018 annual sessions, Englewood Friends Meeting informed us that they were withdrawing from OVYM. In response Steve Angell and Martha Viehmann visited Englewood Friends. Their report of their visit is attached. The report was accepted with gratitude to Steve and Martha. Englewood leaving OVYM was acknowledged.

13. **Task Force on Sexual Misconduct**, Betsy Neale.

Apologies for the slowness of the committee getting moving, but things are beginning to happen. There are 11 Friends serving on the task force with representation from both quarters. The task force is looking at current policies and resources on sexual misconduct from other yearly meetings and religious organizations. It is also planning to develop materials for encouraging discussion of sexual misconduct at both the yearly meeting and monthly meeting levels. The task force will discuss developing guidelines for reconciliation and restorative justice when appropriate. The report is attached. The report was accepted.

14. **Intervisitation**, Martha Viehmann reminded Friends that intervisitation has been encouraged by Religious Nurture and Education.

The clerk asked if there were Friends who have been visiting other meetings. A Friend mentioned that the Fall Creek 1pm worship on the first First Day of each month is a wonderful opportunity to meet with many other friends and worshippers. Fred Feitler mentioned that the development committee, which is not a formal committee yet, may be of use to intervisitation.

15. **Young Adult Friends Committee**, Uta Brewington

She is hoping that they could plan an activity every 3 to 4 months. She is hoping that this group can be more active. Wilson reminded her that there is money available for their use. Minutes were approved.

16. Announcements:

The OVYM website needs news items to keep up to date. Take a look at the page. These are the kinds of things announced in the past. Send to Lonny. Deborah can forward items to Lonny also.

Reminder: Yearly and Quarterly Meeting clerks and the RN&E committee can offer support and assistance with facing conflicts. Also, RN&E recommends the FGC resource Fostering Vital Friends Meetings: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/resources-fostering-vital-friends-meetings>

The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 6th at North Meadow at noon.

Traveling Minute (Attachment)

September 9, 2018

Dear Friends:

This letter is a traveling minute for Paul Buckley, who is a member of Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati. Paul is following a leading, with our loving support, to travel in the ministry among Friends in and beyond Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to share the message of his recently published book, *Primitive Quakerism Revived*.

Paul's message calls on Quakers today to repossess the essential principles that energized and strengthened the early Children of the Light and once again to be patterns and examples in the world. Paul feels a leading to create opportunities for Friends to consider what it would mean to revitalize Quakerism. He would serve as a resource and facilitator for such opportunities.

Paul brings a wealth of knowledge about the historical roots of Quakerism, and a deep spiritual commitment to living with faithfulness and integrity. We at Community Friends Meeting have been blessed by Paul's ministry among us, and we believe that other Friends will also be challenged and opened by his message.

Please welcome Paul among you. May his ministry find fruitful ground in your midst.

In the Light,

Mary Anne Curtiss, Clerk
Community Friends Meeting

Visit to Englewood Friends Meeting (Attachment)

December 16, 2018

Visitors' Team: Martha Viehmann and Steve Angell

Englewood Meeting has withdrawn their membership from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting while maintaining affiliation with the New Association of Friends. They are also in the process of selling their meetinghouse to a local church congregation, and they will be sharing worship space in a local Church about two miles west of their current location. Martha and Steve worshipped with Englewood Friends on December 16, and then ate lunch at a local restaurant with Rick and Linda Miller, two long-time members of Englewood.

Over the past few years, Englewood Meeting has seen a reduction in membership. This makes it challenging for them to maintain ties to two larger bodies and to maintain their meetinghouse, which is over a century old. In addition, the sexual misconduct involving two of their members is a source of distress. Neither party currently participates in the life of the meeting. We learned that actions taken at OVYM related to sexual misconduct were perceived as "taking sides," when Englewood meeting had striven to be neutral. Martha provided some clarifications regarding the reasons for the action taken at annual sessions, as she could provide a first hand account.

Martha and Steve expressed OVYM's continuing care and concern for Englewood Friends and hope for continuing visitation between the yearly meeting and the monthly meeting, even after Englewood's withdrawal from OVYM.

Steve Angell

Martha Viehmann

**Executive Committee Meeting
April 6, 2019
North Meadow Circle of Friends**

1. Opening Silence

2. Roll Call

Officers:

Presiding Clerk: Martha Viehmann
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada, regrets; Betsy Neale serving as substitute
Assistant Recording Clerk: position vacant
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Statistician: Frank Huss sends regrets

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: Veronica Frost sends regrets
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: Dale Hayes sends regrets
Earthcare: David Duvall not present
Faith & Practice: Rex Sprouse
Nominating: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Web Administrator: Lonny Burger sends regrets
Yearly Meeting Planning: Carol Simmons
Young Adult Friends: Uta Brewington not present
Youth Services Committee: David Funck

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Terre Holada sends regrets

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Christine Carver, Elaine Emmi
Campus: (no representative present)
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Fred Feitler
Lafayette: (no representative)
Lexington: Richard Mitchell

Louisville: Chris Harmer
Miami: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
North Meadow: no representative present
Oxford: Doug Jones
White Rose: no representative present
Yellow Springs: Carol Simmons

Staff:

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary: Kaia Jackson

3. Nominating Committee, Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson

Epistle Summary (1 person to serve for annual sessions)

Two Friends were nominated. Because this task is done before annual sessions, Executive Committee approves these Friends in advance of their agreeing to serve. If neither of these is able to serve, the Nominating Committee will seek another Friend, approval to be done by Executive Committee by conference call.

Epistle Committee (2 to serve during annual sessions)

This task requires being present for all of yearly meeting sessions. We are seeking at least 2 Friends with one from Whitewater Quarter if possible.

Four names were given to Nominating Committee to contact.

Memorial Committee (no number of people specified)

Friends approved Richard Mitchell. One other name was submitted as back-up.

Assistant Recording Clerk: Friends approved Rex Sprouse for the unexpired term of John Edminster. Rex will become Recording Clerk at the end of 2019 sessions.

Adult Young Friends Committee (40+year old member): Friends approved Catherine Peyroux (Yellow Springs). This is a 3-year renewable term.

The committee is working on finding a nominee for Assistant Presiding Clerk and nominees for the Planning Committee.

Nominating Committee description – proposed update for Handbook. Friends approved the revised description. It will be included in the Handbook and posted on our website.

Appointments to Nominating Committee – notice to Monthly Meetings to find representatives to serve. These names should be submitted to the Presiding Clerk for approval of Executive Committee.

To be made immediately: Community, North Meadow

By the end of annual sessions: Oxford, Bloomington, Lexington, Clear Creek

4. Nominations from Executive Committee

Personnel Committee One person is needed to serve immediately with Steve Angell. The Treasurer is an *ex-officio* member of this committee.

Six Friends names were brought forward, we discussed the order in which they should be called, and Martha Viehmann agreed to call them.

5. Treasurer's Report Wilson Palmer reported. 2018-2019 YTD: Wilson expects an additional \$13,000 income this year, which will leave a \$12,000 deficit. If all income comes in, the deficit could be zero or very small.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report, which is appended to these minutes.

6. Budget and Finance Wilson Palmer reported on behalf of Dale Hayes.

2019-20 Budget presented for approval. There are no dramatic changes. Meeting contributions are decreasing because of drops in monthly meeting membership and the loss of Englewood Friends Meeting. The committee anticipates a deficit of \$18,136.72 if the proportional share remains the same as in recent years. Friends approved this budget, and it will now be presented at June's annual sessions. The 2019-2020 proposed budget appears as the right-hand most column in the appended Treasurer's Report.

Development Committee Description – proposal The proposed Development Committee is intended to raise funds to help cover the deficit without having to increase the proportional share requested from monthly meetings. The Executive Committee requested a description of this committee. This description will assist Friends in considering approval of this new committee at our annual sessions. Friends approve the description of the proposed Development Committee, which is appended to these minutes.

7. Friends approved these minutes as read.

8. Editing of the Executive Committee minutes The clerk requested permission to edit minutes for clarity in addition to correcting typographical errors. Friends approved.

9. Task Force on Sexual Misconduct Betsy Neale presented a report, which is appended to these minutes. Friends accepted the report.

10. Youth Services/Youth Secretary Kaia Jackson presented highlights of the report she submitted. Friends accepted her report, which is appended to these minutes.

11. Young Adult Friends In place of Uta Brewington, Martha reported that they are actively trying to recruit more members to the committee. They are currently planning an event. Friends accepted the report, which is appended to these minutes.

12. Planning Committee Carol Simmons presented the committee's report. The theme of this year's sessions is Navigating the Depths through Our Sacred Connections. The committee is seeking more members. Carol will make the report available for distribution. Friends accepted the report.

13. Religious Nurture and Education Nikki Coffey Tousley reported. The committee has been working on fostering travel in the ministry, eldering, and spiritual accompaniment. It will be distributing queries on eldering and spiritual accompaniment to monthly meetings. A retreat on this topic will be held on September 21, 2019, at Quaker Hill, Richmond, IN, led by Susan Smith of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Friends accepted the report, which is appended to these minutes.

14. Statistician's Request

Co-statistician Frank Huss requests that Monthly Meetings consider whether the next Statistical Report should include data on race and ethnicity. Because we don't keep these statistics, we don't know how many Friends of color there are. Suggestions on categories and terminology welcome. Send your meeting's response directly to Martha Viehmann at marthaviehmann@fuse.net Chris Harmer recommended a related article by Vanessa Juley in the January 2019 *Friends Journal*.

This led to an extended discussion of how to do this counting and other issues we might consider for our statistical reports. It was suggested that we consider a category for gender identity. Another Friend suggested we explore social class. The levels of trust in a meeting will affect our ability to discuss these issues.

15. Webmaster's Request

Lonny Burger recommends keeping the minutes for the current year and one prior year on the website. This means he would discard Executive Committee minutes dated prior August 2017. Earlier Executive Committee minutes are available in the published minute books, which are in the Annual Sessions section on the website. Friends approved this removal and asked that Lonny add a link to the minute books so Friends can access older minutes.

Lonny also asked if we wish him to remove Quaker Heights from our ministries. Friends approved this removal.

16. Friends approved all minutes.

Announcements: see our website for submission dates for Quill, State of Meeting reports, Directory, and Reports in Advance.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC defines sexual violence as any sexual activity where consent is not freely given. Their website provides statistics and resources on sexual violence (<https://www.cdc.gov/features/sexualviolence>)

Reminder: Handbook Maintenance is undertaken by each committee. Please review

Date and Place of next meetings

Annual Sessions: June 19-23, Earlham College

Exec. Comm. August 31, Community Friends, Cincinnati

Development Committee (Attachment)

APPOINTMENT: At least three members, nominated by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, terms shall be staggered. Initial membership is to be filled by present members of Ad Hoc Development Committee who are willing to continue service.

MISSION: To encourage those with the resources to give annually in support of our Yearly Meeting and to remember us in their wills. To provide additional support for Annual Sessions and the general fund. To encourage Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to be viable, flexible, and responsive to the leadings of the Spirit by providing funds beyond our budget to expand existing projects and committees and encourage new ministries.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To put together an annual year-end appeal to every OVYM member and attender for financial support. To visit our Meetings to educate members about the opportunities to support us. To meet personally with individuals who may be open to including OVYM in their wills. To educate others about the possibility of making restricted donations to designated funds.

Currently these designated funds are:

- 1) Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry
- 2) Teen Committee Fund
- 3) Spiritual Nurture Fund.
- 4) Peace Witness Fund to help those who suffer due to war tax resistance.

TRAVEL: Committee members can be expected to do much of their committee work by email or other electronic means. However, as fund raisers on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, some or all of the members are expected to travel to our affiliated Meetings to speak to Meetings as a whole and also to meet, face to face with individuals who are being solicited.

BUDGET: Initial budget of \$500 to cover costs of annual appeal and printing of brochures. Travel expenses are already covered under Committee Travel category; currently recommended to be no more than \$250 per committee person per year.

OVYM Sexual Misconduct Task Force (Attachment)

I am pleased to report that the Sexual Misconduct Task Force has made real progress since my last report. We have had two meetings via Zoom in the last two months. We have begun drafting a policy on sexual misconduct. The policy includes a procedure for investigating an allegation of sexual misconduct, speaking with both the person making the allegation and the person accused of the misconduct, striving to be fair to both parties.

We are also discussing and collecting resources for a program/training for Friends to educate ourselves on sexual misconduct.

Some of the issues we anticipate will be addressed in the trainings include:

1. the issues that lead to these behaviors,
2. increasing our awareness of the frequency of these behaviors,
3. growing in our ability to respond appropriately to allegations of sexual misconduct, and
4. determining how to prevent sexual misconduct –

to name a few of the issues.

We expect to have both a policy and a training program to present to our annual sessions in June. We think that these tools may develop further over time as our awareness of and experience with these issues increases.

OVYM Youth Services Report (Attachment)

Middle Youth Retreat

Hosted at Lexington Friends Meeting on March 16-17th, 2019, this gathering attracted middle youth and families who are in regular attendance. Youth engaged in fun activities for the duration of the weekend, including origami, swing dancing, movie time and a First Day school on women in history. Youth participants expressed excitement to be with one another and participate in this special line-up of activities. Meanwhile, parents met in our first Youth Engagement Workshop to discuss hopes, visions and concerns about youth programming at Lexington Friends Meeting. The next day, our second Youth Engagement Workshop was held during first-hour, and attracted a wide variety of Meeting members to voice their interests and values in regards to youth programming. One parent and coordinator, Maria Franzini and another parent Elizabeth McLaren plan to host a follow-up first-hour discussion in May to continue this process and make goals for future youth programs.

Upcoming Spring Events 2019 Highlights

*Please see attached flyer listing Spring Events

*Whitewater Quarterly on Sunday, April 28th, at North Meadow Circle of Friends: middle youth and teens programming will be offered throughout the day's gathering. Afterwards OVYM teens and families of teens will meet in-person and via Zoom to discuss the summer Teen Service Trip.

*Miami Quarterly on Sunday, May 19th at Dayton Friends Meeting: middle youth and teens programming will focus on issues of racial justice.

*The Teen Service Trip will tentatively be held June 11th-15th, prior to Annual Sessions.

Social Media Invitation

OVYM Middle Youth and Teens requests that all meeting members who are active on social media take a moment to like our Facebook page and/or subscribe to our Instagram account. We are trying for a total of 50 Facebook likes by May 1st! Event information, photos and updates will be posted regularly on these platforms. You can find us by simply typing in:

Facebook: OVYM Middle Youth and Teens

Instagram: ovym_middleyouthandteens

Annual Sessions

The OVYM Youth Services Committee is actively seeking Paid Staff to support our programming for middle youth and teens throughout Annual Sessions, Wednesday June 19th-Sunday, June 23rd. If you are interested in applying, or know someone who is interested, please encourage them to fill out the application for Paid Staff on the OVYM website and return it to OVYMsec@fuse.net by May 15th.

Meeting Visits

Our Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson, is actively seeking invitations to visit and/or lead middle youth and teen programming and youth-related discussions at any meeting within OVYM. Is there a special event coming up? Would you benefit from some extra support? Want to have a Youth Engagement workshop at your meeting? Contact Kaia to discuss coordinating a visit: OVYM youthsecretary@gmail.com

Young Adult Friends Report (Attachment)

Uta Brewington reported that she talked with a member of the nominating committee about getting a few more enthused members to join the community. The young adults are hoping to have a hike in May most likely the first weekend. Hoping to get together and talk and visit. The location will be announced soon, hoping for something between Cincinnati and Kentucky. Possibilities are open for YM as well.

OVYM Planning Committee Report (Attachment)

The 2019 annual sessions are June 19-23 at Earlham College.

The theme is “Navigating the depths through our sacred connections.”

Our plenary speakers are Oskar Castro and a panel of spiritual healing practitioners from the yearly meeting. Gloria Bruner, from Bloomington Friends, a music therapist, is putting together the pane. Oskar was on a plenary panel at FGC Gathering last year during which he spoke about U.S. colonization and his heritage as the son of Puerto Rican-born parents. He is a social justice and peace activist and since 2016 has served as Philadelphia coordinator for Quaker Voluntary Service. Prior to that he worked with the American Friends Service Committee in its national youth and militarism program. He continues to serve AFSC as a member of its Board Program Committee and the Board Community Equality and Justice Committee. He is also a husband, a father of two, and a multi-media artist, who uses music, poetry and graphic art.

For this year’s sessions, we are emphasizing a focus on modes of healing — both individual and systemic. And we are thinking of ways to provide more healing resources in the context of our five-day gathering, particularly by having more structures in place to recognize and respond to woundedness as well as respond to conflict and breaches in trust. We would like to implement something like FGC Gathering’s Healing Center, and we want to increase opportunities for silent worship.

Registration costs will be comparable to recent years, though possibly a little higher. The room and board charge from Earlham has gone up by \$1.23 a day, or about \$5 total for someone staying the whole time and eating all meals. And while that’s small, the AV services are about \$300 more than last year, and we’re also being charged a \$1.50 per chair fee that seems new. The planning committee hasn’t yet decided on the cost per registrant, but a slight increase is possible. Last year’s full-price cost was \$246 plus a \$30 registration fee. As always, YAFs and first-time attenders pay half, and youth and children attend free of charge.

We are also looking forward to 2020 when OVYM celebrates our bicentennial. We welcome any suggestions or ideas for what that might look like.

Thanks to Nominating Committee for seeking more members for our committee. We need more people! The Planning Committee has only four official members: myself, Gloria Bruner, Terre Holada, and Jim Davidson. Serving as ex-officio members are the registrar, Eric Wolff; the Youth Secretary, Kaia Jackson; and children’s programming representatives Hannah Branson and Susan Hyde. Last year’s co-clerk Kay Wheeler rotated off the committee last summer, but she is continuing to help by being a liaison with Earlham.

It’s really joyful, Spirit-filled work!

Humbly submitted,
Carol Simmons, Planning Committee clerk

Addendum: After the April 6 Executive Committee meeting, Oskar Castor notified the Planning Committee clerk on [Monday, April 8](#), that he will be unable to be a plenary speaker this summer after all. He is involved in a documentary film about Puerto Rico, and recent developments in the film has

made it necessary for him to be in Puerto Rico at the time of OVYM sessions. He thanks OVYM for the invitation, and regrets not being able to be with us in 2019. Planning Committee will be working to secure another speaker.

Religious Nurture and Education Report (Attachment)

After focusing on the issue of sexual abuse last year, the Religious Nurture and Education Committee has returned to a charge from the 2016 sessions for RNE to encourage travel in the ministry within the Yearly Meeting. We responded by first encouraging meetings, individuals and committees to commit to inter-visitation, and are looking to encourage Friends to reflect how we nurture gifts of ministry. The committee is sending out a set of queries to Monthly Meetings on Eldership and Spiritual Accompaniment, as well as a list of resources. We ask meetings to return your responses by mail or email before **June 10**, 2019 to nikkitousley@gmail.com or 175 Indiana Ave., Apt 4, Dayton, OH 45410. The committee also has a retreat on Spiritual Accompaniment on **September 21**, 2019 at Quaker Hill, to be led by Susan Smith of Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative.) We ask each meeting to send at least one representative, although all Friends are welcome.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

State of the Meeting Reports

BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

In 2018, Bloomington Friends came to a great leap of faith that the long-awaited renovation of our meeting room and replacement of our fellowship area and classrooms would actually occur. The exhilaration that we were making progress was palpable. Planning for the new meetinghouse has gone on for several years, with some ideas and architects' drawings being considered, mulled over, and rejected. There had been doubts that we would be able to realistically pay for the space we needed. This year, those hesitations and doubts vanished. We designed the layout, ourselves. Fundraising exceeded all expectations, and we were successful in obtaining a manageable construction loan / mortgage from a local bank.

The meetingroom renovation was completed, with several subtle improvements. The walls are now well insulated. The ceiling trusses are reinforced to support the weight of external insulation and a second roof, so as to preserve the wonderful interior look of our ceiling while gaining energy efficiency. The walls are smooth drywall rather than textured (and cracking) plaster, and the window sills are 6" deeper, but the trim has been recreated, and the aesthetic harmony of our old meetingroom has been magnificently maintained. The new HVAC system is in place and is amazingly quiet, especially as compared to the startling pop-pop-pop as the electric baseboard used to heat up.

As demolition of the 1950s house neared in September, three members serendipitously showed up at the same time to dig and relocate many of the plants in our wonderful front porch garden: goldenrod, jewelweed, snowdrops, irises, and moss. Once the utilities were shut off, plumbing and electrical components were also salvaged for donation to Habitat Restore. Limestone blocks on the back of the house were chiseled apart for reuse in the front parking and garden areas. We all felt good that as much of the old building that was worth saving had been saved and that the land was now ready for a new life.

By mid-November, despite the weather, what was left of the house had been hauled away, the lot levelled, and a new slab poured. As of late December, the framing had been done, wrapped in Tyvek, and the roof was on. We were all so excited that this is actually, finally, happening!

Our active membership grew with transfer of Gini Emigh from Raleigh, NC Meeting, and Kristin Rose Brethova, by convincement. Laura Gleason Gordon requested transfer of membership to her new meeting in Athens, Georgia. Ministry and Counsel followed up contacting members who had moved away; Ruth Kelly asked to transfer to First Friends in Indianapolis, and James, Margaret, and Elizabeth Huber asked that their memberships be transferred to Oread Meeting in Kansas. Alice Burks' ashes were placed in the Burial Ground by her son Stephen and grandson Sam; several Friends were also present. Alice had attended our Meeting during the 1970s.

Community service expanded. We continued to prepare food at Community Kitchen one Saturday a month, the FCNL Bloomington Advocacy Team met regularly both among themselves and with elected officials. The kids' Family Service Project assembled "Boxes for Brothers and Sisters Experiencing Homelessness." They also visited the Golden Living Retirement Center to engage residents. We co-sponsored a "Better Angels" session to try to bring together people holding divergent points of view. To assist community members whose transportation needs are not being met, Pastoral Care provided rides

and compiled a list of Friends willing to help. Attention was also called to Bloomington Transit's BAccess for people who cannot ride the regular bus.

While Harmony School gym has become a more comfortable place to worship in, and we now are used to the noises associated with an old building downtown, it is with great satisfaction that Bloomington Friends look forward to moving back to our own, renovated Meetinghouse by mid-year, 2019. This endeavor has been a concrete example of the Kenyan motto, Harambee – Let's All Pull Together.

CAMPUS FRIENDS MEETING

In writing our State of Society report for 2018, Campus Friends were guided by the WYM query: In what ways have you found ability to comfort one another and encourage one another? We also sat with the following queries: as a meeting, are we attentive to what God is doing in our midst and to what we are being led to in the future?

Campus Friends have found unity in the minute we brought to Miami-Center Quarterly Meeting on the authority and autonomy of monthly meetings, and in our embrace of the Fairview minute. We have come together in support of our members who have experienced the death of a family member.

We find comfort and encouragement from our outreach to Friends who reside at Cape May Retirement Community where we have established an unprogrammed meeting for worship on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Our attendance draws from the many Quakers who reside at Cape May, six of whom are members or regular attenders of Campus Friends Meeting as well as Friends from Wilmington and Springfield Friends Meeting. This mid-week opportunity to sit in expectant waiting worship is a welcome respite for all of us who gather both from within and without the Cape May Community.

We take comfort in God's promise of 'plans to prosper you...to give you hope and a future', from the WYM 2019 theme and Jeremiah 29:11. Though small in number at this time in our life together, Campus Friends plan to 'keep on keeping on' with our Book Club which meets monthly with 5 members from CFM and 2 from Eastern Hills; with our Fellowship meals after worship on the first Sunday of the month; in our Fifth Sunday Sharing which provides an opportunity for new attenders to help us get to know them more personally; and our second annual joint retreat with Eastern Hills Friends at Quaker Knoll. This year we read Thomas Gates' Pendle Hill Pamphlet Members One of Another: the dynamics of membership in Quaker Meeting. We rejoice at this opportunity for study, worship and table fellowship with our yearly meeting brothers and sisters in the unprogrammed tradition and find that our spirits, minds and bodies are fed by the experience.

Campus Meeting Friends value the waiting silence but also find ourselves longing for more spoken ministry during meeting for worship. We have begun the practice of reading a query near the beginning of worship and/or closing worship with a query to consider during the forthcoming week. Friends will revisit this practice at a later date to discern whether our corporate worship has deepened.

We continue to seek ways to make our presence known on the Wilmington College campus especially to students.

CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

During the last year, we continued to celebrate our fellowship in the “spirit of power and love.” Attendance was as expected, with the regular attenders showing up faithfully. Occasionally, students from the college would visit, especially those involved with Quaker Fellows. And, we were visited by alumni during special events and by parents of students who were visiting the college.

Worship tends to be silent during the full hour, and most appear to find this time of deep reflection both helpful and meaningful. Worship is followed by a time of fellowship, which is always lively. Once a month after worship, Adult Religious Education and Peace and Social Concerns presented a topic for discussion. The other two weeks of the month, there was hymn singing and Business Meeting. A member began a monthly gathering in her home called, “Experiment with Light,” which meets early afternoon of the first Sunday of the month. Another member began a mid-week silent worship gathering that meets at his home. Each year, the three local Meetings get together for an outdoor summer worship service. We hosted a labyrinth walk on the evening of the winter solstice in December, which was well attended. And, we finished the year by hosting the annual three Meeting Christmas Eve Service.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee stepped up for the rest of us and planned outings and potlucks. There was a trip to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, a gathering at a local park to commemorate the completion of a playground for disabled children, and two “dinner and a movie” evenings: one about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the other about the devastating effects of climate change.

We have members who are currently engaged in a number of activist groups. Some of the members have revived the Alternatives to Violence Project, and it has grown significantly in Indiana and surrounding states. Members are involved in the local group called Indivisible, whose purpose is to raise awareness about political issues and social justice concerns. One couple, through this group, has led a concerted effort to register voters in the area. Members have joined participants of the other two Quaker Meetings in town to form an FCNL advocacy group, and many are engaged with the work of AFSC.

We were pleased to have Tom Eubank, a regular attender and former ESR student, transfer his membership from Atlanta Friends Meeting. And, we had a memorial service for long-time member, Rusty Sweitzer, last fall.

We have watched our membership roster diminish over the last few years and are currently seeking ways to discover our new identity. Clearly, the future will be taking us in a direction that will not look like our past. All signs reveal to us that we care enough about the Meeting to deal with the challenges in a constructive and forward looking manner.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING

2018 was a milestone year for Community Friends Meeting: We celebrated our 50th Anniversary since the founding of our meeting! A great deal of planning and organization resulted in a very successful and meaningful 50th Anniversary Celebration in late September. The event included sharing a history of the meeting, with speakers sharing highlights of each decade, along with music, laughter, and a few tears as we remembered Friends who contributed so much to the life our meeting who are now with us only in spirit. The celebration brought back old Friends from far and near, and provided an opportunity for reconnecting and healing.

The anniversary celebration was held the same weekend as our annual Fall Renewal, which was facilitated by beloved former members Kate Anthony and Jamie Fota. The theme of the Renewal was “Celebrating and Strengthening Spiritual Connections”, and Friends shared personal histories with the meeting. The evening included a coffee house for sharing musical and other talents.

Other opportunities for strengthening our spiritual connections in the past year included Friendly Six Groups that met each month to share meals and get to know each other better. Adult Religious Education Committee also organized several Inreach Groups on topics such as Bible study, Quaker book reading group, one called God Seekers, dancing, and intervisitation. We were given opportunities to support one another during both difficult times and joyful times in one another’s lives. The meeting has grown in our capacity to share love on a personal level, valuing the unique gifts of each person.

A challenge in the past year has been beginning the process of addressing the issue of sexual harassment and working on a policy for the meeting. Through a threshing session and many difficult conversations, we have been challenged to consider different perspectives, stretching us to open our hearts and minds to the often painful experiences surrounding the misuse of power and privilege. This is an ongoing process and we are still in the midst of some disunity and discernment as we seek our way forward.

In 2018 our Unity with Nature Committee renewed its focus on contributing to the local, sustainable food economy by presenting second hours, publicizing and financially contributing to the Central Ohio River Valley Food Guide, and inviting people to label local/sustainable ingredients at carry-in meals. We have also continued work on restoring our woods, and the Meeting has planted apple trees and blackberry vines in the front yard. One new area of focus, since last July, has been encouraging the growth of ecologically resilient local communities.

Our FCNL grass-roots advocacy group has been meeting with representatives to bring our Quaker concerns regarding national issues to their attention. Our outreach to the community has included creating a Little Free Library in front of the Meetinghouse for neighbors to exchange books. Many Friends are active in a community ministry called Tender Mercies that serves a meal to formerly homeless people with mental illness. Preparing and serving delicious meals to these neighbors is an important way of making God’s love visible in the world.

Our First Day School has been smaller with a few children who attend irregularly. However, we have the joy of some very young children who brighten our Meetinghouse with their smiles and laughter, as well as our teens who are active in OVYM youth events. One family had several foster children during the year, and the meeting lovingly supported these children while they were part of our extended meeting family.

Meeting for worship continues to be the spiritual center of our lives. Silent worship is often very centered, with meaningful vocal ministry that comes from a deep place. We feel blessed and lifted up, surrounded by dear Friends as we enter the Living Stream together each week, and strengthened in our daily spiritual journeys.

DAYTON FRIENDS MEETING

The past year has been a time of loss and mutual comfort at Dayton Meeting, but also a time of growth from seeds planted last year. We are beginning our third year in our new building and continue to work to make it a home. Friends tend to linger more during potluck and fellowship time, and as we have settled in we also have found that our worship and vocal ministry have become more grounded. As we grow closer in care for each other, we also are drawn closer to God and enfolded in God's strengthening Presence.

Two new members joined our meeting this year bringing their enthusiasm, ideas and gifts, and we continue to have more visitors now that we have a permanent location. We do not have children attending but have added a new carpet and furnishings to make the children's space more welcoming. We enjoyed the fruits of our vegetable garden last summer and have added more plantings to the property. We look forward to hosting Quarterly Meeting on May 19, 2019.

Caring for one another absorbed much of our time this summer and fall. Between August and November, we offered pastoral care to three friends during the last weeks of life and took oversight of their memorial meetings. It was a joy to be able to host one of the Memorial Meetings, which tested the maximum occupancy of our new meetinghouse with just over 100 people. We have also held in the Light others facing serious illness. We started a grief group, but found it was too soon, and are using that time for a monthly worship sharing group. Two of the three deaths were the spouses of Friends, not attenders, but they were often in our hearts. Then in October we lost Tom Applegate, a member of 27 years, to pancreatic cancer. Tom was at the heart of Dayton Meeting, often offering deep vocal ministry. He was a birthright Friend who served as a Quaker pastor, inner-city school teacher and coach. His memorial meeting, which drew many former players and teachers, was a witness to his example of humility, love and service. Tom challenged others to live lives of greater care and compassion. In every capacity he sought to listen deeply to others, and to recognize and encourage love in those he met. His wife, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters all continue to be active in our meeting.

Although we are small, with a core of about 20 active attenders and members, we continue to look for ways to serve the wider community. One of our members holds a weekly music class for preschool and early elementary children in the meetinghouse or nearby park, and our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has held several community forums on topics such as zero waste lifestyles and the refugee experience. In March, following a leading from one Friend, we drafted a petition to the City Council urging them to respond to a planned KKK rally in Dayton by declaring that date a day to celebrate Beloved Community. In April we held a retreat on Celebrating our Gifts and Envisioning our Future, facilitated by Ben Griffiths of Lexington Meeting.

Other activities that foster mutual care include monthly pot-lucks, work days, second hour discussions and monthly trash pickup in the neighborhood. Our monthly writing group has been less well attended but continues to deepen connection for those who participate. We held worship sharing on both Thanksgiving Eve and New Year's Eve. We collected contributions for the Right Sharing Fund and encouraged members to also give a percentage of their income to Right Sharing. We were able to contribute more than we had budgeted to FGC in response to their fundraising. We are on good financial footing, and after several years of caution due to declining membership and buying our building, are happy we can again meet our full commitment to the Yearly Meeting and give all our budgeted contributions to other groups.

We seek to be a meeting that loves one another well. When Tom Applegate realized the cancer would be terminal, he sent a text to remind friends and family about the importance of love. He spoke often about love in meeting, and, more importantly, witnessed to God's love through his everyday life. Below is part of the text he wrote.

I love all you guys. I believe more and more that God is love. God loves everyone. He forgives us for all our wrongdoings. God will forgive us whenever we ask. We are happier when we are at one with God. Love is the most important thing in life.

EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS MEETING

Worship continues to be the cornerstone of Eastern Hills Friends meeting. We recently explored the query: In our silence and our speaking in Meeting for Worship, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? We responded:

“On occasion, we achieve this. We are drawn together by our mutual affection, our wisdom and experience, and our mutual desire. If this is our definition of being drawn together by the power of God, then we can say we are. The power of God is embodied by the courage to let our hearts and lives speak. All of us teach each other by what we say and do, and so our very presence here for each other has a positive effect. When we are together, we can better sense the power of God by the love that we show. This power is shown if we extend our love to each other beyond meeting for worship.”

While our meeting centers on worship together, the health of that worship is nourished and strengthened by the ways in which the meeting seeks to help individuals grow together in the spirit and serve the community. Members of the meeting regularly serve lunch to the formerly homeless residents of the Jimmy Heath House. We are further fed by and seek to support the many personal ministries of our members who serve others through individual leadings and numerous other Quaker, ecumenical, and secular organizations. The spiritual life of the meeting is deepened by individual participation in ongoing offerings such as second hour programs, Bible study, and koinonia groups. We have been blessed with the presence of children in our midst and appreciate the dedication of those who prepare for them every week in hope that the children will attend.

We continue to be a bridge meeting enriched by our participation in Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Currently the clerks of both yearly meetings are members of Eastern Hills. The challenges these individuals face are the challenges we all face: loving those with whom we don't always agree, seeking to find God's wisdom in often polarizing circumstances. We are grateful for their leadership and faithfulness. We had a joint retreat with Campus Friends Meeting, the other meeting which bridges our two yearly meetings. We enjoyed getting to know and learning from each other.

We continue to attract new members and attenders who return and actively participate in the life of the meeting. We have confidence in the gospel of enough and even though we remain on the small side, we are not stressed by this. We celebrate the deepening spirituality in the intimacy of a smaller group worshipping regularly together.

FALL CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Fall Creek Friends assemble for meeting for worship reverently and expectantly with appropriate flexibility as we seek to accommodate members and attenders with varying needs, especially our infant-toddler Friends. Some Friends are more able to be consistently and reliably present than others – our average attendance is from one to five. The once a month first Sunday 1:00 o'clock meeting often increases our numbers to twelve or more F/friends and affords a day of expanded worship and fellowship. We changed our regular First Day meeting time to 10:30 to accommodate our Friends who travel from a distance.

Our members find meeting for worship valuable; what we experience in worship sustains and inspires us in spite of an aged meetinghouse, small numbers and travel. We often feel the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. Are we doing our best to make meeting for worship fruitful? We could probably be doing more, both individually and corporately. We start by bringing a loving presence, open hearts and minds and willing spirits.

Friends are faithful in offering vocal ministry as led by the Spirit in meeting for worship. There is no feeling of being held back or of holding back and ministry is shared with a sense of freedom, safety and love. We have experienced a welcome and appreciated increase in messages recently. We are open to increased vocal ministry but also find spiritual food in the silence of worship. Vocal ministry is affirmed and encouraged in small, intimate gestures and gentle words between individuals. We do not experience irrelevant addresses that are lacking in spiritual value.

We do not currently have adult religious education happening and several attempts have been found to be difficult to sustain. We have the desire to try again soon; worship sharing has been suggested and queries are being developed so that we will be ready when opportunity arises. We have fallen away from regular, unhurried discussion of the Queries in our Faith and Practice and feel the need to return to that practice.

We feel our most pressing need continues to be a need for more members in meeting for worship and in business meetings. We need more workers to carry out the details of managing the upkeep and cleaning of our historic meetinghouse.

FORT WAYNE FRIENDS MEETING

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting is maintaining a presence in the community, though we are not growing in numbers. We have lost two faithful families from our meeting and one stalwart member. Our sense of sadness is deep at the loss of these families and especially with the departure of Paul Ricketts. We continue to worship together and participate in local activities. We have occasional visitors and some regular attenders as well as our remaining members.

Paul Buckley visited our meeting with a traveling minute. He shared his leading and spoke to us about his book, "Primitive Quakerism Revived". His program was well received. Our meeting enjoys partnering with our host church, Plymouth Congregational Church and join with them when we are able. We especially enjoy preparing and serving meals at a local family shelter.

Meeting for worship is deep, calming, and restorative. We value the silence, but encourage vocal ministry. We value the attenders who participate in the silence and we hope to grow in numbers and devotion.

Our members participate in and have significant responsibilities with Whitewater Quarterly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. As our numbers have declined, we are experiencing a loss of revenue which limits our activities and outreach.

LAFAYETTE FRIENDS MEETING

Once again, it has been a complicated year for the Lafayette Friends Meeting, as we find that being “in the world but not of it” has sometimes proved difficult. A lighter case in point is that our bright blue banner, “Love Thy Neighbors (No Exceptions)” vanished off the lawn. While we were happy that the banner hadn't offended the neighbors, it may have been too tempting for the local fraternities that compete with one another to steal interesting signs, like past meeting house signs. (Thee was wondering why our meeting house sign is etched on a large heavy rock?) To be fair, a high wind might have taken the banner on a kite trip, but if the banner is in a basement trophy room, we hope the message on it is having a good effect on the young men who live there.

Similarly, our First Day School has become a once a month program. The two children in our meeting are very busy outside meeting and our meeting is small, so rather than having to scramble for teachers and curriculum when they arrive unexpectedly, the children are scheduled for FDS on pot luck day, where their teacher and curriculum are waiting for them. They can come other days, of course. Their parents have been great about getting them there and FDS seems to be going well. The curriculum this year has focused on the Testimonies. One bit of curriculum that we used last year was the Boy Scout's Duty To God project which resulted in a presentation to the Meeting by our Scout. We also had a formal presentation of the resulting medal by a representative from the Scouts. We are repeating the the program this year for the Scout's sister, now a Boy Scout, herself.

Most of us are grappling with this century's awful political, social and environment issues. We are currently reading and discussing essays on the spiritual aspects of living a greener life in our Quakerism 102 study group, but most most of what we are doing is as individuals. Efforts include social work, conservation, water quality improvement, lobbying, anti-war activities and voter's rights. We cheer one another along and help where it is needed, as well as participating in local organized efforts.

Such activities take time and money and we are considering ways to cut back on the sizable amounts of both expended on our meeting house. We do not intend to do anything hastily or without full consensus, but are exploring our many options in a series of what might almost be called threshing sessions. These are not open meetings: Friends who attend the house meetings must be regularly involved in the meeting. In addition to live meetings, we have a MeWe closed group to allow shared opinion and information that was circulating as email and “parking lot meetings.” (mewe.com is a free, Face Book-like website that does not collect personal information.)

You may recall that a trove of old papers were found last year, when we insulated the attic. Papers and photos from Hanna Hellinger Meisner, our Friend who left us her house. Her papers were sent to the

Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Papers belonging to the Wildman family, Quakers who lived in Tippecanoe County the 1800s, were sent to the Earlham Library Archives, and a set of stereoscopic slides on the Russo-Japanese War went to a scholar at Austin Peay University. A new trove has turned up in an old suitcase found by a tenant and we are looking forward to seeing the contents. Even if we were inclined to sequester ourselves, the world seems to be turning up in our attic!

One way to be in the world but not of it has always been to put more distance between the person and the world. David and Laura LaSuertmer came and gave an interesting presentation on their vision for a land-based intentional community near Bloomington, Indiana. They have extensive experience with Bloomington Catholic Workers. An intentional community is a village in which people of like-minded values live together, much as the old communities of Friends did and as the Amish and Orthodox Jews do today. Members try to live in a way that makes their values concrete. Intentional communities' values often look very much like the Testimonies, although, of course, they can vary by group. The talk was very interesting, but although the idea is tempting, Lafayette Friends are still trying to chip away at the troubles of the world in the usual, in-the-world fashion.

LEXINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

Lexington Friends addressed the query: “How does the spirit move among you?” at a potluck discussion on 1 March 2019. Approximately twelve friends were present and all participated in the discussion.

LFM enjoys a large participation in meeting for worship which includes Friends of a wide range of ages and backgrounds. The quality and quantity of vocal ministry is remarkable in several ways. Vocal ministry is given by many Friends, from relative newcomers to Friends with decades of experience. Our meetings are seldom silent or un-centered. The quality of the ministry offered reflects the deep source from which it is drawn. On occasion, a message is given in meeting for worship that speaks of our complicity in war when so many of us support candidates that do not fully represent our Quaker values of peace. The world weighs on our worship time, and in our imperfect ways we must hold this all up to the Light. We are always seeking the Truth. It is a challenge.

Meeting for Worship on first day is not the only time for Friends to worship. A regular meeting for healing occurs on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and a monthly group follows Rex Ambler’s experiment with light. Our religious community is enhanced by meeting regularly on a Friday night to enjoy a potluck meal and to be stimulated with a discussion. We have been enriched by hearing several Friends share their spiritual journeys – a practice which gives us insight into the spiritual lives of each other. The number of Friends who attend on first day has remained steady if not increased. In addition to finding LFM a safe place, free from the threat of violent words or actions, is it possible that the renovation of our building has created an inviting space for work and worship which encourages more Friends to attend?

Religious Education opportunities are available to Friends young and old. A group of parents and other Friends teach the young Friends about Quakerism, historical Quaker figures and other religions. Older Friends meet regularly for a “first hour” discussion. These well-attended sessions are the venue for presenting diverse topics of interest to a spiritually hungry group including monthly presentations in our Quakerism 101 series to instruct new and old Friends in Quakerism.

True to the story that “the service begins when the meeting rises” LFM is engaged in many social justice and outreach activities. The meeting sponsors a pre-school which operates in the basement of our meeting house. A majority of the board for this thriving endeavor are Friends from the meeting; parents of children in the school and community member(s) also serve. The school provides a vital service for many working parents and, through financial assistance, opens the school to a few families with lesser means. The meeting co-sponsors an Iraqi immigrant family, participates in The Black Church Coalition, helps build a Habitat for Humanity house, works with our local Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action (BUILD) group to address problems such as drugs, and Pay Day Lending, which corrode our community. To encourage our government to work toward creating the Kingdom of God, Friends regularly meet to write letters to our elected representatives. Additionally, a few Friends have formed an FCNL advocacy team and meet regularly with the staff of these representatives to discuss crucial issues. The motivation and energy for this work is a manifestation of how the spirit is working among us.

As we end our year for this report, we add two final postscripts. First, Pat Simpson, one of our cherished long-time members, just passed away. Her Light among us was the last of her generation that lived through the second world war and she has borne witness to this Meeting for many decades on the importance of peace. We know this passing of generations is not unique to our Meeting. Secondly, the Meeting just reviewed a minute we approved in March 2017 that required one disruptive Friend to stay away from our Meeting activities. With sadness but firm conviction we find that too many bridges have been burned between us. In making this decision, two Friends asked to be recorded as standing aside. Some Friends wonder has love failed us or have we failed love? Over the course of these two years we have explored many aspects of Community and how we nurture, maintain and protect it. In our search we now have become better informed of what effects major traumas have on individuals, and we want to understand what it means to be a “trauma informed” community. As we labor to put in place some guidelines that might prevent any future escalation of disruptive behavior into creating burned bridges, we hope that with patience, love, and understanding we might be able to provide a place where all the wounded can heal and the Truth can be revealed.

LOUISVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

There are indications that more and more of us in the Louisville Meeting community feel a need to explore the Meeting’s relevance in the lives of members, attenders, and those who visit us.

We just had an evening retreat focused on “What Brings You to Friends Meeting?” We started with two exercises. We were all asked to line up and put ourselves on a line running across the worship room, with one end being “I come to be in the presence of the Divine” (or whatever word people felt most comfortable with). The other end was “I come to be among like-minded community”. In the second exercise, one end of the spectrum was “I come to be recharged” and the other end was “I come to be challenged”. Most everyone wanted some combination of the two poles. Challenge—perhaps via challenging vocal ministry or individually getting a message—may not come every week, all come to seek how to live lives in the coming weeks and years that are more fully integrated with our values. We find tremendous value in the support of being in worship and working and socializing with Friends who try to act on Quaker values and testimonies. After we looked around and saw where each of us placed themselves along those lines, we had small group sharings to explore more about what we are trying to get out of our participation—our personal “Itch”. We then focused on what we each can do –our

“scratches” -- to help the people we sit next to/among every week get what they are most looking for. There were a lot of surprises and observations. Luckily, there were also lots of “scratches” shared, i.e., suggestions for how each of us thought we could help others get what they say they need. We came away more aware of the wide range of reasons that bring us here. We want to not only just accept them, but support others better in their seeking.

We had a delightfully large turnout—19 adults and eight children. Maybe our first big lesson came from the children. The older children, who had been encouraged to participate, ended up choosing to just relax with each other and the younger kids. We learned from one older youth that he did not feel listened to by many adults. That tells us something plainly about the connection, or lack thereof, those children feel with adults in meeting. We as adults have work to fully recognize children as Friends. We must each consciously and joyfully take an interest in engaging our young people at rise of meeting and including them in the life of the meeting. It is another facet of our struggles with welcoming and inclusivity. Several parents shared an “itch” to have our Meeting be a community of people for their children to look up to, learn from, and share with. Intellectually, we know they and their families are the future of Louisville Meeting. We just are not always acting like that. We can and must do better.

Recently we decided to have children stay in First Day School until the last fifteen minutes of worship. This is one step to help the children understand Meeting for worship and experience vocal ministry, which is more prevalent toward the end of meeting. Religious Ed itself is still struggling because of variety of ages, and numbers week to week. Considerations during the RE committee and Meeting for Business ran the gamut from hiring someone to always be prepared and there every week to finding volunteers to at least occasionally spell our one dedicated volunteer teacher. We are experimenting with having First Day School every first First Day and having just a Friendly Presence for children the other weeks. And we will remind ourselves to strike up conversations with our young Friends.

One of the activities that does help us engage with children is the All Kentucky Gathering (AKG), an annual weekend-long gathering hosted on a rotating basis by the three Quaker Meetings in Kentucky. This past year, Louisville was responsible for planning and hosting. The event—with morning program but otherwise many social /recreational activities such as games, art, music, meals and campfire--was a success at getting to know adults and children from or and the other meetings well. It was not our finest hour in a collective planning effort. In AKG as in our other standing committees, much of the planning work ultimately falls on just 1-3 people. More show up to help at the actual events such as AKG or potlucks, but our struggle with truly shared responsibility for the continuing tasks of the Meeting continues to result in cycles of burnout for some and less capacity for the Meeting as a whole to have more impact.

We have had some hopeful exceptions to this pattern. Several long-time attenders have stepped up into Meeting committee roles this year, and that is wonderful. The challenge for older active Friends is to resist the temptation to offload more to these rising leaders in Meeting and let too much work fall to them. Intentional collaboration on the work of the Meeting is a key place where we can live into the integrated lives we are seeking.

We maintain opportunities for spiritual growth and community building beyond Meeting for worship, but—like committees-- they are lightly attended. These include weekly Bible study, adult education Second Hours, monthly women’s worship, and Meetinghouse work days. We are also trying to change our language around the filters we each use for sharing vocal ministry in order to increase the breadth

and number of vocal ministries. There is also interest in having more community prayer and a meeting for healing. Others are looking into a Spiritual Deepening group.

While we all are drawn to and by the historical image and values of Quakers, we still invest little in connections to the work, spiritual growth and fellowship offered by Quarterly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

There are signs of a renewed interest in bringing our Quaker values to bear on our community, state and nation. We once again are having monthly letter-writing sessions at rise of Meeting. Several people have been in touch with FCNL about possibly starting a legislative advocacy team in Louisville. We have minuted and publicized our stands for bail reform and an end to the selective service system. We even produced Quaker T-shirts to let people in the community know we exist here and are at work on many issues individually, if not collectively.

Like many other Meetings, our numbers seem to be declining. As with other urban meetings, though, we continue to see a small but steady flow of visitors. Those who seem to continue with us mostly have had other experience with Quaker meetings elsewhere. Amidst all opportunities and distractions of a large urban area, we need to find and act on ways to become more welcoming and to meet the needs for ourselves and for others in the broader Louisville community and spiritual growth. We persist, in both our individual and our collective seeking to do better.

MIAMI MONTHLY MEETING

Miami Monthly Meeting is a community of members and attenders who faithfully gather every week for religious discussions and worship, and who reach out to each other during times of both adversity and celebration for mutual support; a constant for this meeting.

Each summer the Stone family (long-time members) return from Tasmania for an extended stay to strengthen our fellowship and share their experiences and talents.

Our membership is diverse, each one possessing a different gift or message that strengthens the whole group. There is an optimism and openness to our different spiritual journeys that strengthens our spirituality and encourages our growth. Underneath our ability to take in each others' differences, what draws this community together is love. Our purpose is to gain a greater understanding of the Divine presence within in order to share that Light in the world.

Religious Education topics vary from Quaker history, Quaker principles, Living Witness, articles from Friends Journal, different religions, Bible study, and the Queries from Faith and Practice, which remind us to stop and think about the basics of our faith. During the year, we had guest speakers including Paul Buckley, who shared his vision for Quaker revival driven by his recently published books on Primitive Quakerism and Christianity; and Yumi Radke, who spoke on the restoration of the Hawaii, rain forest. We have refreshed our spiritual education while helping members and attenders to better understand our faith and practices.

Though no longer a ministry of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, we continue to carry our ministry to Quaker Heights Ohio Living with a spiritual program of music and readings for the residents every other

month. This is rewarding for our spiritual life as well as the residents. We also have members who serve on the Quaker Heights Foundation Board.

We held our annual Worship at Fort Ancient this year, with participation from other Meetings of OVYM. 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 their 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. In August, we celebrated the birth of Frances Morrison, daughter of long-time attender Kaitlin Morrison. Often, our celebrations and fellowship take place around the common table of a shared meal. The Meeting continues to provide a Spiritual home for all who are seeking the Divine Presence.

NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

North Meadow Circle of Friends remembers a busy year with full spirits. In February 2018, we welcomed newborn Leela Ashford (parents Amber Alford and Chris Ashford). In the Spring, the parents and grandparents of Arlo Hunter-Kesling (born in 2017) introduced a lovely baby welcoming ceremony to North Meadow from their home meeting in Durham, North Carolina. This year we have not celebrated any marriages but neither did we suffer any deaths in our community. One member did withdraw her membership.

The number of families and children attending continues to grow, with two First Day School classes. The older youth have been exploring the Quaker Peace Testimony and learning about conscientious objection.

Increased attendance at Meeting for Worship has not diminished the spirit felt by Friends in both silence and vocal testimony. A group of Friends sustain a biweekly Spiritual Deepening discussion to consider the development of Quaker beliefs. Other gatherings build community, including monthly pitch-in dinners, women's lunches, worship sharing, and spiritual journeys. An experiment that will be repeated was a community sing on a Friday night in October.

Individual Friends continued their Peace and Justice witness throughout the year by supporting people in need through their work and volunteer efforts; through political resistance to policies and candidates inconsistent with testimonies; and by allying with groups such as KHEPREW Institute and the Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance. Friends are also active with the Indiana Peacebuilding Program of AFSC and North Meadow hosted a Summer Youth Leadership Camp presented by the Indianapolis based Peace Learning Center.

Since the early 1980s, North Meadow Circle of Friends has been located in a historic house in the Indianapolis Herron-Morton historic district. The meetinghouse is showing its age and is in need of

major renovation including a new roof, window repair and replacement, and both exterior and interior painting. The cost of these repairs is influencing Friends to undertake a discernment process to consider whether the current facility continues to serve our mission as a meeting. This has been an interesting process that has opened us to new ideas. Brent Bill has facilitated our discussions. At this point we are getting ready to have our roof replaced. The ongoing discussion of whether to move or stay seems to have come down on the staying side. We have a central location and access to parking and are near bus lines which are great assets since our members and attenders are geographically spread around the metropolitan area.

OXFORD FRIENDS MEETING

We continue to be a small but steady meeting, often serving as a sojourning place for seekers and for those passing through the University community.

Worship. We continue to find refreshment in communal silence. Spoken ministry is usually focused and heartfelt, often prompted by our individual and community lives. Seated in a circle, we are encouraged by each other's presence. We continue the practice of using time at the end of the hour for everyone to bring forward thoughts that did not rise to the level of vocal ministry, such as joys and sorrows and personal concerns. Many of us find that this opportunity creates deeper connection among us.

We continue to welcome a diversity of spiritual languages and practices among us, and seem to be comfortable with the challenges and opportunities this variety brings. Several of us have various contemplative practices outside meeting for worship (such as journaling, meditation, engagement with nature) and find that those practices serve as preparation for the communal weekly meeting.

Inreach/Outreach. We continue to draw on last year's examination of our joys and longings as a meeting, and to seek new ways of nourishing our most valued characteristics and becoming more visible in the Oxford community. We undertook a new organizational structure with fewer standing committees, and seem to be successful so far in addressing necessary functions. We have established a long-term meeting house fund, and continue to cherish the hope of someday having a home of our own. We experimented with a midweek candlelight "vespers" on the street side porch of our meeting place. We began the practice of wearing "Oxford Friends Meeting" name tags when we join in community service projects. We maintain an online presence through Facebook and Twitter.

Of course, we continue the practice of second-hour discussions to deepen our spiritual awareness, this year including presentations on AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC, a "Write from the Heart" journal/querying practice, and presentations from visitors from the wider Quaker world. We continue to offer mutual support to members in distress when we are aware of need, and we aid in travel and conference attendance when possible.

Service. We seek service opportunities in our community and in the wider world that express the spiritual leadings we experience in individual and corporate practice. As a small meeting, we continue to join our efforts to others in the community who share our concerns. This year, we have supported our local food pantry with money and volunteer labor, helped provide legal support for an immigrant student faced with deportation, served on the board of the local peace and justice association, helped support a

local tent city of homeless persons, raised money for local and international hunger projects, assembled school bags and hygiene kits, and created a pollinator garden at our shared meeting place.

Youth Ministry. For us, “youth ministry” is very much a two-way street. We continue to be invigorated by the growing minds of our young members, and we learn as much from them as they learn from us. We have an active and faithful group of three teens (one of whom is now launched into college), who have focused this year on studying spirit-led lives (Parker Palmer, Sophie Scholl, Sojourner Truth), prophetic expression in music (Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan), biblical teaching on economic justice, Quaker lives in east Africa, and other topics. We are nourished by the after-meeting reports of our young Friends as they grapple with challenging ideas, and the concerns of their own lives in these challenging times. We are thankful that our Youth Secretary visited us twice this past year.

The Wider Quaker World. Many of us are active in the Quaker world beyond the monthly meeting. Several of us have served this year on Yearly Meeting committees, one of us edits the Yearly Meeting newsletter (The Quaker Quill), and we have had representation at each Quarterly Meeting and meetings of the Yearly Meeting executive committee. One member has been active in travel for the Friends World Committee for Consultation, and brought us the fruits of her travels through World Quaker Day and a program for our first-day class. Another member served as Yearly Meeting representative to the annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and returned with a rousing report to the meeting. Also, this year a member of our meeting graduated from high school and entered Earlham College.

Growing Edges. Our small numbers continue to present challenges to us in fulfilling the essential functions of a monthly meeting. We are challenged to respond when we feel concerns about the local and wider world. Sometimes, good ideas don’t find a quorum of workers, but one solution is to serve as individuals on community coalitions. And we look forward to welcoming young families with infants and children and integrating new attenders and visitors into the life of our community.

WHITE ROSE FRIENDS MEETING

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We continue to meet the first and third First Day of each month for fellowship and worship. We are presently at three regular attendees. We would welcome more Friends to join us.

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

YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS MEETING

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting (YSFM) gathers for worship and fellowship at Rockford Chapel on the Antioch College Campus, 515 President St., Yellow Springs, Ohio.

As a Meeting, we facilitate a variety of opportunities to worship, and we welcome a wide range of theological understandings. Our regular Meeting for Worship gathers at 11:15 a.m. each First Day and is typically attended by between 25 to 40 members, attenders, and occasional seekers. In addition, there are early worship meetings on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and a Thursday afternoon worship-sharing group, each of which has a core of faithful attenders, not all of whom identify formally as Friends.

It was a joy in August to hold Meeting for Worship, followed by a picnic lunch, at the historic Green Plain Meetinghouse in nearby Selma. Green Plain Meeting, which Miami Quarter laid down last year, was the preparatory Meeting for Yellow Springs Friends, and three of our members are the Quarter's trustees for the property.

We take delight in times of fellowship as well. We have weekly potlucks, facilitated by a hardworking Hospitality Committee, after worship each First-Day; and at least a half dozen Friends gather the first Wednesday of each month for a Quaker lunch. Singing for 20 minutes each Sunday also brings us together in deeper community and bridges the time between religious education activities and worship.

The young children's First-Day program, which begins at 10 a.m., draws its lessons from the Godly Play and Faith and Play curricula. This year, we have had one stalwart regular attender who would love to have some others join her each week. We often, however, have several other children in attendance during Meeting for Worship, when youth typically stay in Meeting for the first 15 minutes and then are taken out for a walk in the nearby Glen Helen Nature Preserve. The death in December of their beloved Glen guide, Terry Snider, deeply saddened the children. While other adults have kindly and competently stepped in to fill the child-care role, the pain of Terry's loss remains tender. Our small group of middle youth and teens, who have faced some personal obstacles this year that affected their attendance, were also keenly affected by Terry's death.

Our youth are vital in the life of our Meeting, and we greatly enjoy events, such as talent shows and other sharing times, where we build our relationships across generations.

The adult programming during the 10 o'clock hour has been rich and varied in content this year. The first First-Day of each month is regularly devoted to the latest articles in Friends Journal, and the last First-Day is dedicated to Singing for Joy. During the other weeks, we had a series of sessions in the fall that focused on non-violence and compassion; and in the new year, we have explored spiritual dimensions of healing, culminating in plans to hold our first Meeting for Worship with Attention to Healing on Wednesday evening, May 8.

Our annual retreat in September balanced community building and spiritual deepening activities, beginning with a fun, intergenerational morning before Meeting for Worship, and including a lunchtime cook-out. Children went into the Glen for the afternoon, and Jane Brown led the adults in a guided meditation in the manner of experiments in light.

Another adult learning time came in the winter with an evening book study of "Seeds That Change the World: Essays on Quakerism," by Debbie Humphries, which met for six weeks.

Social justice outreach and activism remain important within the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, and the Peace and Social Justice (P&SJ) Committee has been busy this year with multiple efforts on the Meeting's behalf.

We continue to support a Peace Vigil Witness each Saturday at noon in downtown Yellow Springs as well as ongoing involvement in statewide efforts to end the death penalty. In addition, a weekly Piecework for Peace project meets weekly at a local coffee shop to crochet and knit afghans for refugees and talk peace with others.

Last spring, P&SJ members offered another round of three programs in the local high school to share information on military recruitment issues and options for CO status in the event of a military draft.

In the fall, the committee focused attention on immigration justice and hosted an interfaith gathering to hear about the ongoing sanctuary action of the Columbus Mennonite Church. Over 60 villagers came to the talk, and we raised over \$300 for legal fees for Edith Espinal, an undocumented mother living in Mennonite sanctuary for over a year. We also asked our Village Council to expand their "Welcoming Statement" to clarify that the village is not willing to cooperate with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) actions against immigrants except in the event of serious crime. Although horrified by the U.S. Border crisis, we decided to focus on the injustices in Ohio, making the point that we are all living on a border. We held educational programs about the ICE targeting of Mauritanian refugees in nearby towns, published letters and a large article in the local paper and wrote to our Ohio Senators asking for their attention to the issue. Leaders for Mauritanian Immigrants told us they were very grateful for "a Voice."

On April 15, "Tax Day," we spent the day at our local post office and other downtown venues and handed out over 200 fliers of an information sheet from the War Resisters League to educate citizens about how much of their tax dollars support war and military.

Many in our Meeting make an effort to respond to FCNL alerts with emails and letters to our Representatives; and many individuals in the YSFM work tirelessly on issues of peace and justice in their lives and careers, working in prisons, with addicts, the mentally ill, and vulnerable and needy groups and individuals. We often feel discouraged by the direction of our government today but empowered by the faithful actions of Spirit-led social justice in our Quaker community.

The pains and traumas of the world come into our Meeting in various ways and affect the life of our community as well as our worship, and we find more people visiting our Meeting looking for a place of solace and peace. So many people are hurting, and they sometimes bring their hurts with them in ways we may feel ill-equipped to handle. It is in those times that we need most to look to the Divine for guidance and find strength of purpose in our Quaker traditions and process, while also compassionately listening for continuing revelation.

We were honored after Terry Snider's death to serve as a source of connection — social and spiritual — for his remarkably wide network of family and friends, both immediately after his death with a celebration of life at the Meetinghouse and early in May with a large community memorial gathering. Even in death, Terry was serving as a Quaker ambassador of love and light, and reminding us all of the imperative that we do likewise.

State of Society Report

The practice of drafting State of the Meeting reports presents an opportunity for deep listening to our own experience and the movement of the Spirit within our meetings. It is helpful to pause and look honestly at both the obstacles within our communities and the often-overlooked communal gifts and resources. When we feel isolated, reading the reports of other meetings can help a monthly meeting see potential answers, or at least help us feel less alone.

There is significant diversity within the monthly meetings within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Some report challenges and struggles, while others have experienced signs of growth and deepened community. Worship is at the center, and meetings work to strengthen vocal ministry and gathered worship. Some wonder about the role of eldering and how to encourage more seasoning of vocal ministry.

While membership in some of our meetings remains constant or has grown slightly, several meetings report decreased attendance. Many meetings express a feeling of being stretched as the work of sustaining the community falls on a few. Friends seek a balance between encouraging newer attenders to take on some of the work, without overwhelming newcomers. This is particularly a concern of smaller meetings, but the number of attenders is only one factor, and some of our smaller meetings are very vibrant. Two meetings have found it helpful to reduce the number of committees in response to the challenge.

A few of our meetings report vibrant children and youth program, and two reported the joy of celebrating births. Other meetings wish they had more children. Providing programming for a small number of children can be difficult, especially when they attend irregularly or are of very different ages. Youth can also minister to the adults, as is evident in some reports, and bringing joyfulness and challenging the meeting to move out of its usual assumptions. Pastoral care of adults, especially at the end of life, also takes our care and attention, but also reveals the love we have for one another. Celebrating the lives of those who have passed on encourages us to live up to their example. Some meetings hold regular Meetings for Healing to hold one another in the light. Community Meeting celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, which brought back Friends who have moved away but whose presence is still felt.

Our meetings are engaged in a wide variety of activities designed to strengthen the community and deepen the spiritual life of members, though attracting participants is difficult for some meeting. Most meetings have adult second hour discussions, and some gather to engage in spiritual practices such as book discussions, writing, Bible Study, and Experiment with the Light meditation developed by British Friends. Some meetings have a regular practice of sharing their spiritual journeys. Friends are also involved in a range of ministries including working with immigrants, providing basic necessities, political advocacy, homelessness, building relationships with similar-minded communities, and many other activities. Several reports expressed dismay at our current political climate.

We wonder, though, what is sometimes left unsaid in our State of the Society reports. The reports suggest that the process of facing challenges honestly and openly is often a catalyst for growth and spiritual deepening. Maintaining our meetinghouses and tending our grounds can be a burden, but also a joy as we create a sense of home. Bloomington Meeting will be moving into a newly renovated building

after several years of challenging discernment, while North Meadow Friends are discerning a possible move. Some meetings reported the challenge of beginning to address issues of sexual harassment and other inappropriate behavior within a meeting. It is not always easy to find unity in our responses, but some meetings report having the courage for frank discussion. Louisville Meeting wrote of a powerful but simple exercise that has helped them to recognize and respond to the range of expectations and desires each person brings to meeting. They discovered most Friends “itch” to be both renewed and challenged. The honest conversation led to a better understanding of how to support one another in seeking, to “scratch” the longings each person feels. Oxford Friends went through a similar process last year, and report they are still nourished by it. Clear Creek Friends acknowledge that their small numbers mean the meeting is changing. Their future may look different, but they express faith that their care for the meeting is strong enough to meet those challenges well.

Prepared by Religious Nurture and Education Committee

Memorial Minutes

THOMAS MARVIN APPLGATE

1936-2018



Tom Applegate of Dayton Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, passed away peacefully on October 31, with his family and a few Friends from the Meeting present, following a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer the previous January. Tom was a birthright Quaker originally from Spiceland Friends Meeting in Indiana Yearly Meeting (FUM). His life's work included ministry among Friends, work with youth as a teacher and coach, modeling racial reconciliation, and advocating for peace. Central to Tom's ministry was an ability to listen deeply to others, and to recognize and encourage love in those he met. His example of humility, love and service challenged others to live lives of greater care and compassion.

With his wife Carolyn, Tom was a faithful core member of Dayton Meeting for 27 years. The couple married on June 14, 1957 at Carolyn's home meeting, New Castle Friends Meeting (Indiana Yearly Meeting FUM). His daughter Terri Scarpelli, son-in-law Al, and granddaughters Julie and Lisa are active participants in the life of Dayton Meeting, while sons Trent Applegate and Scott Applegate remain connected to Mennonite and Quaker communities. Their foster son, Craig Reeder, passed away the summer before Tom.

Tom showed his deep love for the Dayton Friends community by serving as clerk of both Ministry and Oversight Committee and Peace and Social Concerns Committee, organizing second hour discussions, as well as in other capacities as discerned by the meeting. He represented the meeting at events and in the wider Dayton community as well as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. He also gathered regularly with a group of ministers from differing faiths, which enriched his ministry at Dayton Friends.

Tom earned his Bachelor's degree from Earlham College in 1959 to prepare for ministry within Indiana and Wilmington Yearly Meetings. In the 1960's, he was pastor at Economy, Indiana and Sabina, Ohio Friends Meetings, then joined the Wilmington Yearly Meeting Team Ministry Experiment in Clinton County, Ohio. During this time he also studied at Earlham School of Religion and taught at local schools in Adams Township and Clinton County, OH. Tom then decided to devote himself to teaching and coaching and earned his master's degree in education from the University of Dayton. He taught and coached basketball at Dayton City Schools for 28 years, including Grace A. Green Elementary, MacFarlane Middle, and Fairport Intermediate Schools. He finished his teaching career at Dunbar High School where he served as head basketball coach. Working in predominantly African-American schools gave Tom friendships and experiences that prompted a life-long commitment to racial reconciliation. Tom lived briefly with the family of an African-American teacher when he started at Dunbar, and then Tom and Carolyn settled in West Dayton, near the school. The couple became a second family to the team members, opening their house and hearts, and often providing for material needs. They formally

fostered one son, but had many other young men who became part of their family. Several former team members and fellow coaches attended Tom's Memorial Service and spoke about his impact on their lives. Tom wrote an account of his time at Dunbar, *Living a Dream with Coach Gate*, in 2004. The book conveys his passionate love for the sport of basketball and his commitment to using basketball and teaching as a ministry to his players.

Tom served in many other capacities. He was a member of the Lions Club in Economy IN and in Sabina, OH. He was Chairman of the Sabina Ministerial Association from 1963-1965 and also served as a social worker in the first Head Start Program in Sabina. He was chairman of the Wilmington Yearly Meeting Camping Committee from 1965-1967 and was a camp director at Quaker Knoll Church Camp in 1968. He also clerked Wilmington Yearly Meeting Ministry and Council from 1967-1969. More recently he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and St. Vincent DePaul homeless shelter in Dayton, and co-led workshops for the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations.

About a month before his death, when Tom realized the cancer would be terminal, he sent a text to remind friends and family about the importance of love. He spoke often about love in meeting, and, more importantly, witnessed to God's love through his everyday life. Dayton Meeting deeply feels the loss of our dear Friend, and honor a life well lived. Below is the text he wrote.

"I love all you guys. I believe more and more that God is love. God loves everyone. He forgives us for all our wrongdoings. God will forgive us whenever we ask. We are happier when we are at one with God. Love is the most important thing in life. I want to integrate my life into God, but too often I forget.

I am reading a great book called God Heals. It talks about how God heals not only physical ailments but all kinds of healing. Most of this is described in the last chapters of the written Gospels -Matthew, Luke, Mark and John- where I found out what Jesus is all about.

Again, I love you all. Hope to see all of you before too long."
Uncle Tom (Oct 6, 2018)

THERESA (TERRI) FURNAS

1960-2018

Theresa Furnas, a former member of Miami Monthly Meeting, passed away 12-24-2018. She became a member when she married, under the care of the meeting, Fred Furnas. Terri was very active in Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings in the 90s and early 2000s. She was the leader of the Children's program at Miami Meeting, also serving on the OVYM Youth Program Committee. She enjoyed the campouts at Houston Woods and Fort Ancient Meeting for Worship.

She was an integral part of our 25th Anniversary Memorial of the Kent State shootings.

After a divorce, Terri became a Junior High teacher and moved to Highland County, Ohio. At her memorial service at the White Brick Meetinghouse, over half of the teachers, from the school where she taught, attended the service on their day off.

She will be missed by Mike, Maggie, and David: her children; her grandchildren; and by all who knew her.



JIMMIE ILACHILD

1941-2019

Our beloved friend Jimmie Ilachild passed after a brief illness, leaving us with memories of the independent, outspoken, loving activist who found his home in our community. Jimmie's life revolved around his activism for social, racial, and economic justice, as well as opposition to war and support of those who spoke against the power of government and corporations over people.

Jimmie was a member of the North Meadow Circle of Friends (Quakers) in Indianapolis, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery.

Jimmie's brother died nearly 20 years ago, leaving him without relatives. Jimmie's family were his Quaker Friends in Indianapolis, anti-war activists across the US, the gay environmental activist community at Short Mountain, Tennessee, and his many friends in Montgomery. James Johnson changed his name to Jimmie Ilachild to reject the patriarchal practice of children assuming the father's last name, taking his mother Ila's first name and named himself Ilachild.

Jimmie was active in Alabama Arise, PFLAG, Faith in Action Alabama, and was a song leader in the Alabama Poor People's Campaign. He participated in the soil collection project for the Equal Justice Initiative as they developed the Legacy Museum. Jimmie was arrested with other activists last summer while acting as a moral witness at the Alabama Capitol, continuing his life-long individual and collective

actions of civil disobedience. As the Director of the Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center, Jimmie counseled young men who sought to be conscientious objectors to war. As a war tax resister, Jimmie won a judgement against the US government when he withheld tax payments which he felt would support foreign wars.

If compassion is love in action, what is justice in action?

Quakers seek to live by two instructions: let your life speak and speak truth to power. We talk of love as the first motion, and that our actions display our love for people, the others who inhabit our beautiful world, and the planet itself.

We ask each other queries, to facilitate introspection. We discuss our actions and meet together to review choices. We seek guidance one from another. We hold up the lives of those who work for justice, who live their love and faith. Some of us, like Jimmie show others the path.

CATESBY SPEARS (PAT) SIMPSON

1926-2019



Catesby Spears (Pat) Simpson, 93, died Wednesday, April 3, 2019. She was the widow of Laurance S. (Lad) Simpson (1926-2014). Born in Stoneleigh House, January 15, 1926, in Bourbon County, Kentucky, she was the daughter of Catesby Woodford and Sallie Lockhart Spears.

Pat attended the Paris (KY) city schools and was a graduate of the National Cathedral School and of Bryn Mawr College. She obtained an MA in philosophy from the University of Kentucky (UK), took more courses in philosophy at Bryn Mawr, and then taught classical literature for several years at UK.

Pat and Lad moved to Kiser Station in Bourbon County in 1964 and never left. They both enjoyed farm work, and Pat continued to work on weed and brush control until her death. (Where many of us think thistle flowers are pretty, Pat saw them as a threat to their grazing cattle.) They were both committed to preservation and conservation and to peace and social justice. Pat was a member and supporter of the local YMCA, the League of Women Voters, the Historic Paris Bourbon County Hopewell

Museum, the Friends of Stoner Creek, and the Paris Animal Welfare Society. Pat and Lad were long-time members of the Lexington Friends Meeting. Lad had served in World War II, but both became opponents of the Vietnam War. Around that time they began attending the Meeting. For many years they were regular attenders of Lexington protests against wars and injustice, driving in from their farm in Bourbon County.

Over the years, Pat and Lad were very generous to the Meeting, materially, spiritually, and socially. Many of us remember the original skits (sometimes with a Shakespearean theme) Lad and Pat and their grandsons Catesby and Laurance often performed at our Pine Mountain retreats. They also hosted potlucks for Friends at their historic 18th century home on Stoner Creek.

We remember Pat's pleasure in the plans for renovating the meetinghouse, except for the skylights. Pat was sure they would leak (they haven't -- so far!) We were inspired by her commitment to non-violence and treating each person with respect and care. We were impressed at her continued activity at our Meeting Christmas parties (line dancing, etc.) and all the activities she was involved with in Paris and Lexington (book groups, marches, etc).

In recent years her health didn't allow her to participate in many Meeting activities, but it was a treat when she made it to meeting for worship and our 2017 Pine Mountain retreat. For many of us, her spirit lives on in our times of worship and of fellowship.

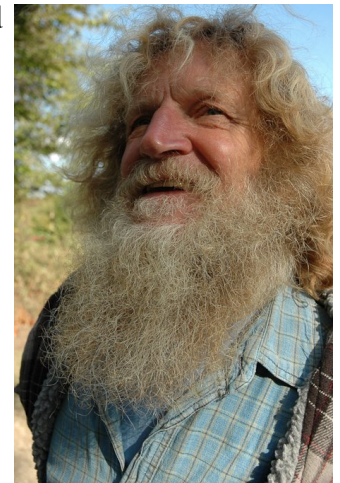
Pat was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brother, Lockhart Spears, and her sister, Sally Hinkle. She is survived by her four children, Laurance III (Chris), Catesby, Matt, and Lockhart (Ella); two grandsons, Laurance Simpson IV and Catesby W. Simpson; a step-granddaughter, Elina Drevina; and a brother-in-law, Jock Simpson (Nancy).

TERRY SNIDER

1940-2018

The members and attenders of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting were blessed to have Terry Snider in our midst for the time he was here. His death Dec. 22, less than a week after many of us learned he was ill, was devastating to our community, where in addition to offering a humble example of what it means to live a reflective, Spirit-centered life, he fulfilled a longstanding calling to lead our children in walks through the nearby nature preserve during Meeting for Worship.

Members of the meeting took no small delight in watching visitors' confusion as we turned our children over to this wild-haired, often-shoeless, spritely elder for wanders in the woods. His breeches may not have been leather, but he had the "shaggy, shaggy locks" described in the children's beloved song about George Fox, and he was certainly "walking in the glory of the light," as sung in the chorus.



For many of our children, Terry provided their introduction to spirituality and Quakerism. He could identify trees, wildflowers and bird calls; and at the same time, he also could hear deep into the hearts of the children and teens — and other accompanying adults — who walked with him. He made room for their questions and interests — collecting pieces of broken glass, examining an animal hole, getting their feet wet crossing a stream — all while offering lessons in patience, cooperation, stewardship, and love.

All ages learned from Terry, who continually strove to live out the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, equality, integrity, community and peace — not because they were Quaker precepts, but because they were true to his sense of living in alignment with Creation.

He had no car, no phone, and no permanent local address — and he was one of the most stable Friends among us. He trusted Creation to provide and sustain — and he knew he had a personal part to play. He was deeply spiritual, making meditation a focal point of his daily life — and he was keenly practical and pragmatic. Shoes came on when the weather turned too cold, a borrowed car served well when travel distances were too far to bike, and pesky groundhogs became stew for Meeting potluck.



Humble about his gifts, Terry considered himself a work in progress, and pointed to three ended marriages as evidence of personal flaws. Nevertheless, he was beloved not only by the Friends Meeting, but also by the larger community. He was a familiar sight in downtown Yellow Springs, collecting food scraps from the local restaurants for farming compost, facilitating the donation of leftover baked goods to the food pantry, meeting with friends over coffee at the Emporium, and witnessing for peace every Saturday at noon as part of the Meeting’s weekly vigil at the intersection of Xenia Avenue and Limestone Street. Waving a blue world flag attached to a bamboo staff, he often raised his free hand in the universal peace sign while calling out, “Peace to you, Brother; peace to you, Sister,” to passing vehicles.

We’re not sure when Terry first started attending Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. It seems he was always here. Born on the family farm in Bradford, Ohio, on Nov. 5, 1940, he grew up in the Church of the Brethren, and his newspaper obituary states that he dedicated his life to peace and justice from an early age. After living in several locations around the Miami Valley, he settled in Yellow Springs about 40 years ago. The obituary also says that after working “as a social worker in Dayton for several years, he stopped just short of completing a master’s degree in counseling at Wright State in the 1970s to return to farming and seek a simpler, more authentic life.”

He also learned massage and taught for a time at the School of Medical Massage in Lebanon, Ohio, “living on the premises and honing his skills in organic gardening and sustainable living.” He later worked the organic farm that belonged to Rod and Willis O’Connor for many years, and then cared for each of them until their deaths; and he was a co-founder, of Heartbeat Learning Gardens, a local CSA, where he continued to be a key farmer — as well as an example, inspiration and mentor — until his own death.



His actions on behalf of social justice took many forms. He was a member of Ohioans Against the Death Penalty and participated in vigils outside Lucasville penitentiary during executions. He also spent a number of winters on the Diné reservation at Black Mesa, Ariz., assisting Diné Elder Grandma Ida Mae Clinton with the arduous work of sheep herding as she stood her ground, refusing to be moved by the U.S. government. In addition, he served the Yellow Springs Friends community in opening the meetinghouse and overseeing early Meetings for Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays as well as for morning meditations on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Preceded in death by his parents, his brother Max, his sister Ruth, and his daughter, Lisa, Terry is survived by his son Chris, and his family, of Miami, Fla.; his son Matthew, and his family, of Phoenix, Ariz.; his son Ted, also of Phoenix, and recently of Australia; step-daughter, Kara, of Iowa; brother Dan Snider, of Plymouth, Ind.; sister Mary Kay Turner, of Gettysburg, Pa.; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Friends remember and miss his delighted laugh, his wonderful hugs, and his compassionate presence. As one Friend recently reflected: "He really knew how to love people."

JEAN "RUSTY" SWEITZER

1923-2018



Jean "Rusty" Sweitzer, born Jean Childs Atwell, in Cairo, Egypt in 1923, died early the morning of June 14th, 2018. She was the daughter of the late Donald B. and Helen Lockhart Atwell and the sister of the late Donald L. Atwell. Alexandria, Egypt, where her father helped found the YMCA, was her home until her high school years when they moved to Sewickley, PA and she attended Northfield School in Massachusetts. She is a graduate of Denison University in Granville, OH.

At Denison, her dark red hair earned her the nickname Rusty and she began a lifetime of social action: rather than joining a sorority, she lived in a communal house, became a vegetarian, and attended dances and activities with World War II conscientious objectors at a nearby camp. She met John Sweitzer at one such event and they were married on June 1, 1948.

After the war she worked at the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, PA. She continued to volunteer with AFSC and other Quaker organizations throughout her life and eventually served as a board member for the organization.

Following his release from CO Service, searching for something "an engineer concerned with the race problem" could do, John Sweitzer took a job with the historically black Fisk University in Nashville, TN. While there, they became friends with Georgia O'Keeffe who teamed up with John to install the Alfred Stieglitz collection.

John and Rusty, inspired by Quakers they met during WWII, helped found and became members of, Nashville Friends Meeting while at Fisk.

In 1952, the growing family moved to Richmond, IN, where John worked at Earlham College as the Manager of Physical Plant and Purchasing and they became active members of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends and the Richmond Indiana Quaker community. Rusty and John had six children: Steve, Sue, Sally, Pat, Penny (deceased), and Sandy.

Rusty's academic training was in early childhood education, which she combined with her concern for children and helped to found the cooperative nursery at Earlham and the precursor to the Head Start program at Richmond's Townsend Center. She earned her Master's In Education and taught kindergarten for many years at Parkview Elementary School in Richmond.

In the 40 years they lived in Richmond, Rusty and John shared their love, energy, altruism, and home with hundreds of Earlham students, many of whom lived at their home on College Avenue and or joined them for Sunday dinners and holidays. They also hosted the annual College Avenue Christmas Caroling and participated in local fellowship groups.

She and John retired in 1985 and became the Resident Couple at Honolulu Friends Meeting for four years, hosting countless travelers, supporting the AFSC offices in the Friends Meeting house.

After John's death in 1992 Rusty moved to Sherwood Oaks in Cranberry Township, PA, in 1993, where she volunteered at a local elementary school and on the Sherwood Oaks landscaping committee. She was actively involved with the Pittsburgh Meeting and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. She continued to travel internationally and spent a month many winters volunteering at Honolulu Friends Meeting.

She will be missed by her five children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and sister-in-law-Corrian Atwell, as well as Friends and friends all over the world.